Fourth Grade

Fourth Quarter

Mystery Book Project

Dear Parents,

It’s time for the fourth graders to prepare for their second quarter book report. This time, students will be required to read a **mystery**. Remember that it must be a book from the Painted Rock Academy recommended reading list. The book must be approved by a parent and the teacher.

The final project is **due May 3rd.** By this date, students must turn in a written report and a completed “Mystery Bag”, according to the attached directions. A presentation of the “Mystery Bag” will occur on May 6th-9th. You will be assigned a day to present.

**Important Dates**

**April 1st** Book approval form turned into the teacher

**May 3rd** Complete project is due to the teacher

**May 6th-9th** Presentations in class

**Please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return by April 1st. Retain the above portion for your records.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pages \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent approval\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher approval \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Written Project Guide

The written portion of this project will be a five paragraph report. The report must be typed in 12pt font Times New Roman or Arial, and double spaced.

1st Paragraph: Introduce the characters in your mystery. Describe their roles in the story and how they helped the mystery develop. Filler sentences will be marked down.

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Paragraphs: These next three paragraphs need to summarize and explain the mystery in detail. Filler sentences will be marked down.

5th Paragraph: This paragraph should describe your opinion of the book. Remember to tie your opinions back to the story you read. Give details about why you liked or disliked the book. Filler sentences will be marked down.

**The written project is worth 100 points.**

The heading of the written report should look like the example below.

Your name

Title of the book

Author # of pages

Mystery Book Project

**Mystery Bag**

Prepare a “mystery bag” that will help you tell the highlights of the book you read.

1. Take a large paper grocery bag and print on it in large letters: “Book Mystery Bag”. (You may need to write it on a sheet of plain paper and glue it to the bag if there is writing on the bag.)
2. Inside the bag place 5 objects that played a key role in the story.
3. Attach a note to each of the objects telling how the object played a role in the story. Do NOT tell the entire story. You may use index cards.
4. Write the name of your book and the author on the other side of the bag, along with your name.
5. Complete the written report and turn it in with your bag on May 3rd.

**Book Talk**

You will prepare a talk to present to your class using the objects in your “Mystery Bag”. This “talk” should be 3-5 minutes in length. Remember to center on the mystery and the clues, NOT the solution. You may give details about the characters and how they are related to the mystery.

Evaluation of this project will be based on the following:

* Your book talk was the proper length.
* You were prepared, knowing what you wanted to say.
* Your bag was neatly and correctly labeled as directed.
* You stated the book’s title and author.
* You gave a good summary of the mystery.
* You had 5 well selected objects in your bag.
* You stated well how each object played a role in the story.
* You stood properly and looked at your audience.
* You spoke in a clear loud voice, at an appropriate speed.

It is important that you rehearse your book talk at home so you’ll know what you are going to say. Practice so you’ll be able to speak clearly in a voice that everyone can hear. Use good expression to show that you are interested in the book you read and that you enjoyed reading it.

Mystery Book Project

Mystery Bag and Oral Presentation

Grading Rubric

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Presented \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Talk was proper length: 3-5 minutes ………………………………\_\_\_\_/5

You were prepared and knew what you wanted to say………….\_\_\_\_/5

Your bag was neatly and correctly labeled……………………….\_\_\_\_/5

You stated the book’s title and author…………………………….\_\_\_\_/5

You gave a good summary of the mystery………………………\_\_\_\_/10

You had 5 well-selected objects and stated how each object

played a role in the story…………………………………………..\_\_\_\_/10

You stood straight and looked at your audience………………\_\_\_\_/5

You spoke in a clear voice and at an appropriate speed…….\_\_\_\_/5

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

Comments:

Written Project

Grading Rubric Must be Typed

1st Paragraph

\*Introduce the characters in your mystery……………….\_\_\_\_\_/5

\*Describe the character’s roles in the story…………….\_\_\_\_\_/5

\*Describe how the characters help the mystery develop\_\_\_\_/5

Total\_\_\_\_\_/15

2nd,3rd, and 4th Paragraphs

These three paragraphs summarize and explain the mystery in detail.

\*2nd paragraph should detail the beginning of the mystery…………\_\_\_\_\_/20

\*3rd paragraph should detail the middle of the mystery……………\_\_\_\_\_/20

\*4th paragraph should detail the end or solution of the mystery….\_\_\_\_\_/20

Total \_\_\_\_\_\_/60

5th Paragraph

This paragraph should describe your opinion of the book. Remember to tie your opinions back to the story you read.

\*Your opinion is well stated and relates back to the story....\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

Conventions

Spelling, grammar, and punctuation ………………….\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15

Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100=\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

Suggested Mysteries

Nancy Drew – Pre-1977 copyright

Hardy Boys – Early copyrights

Three Investigators Series – by Robert Arthur – from 1960’s, Alfred Hitchcock was the editor – age level- 8-12

Ecological Mystery Series – by Jean Craighead George

Encyclopedia Brown Series – by Donald Sobol

National Park Series – by Skurzynski and Ferguson (Edgar Allen Poe Winners and endorsed by the National Geographic Society)

Boxcar Children Series – by Gertrude Chandler Warner (**teacher must see the book to approve appropriate level)**

American Girl History Mysteries – Various authors

Sammy Keyes – by Wendelin VanDraanen (Edgar Allen Poe winner)