

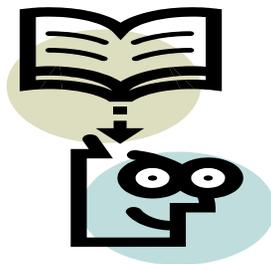
CMMS SEVENTH GRADE

INDEPENDENT READING

Semester 1

In this packet you will find:

- 1) *The Contract*: This contract needs to be signed by both you and your parent!
- 2) *The Independent Novel Choice List*: Ask your teacher if you would like to read a different novel!
- 3) *Reading Log*: Used to help you stay on track with your reading!
- 4) *Reading Menu for Final Projects*: Choose one per novel!



Independent Reading Project Contract

First Semester

Students are required to read one independent book each semester. Students must choose a book from the pre-approved reading list OR have permission in writing from their Reading teacher to read a book of their choice. Students may earn credit for independent reading by choosing one of the approved projects described in this packet. Because students are given the freedom to choose their book, freedom to choose how they will earn credit for the assignment, and given ample time to complete this assignment it is not an impossible or unreasonable expectation for any student.

I, _____, will read the following book this semester:
(Student's Name)

(Title and Author)

By signing this contract, I am promising that:

- I will complete my Independent Reading Project honestly (i.e., no cheating).
- I have chosen the books based on my own reading ability and interest.

By signing this contract, I affirm that I understand the following:

- Students are expected to read books they have not read before.
- It is strongly recommended that students read novels that fall within their own reading range.
- Students may earn credit for this assignment only on the book listed above.
- Any changes made to this contract must be completed before Friday, November 5th.
- This Independent Reading Project, including reading logs, will be worth 100 points, and will be calculated into their second quarter grade.
- Cheating to earn credit on the Independent Reading Project will result in loss of points for the project and possible disciplinary action.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parents: Please sign below to indicate that you approve of your student's book choice for the semester and understand your student's responsibility for completing the assignment. If you have any questions, please contact your student's Reading teacher. Thank you!

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Students/Parents must sign and return the teacher by October 23, 2009

THE INDEPENDENT READING PROJECT IS DUE: December 16, 2009.

Late projects will be accepted for PARTIAL credit.

**Crete-Monee Middle School
Independent Reading List 2009-2010**

American Born Chinese	Gene Yang
Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank
Behind the Bedroom Wall	Laura E. Williams
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis
City of the Beasts	Isabel Allende
City of Ember (and series)	Jeanne DuPrau
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	Mark Haddon
Durango Street	Frank Bonham
Ender's Game (and series)	Orson Scott Card
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan
Homecoming (and series)	Cynthia Voigt
Jazmin's Notebook	Nikki Grimes
Life of Pi	Yann Martel
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Ishmael Beah
Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli
Maus (and Maus II)	Art Spiegelman
Messenger	Lois Lowry
No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency (and series)	Alexander McCall Smith
Nothing but the Truth: A Documentary Novel	Avi
The Pigman (and The Pigman's Legacy)	Paul Zindel
The Road to Memphis	Mildred Taylor
Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind	Suzanne Fisher Staples
A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park
Taking Sides	Gary Soto
Tears of a Tiger (and series)	Sharon M. Draper
That Was Then, This Is Now	S. E. Hinton
Uglies (and series)	Scott Westerfeld

During the school year, students may choose to read books not on this list provided that they receive their teacher's approval. Our faculty reserves the right to deny a request based on factors such as: a book's content, language, reading level, etc.

Students are expected to read material that is new to them, whether choosing from the list or picking their own book. Students may be denied a book request if the teacher has good reason to believe that they have already read/studied the book they chose.

The following novels are in the core curriculum and may not be read as independent choices, with the exceptions noted below.

