

Alternative Book Reports

Diane Williams

I am teaching 7/8th grade reading workshops this year. Our school uses Accelerated Reader to assess independent reading in 6th-7th grades. I am trying something new with my 8th graders. I'm letting them choose their assessments from a list of multi-intelligence projects. Then they have to be able to tie their project to the meaning of the book. My first group of projects are coming in this week. I'll let you know how it goes. I'm interested to compare the AR quiztakers to the project doers.

- 1) If a journey was involved, draw a map with explanatory notes of significant places.
- 2) Write a letter from one character to another character.
- 3) Write a new conclusion/Write a new beginning.
- 4) Participate with three or four classmates in a television talk show about the book.
- 5) With another student, do a pretend interview with the author or with one of the characters.
- 6) Draw comic-book pages as a summary of your book.
- 7) Make a travel brochure inviting tourists to visit the setting of the book. What types of activities would there be for them to attend?
- 8) Write a letter to the main character of the book. Write the letter he or she sends back.
- 9) Make three or more puppets of the characters in the book. Prepare a short puppet show to tell the story to the class.
- 10) Make ID cards which belong to the main characters. Be sure to make the cards look like the cards for that particular state. Include a picture and all information found on an ID card. Don't forget the signature!! *****This gets them researching what ID cards /Driver's Licenses look like; as well as thinking about the character--especially the signature. I have seen kids ask each of the other students to sign the character's name to find the one that would most likely belong to the character.*****
- 11) Rewrite the story as a picture book. Use simple vocabulary so that it may be enjoyed by younger students.
- 12) Make a mobile showing pictures or symbols of happenings in the book.
- 13) Write a song or poem for your story. (extra marks if presented in class)
- 14) Create a radio ad for your book. Write out the script and tape record it as it would be presented. Don't forget background music!
- 15) Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. Include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad, a bumper sticker, and a button.

- 16) Create a board game based on events and characters in the book you read. By playing your game, members of the class should learn what happened in the book. Your game must include the following: a game board, a rule sheet and clear directions, events and characters from the story.
- 17) Make models of three objects which were important in the book you read. On a card attached to each model, tell why that object was important in the book.
- 18) Complete a series of five drawings that show five of the major events in the plot of the book you read. Write captions for each drawing so that the illustrations can be understood by someone who did not read the book.
- 19) Plan a party for the characters in the book you read. In order to do this, complete each of the following tasks: (a) Design an invitation to the party which would appeal to all of the characters. (b) Imagine that you are five of the characters in the book and tell what each would wear to the party. (c) Tell what food you would serve and why. (d) Tell what games or entertainment you will provide and why your choices are appropriate. (e) Tell how three of the characters will act at the party. (f) What kind of a party is this? (birthday, housewarming, un-birthday, anniversary, etc.)
- 20) Tape an interview with one of the characters in the book you read. Pretend that this character is being interviewed by a magazine or newspaper reporter. You may do this project with a partner, but be sure to write a script before taping. You may choose to do a "live" version of this.
- 21) Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Make a tape describing the homes of your characters and the places where important events in the book took place. You may want to use a musical background for your tape.
- 22) Make a paper doll likeness of one of the characters in the book you read. Design at least three costumes for this character. Next, write a paragraph commenting on each outfit; tell what the clothing reflects about the character, the historical period and events in the book.
- 23) After reading a non-fiction book, become a teacher. Prepare a lesson that will teach something you learned from the book. It could be a "how-to" lesson or one on content. Plan carefully to present all necessary information in a logical order. You don't want to confuse your students! Present your lesson to your students. How did you do? If you taught a "how-to" lesson, look at the final product to see if your instructions to the class were clear. If your lesson introduced something new, you might give a short quiz to see how well you taught the lesson.
- 24) Choose an interesting character from your book. Consider the character's personality, likes and dislikes. Decide on a gift for him or her... something he or she would really like and use. Design a greeting card to go along with your gift. In the greeting, explain to your friend from the book why you selected the gift.
- 25) Choose an interesting character from your book. Consider the character's personality, likes and dislikes. Decide on a gift for him or her... something he or she would really like and use. Design a greeting card to go along with your gift. In the greeting, explain to your friend from the book why you selected the gift.

- 26) Design a poster to advertise your book. Be creative...use detail...elaborate...use color! Can you make it 3-D or movable?
- 27) Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
- 28) Create life-sized models of two of your favorite characters and dress them as they are dressed in the book. Crouch down behind your character and describe yourself as the character. Tell what your role is in the book and how you relate to the other character you have made.
- 29) Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during, or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.
- 30) Make several sketches of some of the scenes in the book and label them
- 31) After reading a book of history or historical fiction, make an illustrated timeline showing events of the story and draw a map showing the location(s) where the story took place.
- 32) Make a story quilt.
- 33) Your original idea (must have teacher approval).

Project Rubric
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Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Assignment: _____

Criteria	Emerging	Developing	Competent	Exemplary
Apparent connection to literature				
Attention to detail, overall quality and effort				
Organization and good use of time				
Creativity and interest to audience				
Awareness of genre and connection to project				