

Name:  
Date:

Period:  
Ms. Lopez

## Projects for Literature Circles

Choose any combination of projects. (Group's required totals are listed at the end of this handout.) Each group member should participate in the completion of projects. It is your group's decision when to work together and when to work independently on completing a project. There will be a group grade for the projects that will count two times in your second quarter averages. Your groups should be prepared to present all projects to the class on Friday, 12/12. Each project will be labeled with your name, point value, and project number (15 pts, #11; 25 pts, #3). *Any late projects will lose 5 points per day.* All written responses should be developed in a logical and coherent manner. Grammar, spelling, and neatness count.

### ✓ 10 Point Projects

*\*Required minimum length for each of these assignments is 250 words\*  
(two-thirds full typed page, double spaced)*

1. Describe the cover of your book, and evaluate its appropriateness to the text.
2. What is the main conflict of the novel? Explain in detail using examples from the rising action, climax, and conclusion.
3. Would your novel be different if the main character was of the opposite gender? Assume that significant others would change gender as well, if that is a factor. Explain how this change would or would not affect your story.
4. Write any kind of poem about your book (18 line minimum).
5. If the book has a villain, why was his/her punishment justified?
6. With which character do you most identify? Why? Explain using examples from the character's life and your life. If no characters are similar to you, explain the difference between yourself and the

most opposite character from you using examples from the character's life and yours.

7. Pretend you are another character in the novel and describe the other characters in the novel and what you (the character) think of each of them. Explain why.
8. Write a letter or send an email to the author of the novel. You may earn extra points if you can get a response (+10 points). Many authors have websites & most authors can be written to care of "C/O" the publisher of the book. The return address should be the school (your name, c/o L. Lopez, East Islip High School, 1 Redmen Street, Islip Terrace NY 11752). See me for assistance.
9. Tell what you think happened before the story begins.
10. Tell what you think happens to the main character(s) after the story ends.
11. Write a review of a movie or another book that is like your novel in plot or just general theme. Explain why it is similar to your novel.
12. If your book has been made into a movie, compare and contrast the movie to the book.
13. Look up your novel at the amazon.com website. Read some of the "customer reviews." Then, write your own customer review which we will upload and print out after the due date. Don't upload without me.

### ✓✓ 15 Point Projects

***\*\*These assignments require keen analytical skills and deeper responses of at least a full page\*\****

1. Give a detailed explanation of the meaning of your title. Include the quote where the title was first introduced in the text as well as

other references to the title. Then, suggest another title for the book, and explain your selection.

2. Identify the protagonist. List three physical characteristics. Identify three personality traits. Provide one example from the story to support each personality trait, that is, three examples in all. (NOTE: Do not repeat yourself by saying “kind, nice, sweet” as personality traits. Each trait must be distinctly different.)
3. Examine and evaluate the setting in detail, pointing out any deeper meanings, in the following terms:
  - a) Year
  - b) Season
  - c) Amount of time the novel spans
  - d) Geographic locations
  - e) Place where most action occurs
  - f) Cultural background of the characters
  - g) Political system
4. What is the main theme of your novel? (theme=an idea that is introduced into the plot—such as a message about family relationships, jealousy, etc.) What message does the author want the reader to understand about the theme? Do you agree with the author's viewpoint brought out through the theme?
5. Write the last sentence of your novel. Explain how the conclusion of the novel leads up to that last sentence. Is the sentence appropriate as “the last sentence” of your book? Why or why not?
6. A great novel is based on the workings of the heart (meant to affect you emotionally) as well as the mind (meant to make you think). Explain how your novel does this using at least three examples from the novel.
7. Pretend that you're the author and describe what was the hardest part of the book to write and the most fun part of the book to write. Explain why.

8. Explain why you would like to have one of the characters as a friend. Then, explain why you would not like to have one of the characters as a friend.
9. Write a different (or better) ending for the story. Then, explain why you feel this ending is appropriate.
10. Write four diary entries (1/3 –1/2 page long each) made by one of the major characters.
11. List 15 interesting words from your book (include page numbers) and tell why each word is important.
12. Write two newspaper stories about what happened at the end of the novel or at other key points in the novel. Include “pictures.”
13. Look up your novel at the amazon.com website. Read some of the “customer reviews.” Write a reaction paper highlighting ideas from at least two reviews with which you agree and disagree. Attach printouts of the reviews you used.
14. Do a senior level collage of a major theme of your novel, or one that illustrates certain parts of your novel. Write a description of your collage.

### ✓✓✓ 25 Point Projects

***\*\*\*These projects require a significant amount of creative energy as well as clear written descriptions. Considerable time and effort is expected to complete these tasks.\*\*\****

1. Create a sculpture, portrait, or some likeness of a particular character from the novel. Naturally, some physical aspects demand to be portrayed, but be sure also to reflect the emotions and personality of your character. Write a description of your artwork, including a quotation from which the project was inspired.

2. Create a senior level, colorful diorama of a particular scene from the novel. Pay attention to setting and characters. Write a description of the particular scene, including a quotation from which the project was inspired.
3. Imagine that your book is to be made into a movie. You are to design the soundtrack. Create a tape (or CD) containing at least ten (10) songs to match your book. Instrumental music is allowed, but include the song lyrics where available. Write a description of how each song relates to the book, including quotations from which the selections were inspired. Make your writings into the "liner notes" that are packaged with a CD or cassette. Also, create a package for your soundtrack (album cover, tape case, CD case).
4. Write, or videotape, an 5 minute interview with one or more of the characters from the book. For example, you may want to pretend you are an interviewer from People magazine.
5. Draw a color map of where a major part of the story takes place or create a map of the metaphorical journey a character takes. Label the major landmarks or points of interest. On a separate sheet of paper, explain how the places were used in the novel.
6. Create a book jacket (11"x17" paper) that could be used for a hardbound edition of your book. Include an introductory summary of the story, and a brief biography of the author on the flaps. Your purpose is to persuade readers to buy the book, but you must also be true to the flavor and purpose of the novel. You will want to create a striking illustration for the cover as well.
7. Choose a scene from the novel. Illustrate the scene in the form of a comic strip, lasting at least 10-15 frames. Utilize color and captions. On the back, write an explanation, including a quotation from which the project was inspired.
8. Research a concept discussed in the novel – a particular disease, social issue, geographic location, cultural backdrop, etc. Create a

handout or pamphlet that summarizes the information found. Include bibliographic entries for all sources used. In addition, write a description of how this topic relates to the novel, including a quotation from which the project was inspired.

9. Create a senior level mobile of at least 5 characters from the novel. Include a picture and a description of the character on the mobile as well as quotations from which the descriptions were inspired.
10. Make a scrapbook of the novel. You could include pictures of characters and places in the novel. Scrapbooks often contain keepsake items from important events such as a birthday card. Label each item so its importance is clear. Also, scrapbooks have newspaper and magazine articles from newsworthy events related to the person. Write an explanation of the purpose of each item.
11. Create a board game based on your book. Include at least two game pieces to move from square to square based on your text, at least 15 spaces related to your text, and a box. (a gift box works well for this) Include a description of the significance of game parts and instructions for play.

*Feel free to suggest other projects as well, but I must approve them prior to submission. Point value will be negotiated. As usual, I have the final word on all matters. J*

### **TOTAL MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED FOR GROUPS**

Groups of 5: 125 pts.

Groups of 4: 100 pts.

Groups of 3: 75 pts.

Groups of 2: 50 pts.