

Fourth Grade
Second 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 Valley Academy recommended reading list. The book must be at least 100 pages in length. The book must be approved by a parent and the teacher.

The final project is **due Friday, November 30th, 2018**. By this date, students must turn in a written report, according to the attached directions. A presentation of the "Mystery Bag" will occur on **December 3rd – 7th**. The students will be assigned a day to present.

Important Dates

October 16th Book approval form due date

November 30th Written project is due to the teacher

December 3rd – 8th Presentations in class (Students must bring their completed mystery bag on the date of their presentation.)

Presentation dates will be assigned. Students must present on their given date.

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.

1st Paragraph: Introduce the characters in your mystery. Describe their roles in the story and how they helped the mystery develop.

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Paragraphs: These next three paragraphs need to summarize and explain the mystery in detail.

5th Paragraph: This paragraph should describe your opinion of the book. Remember to tie your opinions back to the story you read.

A total of 3 dress-ups and 3 openers are required in the entire report. Dress-ups and openers must be marked.

The written project is worth 100 points. It must be handwritten.

The oral presentation is worth 50 points.

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

Title of the book

Your Name

Author

of pages

The entire book report should be no longer than 2 pages (front and back).

All work must be in the student's own words. Plagiarized reports will result in a grade of 0 and a detention.

The rough draft must be turned in with the final book report. 5 points will be deducted from the final grade if the rough draft is not turned in.

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.
4. Write the name of your book and the author on the other side of the bag, along with your name.
5. Bring your bag on the day you have been assigned to present.

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

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....._____/15

*3rd paragraph should detail the middle of the mystery....._____/15

*4th paragraph should detail the end or solution of the mystery...._____/15

Total _____/45

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

3 dress-ups and 3 openers_____/12

Conventions

Spelling, grammar, and punctuation_____/18

Total _____/100=_____%

5 points will be deducted if the rough draft is not turned in with the final copy.

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

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

American Girl History Mysteries – Various authors

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

Carol Marsh Mysteries – by Carol Marsh (Mysteries about famous places and events in the US)

Composition Checklist

Choose three from this list of dress-ups. (middle of the sentence: underlined)

_____ who/which

_____ “ly” word

_____ strong verb

_____ quality adjective

_____ when, while, where, since, as, if, or although

Choose three from this list of openers. (first word of sentence; numbered)

_____ 1. Not an opener taught to 4th graders.

_____ 2. Preposition

_____ 3. “ly”

_____ 4. “ing”

_____ 5. When, While, Where, Since, As, If, Although, Because

_____ 6. Not an opener taught to 4th graders.