7th Grade ELA

Tangerine

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
The Wanderings of Odysseus

8th Grade ELA

Among the Hidden

The Giver

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

The Outsiders

7th Grade Honors ELA

Tangerine

Standing Against the Wind

Let the Circle Be Unbroken

The Lighting Thief

8th Grade Honors ELA

Fahrenheit 451

The Giver

The Book Thief

Secret Life of Bees

8th graders may read novels off of the 7th grade list provided they are novels that were not covered the previous year. Both 7th and 8th graders may read the books for the other class at their grade level (i.e. a student in 7th grade ELA could choose a book from the 7th grade honors ELA list).

American Born Chinese

530 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.2

Graphic Novel-Family Life-Asian-American

Three connected stories are presented in comic book format that show the difficulties facing young Chinese Americans trying to understand and fit in with American culture

Gene Yang

Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl

1080 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.5

Non-Fiction-Diary/Memoir-Holocaust

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic — a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.

Anne Frank

Behind the Bedroom Wall

660 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 4.8

Historical Fiction-Holocaust

Thirteen-year-old Korinna must decide whether to report her parents to her Hitler youth group when she discovers that they are hiding Jews in a secret space behind Korinna's bedroom wall. A series of events, including her reluctant, but growing attachment to the little girl hidden behind the wardrobe in her room, leads her to conclude that the price of being loyal to the Fatherland is too high. It is Korinna's quick thinking that saves the family during a night raid.

Laura E. Williams

Bridge to Terabithia

810 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.3

Fiction-Fantasy

Jesse Aarons gains the strength to cope with unexpected tragedy by going to a secret kingdom in the woods invented by Leslie Burke, a newcomer to his rural Virginia community. The two create a secret kingdom in the woods named Terabithia, where the only way to get into the castle is by swinging out over a gully on an enchanted rope. Here they reign as king and queen, fighting off imaginary giants and the walking dead, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against the schoolmates who tease them.

Katherine Paterson

Bud, Not Buddy

950 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.2
General Fiction-Depression-African-American

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but he's on a mission. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: posters of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression! Bud's got an idea that those posters will lead to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him. Bud, Not Buddy is full of laugh-out-loud humor and wonderful characters, hitting the high notes of jazz and sounding the deeper tones of the Great Depression

Christopher Paul Curtis

City of the Beasts

1030 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 7.6
Fiction-Adventure-Fantasy

Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold has the chance to take the trip of a lifetime. Parting from his family and ill mother, Alexander joins his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter for "International Geographic," on an expedition to the dangerous, remote world of the Amazon. Their mission, along with the others on their team -- including a celebrated anthropologist, a local guide and his young daughter Nadia, and a doctor -- is to document the legendary Yeti of the Amazon known as the Beast.

Under the dense canopy of the jungle, Alexander is amazed to discover much more than he could have imagined about the hidden worlds of the rain forest. Drawing on the strength of the jaguar, the totemic animal Alexander finds within himself, and the eagle, Nadia's spirit guide, both young people are led by the invisible People of the Mist on a thrilling and unforgettable journey to the ultimate discovery....

Isabel Allende

City of Ember (and series)

680 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.1
Fiction-Fantasy

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever!

Students may choose to go on to read the other books in this series.

Jeanne DuPrau

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

1180 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.3
Fiction-Mystery

Late one night, Christopher, an autistic teen, comes across his neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork. Wellington's owner finds him cradling her dead dog in his arms, and has him arrested. After spending a night in jail, Christopher resolves--against the objection of his father and neighbors--to discover just who has murdered Wellington. He is encouraged by Siobhan, a social worker at his school, to write a book about his investigations, and the result--quirkily illustrated, with each chapter given its own prime number--is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Mark Haddon

Durango Street

640 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.8
Realistic Fiction-Teens-Social Issues

Frank Bonham

When Rufus Henry gets out of work camp for Grand Theft Auto, he has only one place to go -- back to Durango Street. Almost right away, he gets on the wrong side of the Gassers, has to join the rival Moors -- and starts running for his life. Years ahead of its time, Durango Street, like *The Outsiders*, shows that gang violence is, sadly, nothing new -- and nothing glamorous.

Ender's Game (and series)

780 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 9.0
Science Fiction-Fantasy

Orson Scott Card

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut— young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. His psychological battles include loneliness, fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers, and fanning the flames of devotion to his beloved sister.

