



Book Projects

Third grade is an exciting year of reading a variety of genres! Each month (starting with October) will feature a different "Genre of the Month". Students are encouraged to explore books from a variety of genres throughout the school year as developed through our library program. In addition to reading a book each month for homework, your child will be completing literary project.

gen·re

Noun

A category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter.

(Note: a few of the month activities will require the students to choose a picture book to meet the expectations.)

Please use the following criteria for the books your child chooses:

The books must be at least 38 pages.

The books must have at least 3 chapters. (This will not be required for all months due to reading some picture.)

The book must be at an appropriate reading level for your child to be able to read with little assistance.

Each month, your child will be responsible for bringing in the novel he/she has chosen. In class, I have demonstrated how to check if a book is at an appropriate reading level:

1. Look for an indication (Usually a grade level GL, a reading level RL , or age range is indicated in the back of the book. Generally, in third grade, a GL of 3 or 4, or a RL of 2.5-4.5 is about where most children fall. Unfortunately, these labels vary with each publishing company.
2. Do a test read of a page from the novel. If your child struggles, or comes across 5 words he/she has difficulty with, most likely, the book is too hard. Feel free to send in a couple books and have me help your child decide.

After reading each book, your child will complete a book project assigned for the month. Book projects will be evaluated for timeliness, quality work, informational content, and attractiveness. I have some supplies that you might need, please check with me. I emphasized goal setting to help make these novel projects manageable for your child. It may be a good idea to set a goal for having the novel read by the 15th of every month. This will allow time for a quality project. You are welcome to help supervise the completion of this work. Please mark your calendars. Projects are due on the following dates:

Here are the different genres and what is expected in completing the book project.

Month	Genre	Description
<p>September / October Due: Oct. 31</p>	<p>Informational Biography Fantasy / Folktale Teacher Choice Student Choice Balloon Award</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Balloon Awards</p> <p>All students in third grade will be working on earning their genre balloon award during the first trimester. The requirements are to read one book in each genre and pass an RR test with 80% or higher and record the title and score on a balloon. Balloon Templates are given out at school and filled out by the teacher and the students once they have read and taken and passed the test. Most of the work will be done in class to work on reading expectations and introducing the different reading genres. This is also part of the third grade report card.</p>
<p>October (Books will be chosen from the library on the last week of September.) Due: Oct. 25</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHOOSE AN INTERESTING SCENE FROM YOUR BOOK AND ILLUSTRATE IT.</p> <p>You can use any art materials that you have, including tag board, construction paper, small poster board, etc. It must be in color with complete details, not just a lot of sky! All paper must be colored or detailed. On a sheet of lined paper write a description of your scene. Be sure to use 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper.</p>
<p>Nov. / Dec. (Books will be chosen from the library the first week of Nov.) Due: Dec. 6 13 Projects that need to be taped at school need to be completed by Dec. 6.</p>	<p>Realistic Fiction</p>	<p>Select a realistic fiction book that is just right for you! That means it is not too hard and not too easy. It should be a chapter book you have never read before.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Book Talk & Oral Video Project</p> <p>Write a brief summary of the book including all of the following: Title, genre, and author, setting, main plot line including the main characters. Your summary of the plot should be about 2 paragraphs long and include the key events of the plot. You also should end the summary with a cliff hanger. That means don't tell the ending. Leave the audience wanting to find out what happens so they are motivated to read the book.</p> <p>After you have written your book talk you will create an oral video of your book talk. If you have a computer with resources to do this at home feel free to email or burn the presentation so we can show the class. If you do not have these computer resources available at home we will provide time in class once the written portion is completed and turned in. Projects that need to be taped at school need to be completed by Dec. 6.</p>

<p>January (Books will be chosen from the library on Due: Jan. 31)</p>	<p>Biography</p>	<p>Biography: A story of a real person's life that is written by another person.</p> <p>Make a Timeline.</p> <p>Please choose a person that you are interested in learning about, and at the same time, has had a positive influence on others. A timeline should describe at least 5 important events/achievements in this person's life. Please include a color picture, as well as the person's name in big letters. Timelines can be typed or handwritten on a paper/poster board no larger than 12x18.</p>
<p>February (Books will be chosen from the library on the last week of Jan.) Due: Feb. 28</p>	<p>Folk & Fairy Tale of a Different Culture</p> <p>Friendly Letter</p>	<p>Introduction: Folk and Fairy tales are old stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. They have a very long "oral" history, which means they were told rather than written down for many years. The Grimm Brothers gathered many of these oral stories, such as "Cinderella" and wrote them down in the 1700s. Hans Christian Andersen is also known for writing many fairy tales such as "The Ugly Duckling".</p> <p>These tales often have morals, or lessons, to tell. They have a common theme of good vs. evil. Sometimes it is the prince against the evil monster, or a bad pirate. Sometimes it is a wicked witch or a crafty wolf and a young girl or boy. Fairy tales and folktales are built around a conflict between the good and evil characters.</p> <p>WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR BEST FRIEND PERSUADING HIM/HER WHAT THE MORAL / OR LESSON LEARNED FROM THE BOOK.</p> <p>You will need to persuade your friend using two examples from the story that provides evidence of the moral or lesson learned. (Think back to in class discussions...Gingerbread stories.) This must be written in standard "friendly letter" form, written neatly, with well constructed sentences.</p>
<p>March Due: Mar. 28</p>	<p>Informational</p>	<p>All of the information is based on true facts and is not made up.</p> <p>Prepare a brochure.</p> <p>Read a factual, nonfiction book about a plant or animal. You will make a brochure to provide the following information: habitat, behaviors, food, enemies, and appearance. Please include a color picture of your animal. Some of your information will need to come from a website. Be sure to include both the book title and websites used to complete the project.</p>

April / May Due: May TBA	Poetry	Poetry Anthology Students will make a poetry anthology of their own to share at the end of the year. We will be studying different forms of poetry throughout the school year. These last two months it's time for the kids to show what they have learned by making their own anthology. These will be shared at a big poetry slam at the end of the school year.
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The book projects is a great way for you and your child to spend time together-make it a special time just for the two of you to read. I hope your child finds it a fun and exciting way to get into books. If you ever need examples, take a look at the rubrics, or you have misplaced this paper it is located on my classroom website under Genre of the Month Projects.