Students may choose to go on to read the other books in this series.

Esperanza Rising

750 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.5
Historical Fiction-Hispanic

Pam Munoz Ryan

When Esperanza and Mama are forced to flee to the bountiful region of Aguascalientes, Mexico, to a Mexican farm labor camp in California, they must adjust to a life without fancy dresses and servants like they were accustomed to on Rancho de las Rosas. Now they must confront the challenges of hard work, acceptance by their own people, and economic difficulties brought on by the Great Depression. When Mama falls ill and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must relinquish her hold on the past and learn to embrace a future ripe with the riches of family and community.

Homecoming

630 Lexile; Grade Level Equivalent: 5.5
General Fiction

Cynthia Voigt

In Cynthia Voigt's first novel — and the introduction to her Tillerman saga — the four Tillerman children, abandoned by their emotionally ill mother, travel on foot from New England to their paternal grandmother's Maryland farm in search of a place to call home. Will great-aunt Cilla welcome them? Or will they be caught by authorities and put in foster homes?

Students may choose to go on to read the other books in this series.

Jazmin's Notebook

980 Lexile; Grade Level Equivalent: 5.2
Realistic Fiction-Family Life-African-American

Nikki Grimes

14-year-old Jazmin Shelby fills her notebook with glimpses of her life, neighborhood, family, and dreams in Harlem in the 1960s. Rescued from a series of foster homes and makeshift living arrangements by her older sister, CeCe, Jazmin draws strength and wisdom from her devoted sibling when their alcoholic mother is institutionalized. Jazmin is an observer and a thinker. From her apartment stoop, she savors the rhythm and blues that drifts out of the Garden of Eden Bar & Grill next door and watches customers come and go. At school, she avoids a fight by locking herself in the bathroom and scribbling her anger in verse. When a high-school guidance counselor suggests pursuing a vocational career, Jazmin clings to her aspirations of being a writer and demands a college-prep schedule. Despite her "second hand" appearance, the girl's goals are high and her attitude is positive.

Life of Pi

830 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 7.2
Fiction- Adventure-India

Yann Martel

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth." After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional--but is it more true?

**A Long Way Gone:
Memoirs of a Boy Soldier**

920 Lexile
Non-Fiction-Biography/Memoir-Africa

Ishmael Beah

This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

Maniac Magee

820 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.4
General Fiction

Jerry Spinelli

He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side.

Maus I: A Survivor's Tale

No Lexile Available; Grade-level Equivalent 6.8
Graphic Novel-Holocaust

Art Spiegelman

Told with chilling realism in an unusual comic-book format, this is more than a tale of surviving the Holocaust. Spiegelman relates the effect of those events on the survivors' later years and upon the lives of the following generation. Each scene opens at the elder Spiegelman's home in Rego Park, N.Y. Art, who was born after the war, is visiting his father, Vladek, to record his experiences in Nazi-occupied Poland. The Nazis, portrayed as cats, gradually introduce increasingly repressive measures, until the Jews, drawn as mice, are systematically hunted and herded toward the Final Solution. Vladek saves himself and his wife by a combination of luck and wits, all the time enduring the torment of hunted outcast.

Students may choose to read [Maus II](#) as well.

Messenger

720 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.2
Fiction- Fantasy

Lois Lowry

Matty, who has lived in Village with the blind Seer since running away from an abusive childhood, is looking forward to receiving his true name, which he hopes will be Messenger. But he is deeply unsettled by what is going on. He has discovered his own power to heal others and learned of disturbing changes within his community. Under the gentle guidance of Leader, who arrived in Village on a red sled as a young boy and who has the power of Seeing Beyond, the citizens have always welcomed newcomers, especially those who are disabled. But a sinister force is at work, which has prompted them to close admission to outsiders. This is a follow-up to The Giver.

Students may also choose to read Gossamer, which is also a part of this series.

No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency (and series)

No Lexile Available
Mystery- Detective Fiction-Africa

Alexander McCall Smith

This novel tells the story of the delightfully cunning and enormously engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to help people with problems in their lives. Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, Botswana, she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors.

Students may choose to go on to read the other books in this series.

Nothing but the Truth: A Documentary Novel

No Lexile Available; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.9
Fiction-Teens

Avi

Patriotism or practical joke? Harrison, NH -- Ninth-grade student Philip Malloy was suspended from school for singing along to *The Star-Spangled Banner* in his homeroom, causing what his teacher, Margaret Narwin, called "a disturbance." But was he standing up for his patriotic ideals, only to be squelched by the school system? Was Ms. Narwin simply trying to be a good teacher? Or could it all be just a misunderstanding gone bad -- very bad? What is the truth here? Can it ever be known? Heroism, hoax, or mistake, what happened at Harrison High changes everything for everyone in ways no one -- least of all Philip -- could have ever predicted.

The Pigman

950 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.9
Fiction-Teens

Paul Zindel

For sophomores John and Lorraine, the world feels meaningless; nothing is important. They *certainly* can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people. It's during one of these pranks that they meet the "Pigman"--a fat, balding old man with a zany smile plastered on his face. In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon find that they're caught up in Mr. Pignati's zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that's ever mattered to them. Originally published in 1968, this novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Zindel still sings with sharp emotion as John and Lorraine come to realize that "Our life would be what we made of it--nothing more, nothing less."

Students may choose to go on to read the other book in this series.

The Road to Memphis

670 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 8.1
Historical Fiction-African-American

Mildred Taylor

The third novel in a series which started with [Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#), **The Road to Memphis** catches up with the Logan family in 1941. Cassie is entering her last year of high school in Jackson, Mississippi and her older brother Stacey is driving his first car. After a family trip to Memphis, a sequence of events, including pregnancy, death and the intrusions of Pearl Harbor and World War II wreaks havoc on the family, threatening to separate them from each other, perhaps forever. Drawing upon their strength as a family and the support of their community, the Logans fight for survival, particularly Cassie, who dreams of becoming a lawyer. **The Road to Memphis** won the 1991 [Coretta Scott King Award](#).

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind

970 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 7.6
Realistic Fiction-Teens-Middle East

Suzanne Fisher Staples

Shabanu knows the way her people, the Cholistanis, have always lived: a daughter abides by her father's decisions; a wife obeys her husband's wishes. Yet Shabanu is strong-willed and independent, and her mother warns, "Shabanu, you are wild as the wind. You must learn to obey. Otherwise . . . I am afraid for you." As the arranged marriage of Shabanu's sister Phulan approaches, and with her own wedding planned for the following year, Shabanu confronts her fear and apprehension. She scarcely knows the man she is expected to wed. What if she does not obey? Before the ceremonies take place, however, disaster strikes. Shabanu and Phulan out alone and threatened with rape by a powerful local landowner, escape but humiliate him. In revenge, he kills Phulan's betrothed and threatens to cut off the family's water supply. As one condition for restoring peace, Shabanu must marry the landlord's older brother. With the help of a wise, loving aunt, Shabanu learns to curb and conceal her powerful will and channel it to bring her peace of mind.

A Single Shard

920 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.8
Historical Fiction-Fantasy-Asia

Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear is an orphan boy in a 12th-century Korean potters' village. For a long time he is content living with Crane-man under a bridge barely surviving on scraps of food. All that changes when he sees master potter Min making his beautiful pottery. Tree-ear sneaks back to Min's workplace and dreams of creating his own pots someday. When he accidentally breaks a pot, he must work for the master to pay for the damage. Though the work is long and hard, Tree-ear is eager to learn. Then he is sent to the King's Court to show the master's pottery. Little does Tree-ear know that this difficult and dangerous journey will change his life forever.

Taking Sides

750 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.7
Realistic Fiction-Teens-Sports-Hispanic-American

Gary Soto

This touchingly realistic story explores the divided loyalties of a Hispanic basketball player who has recently moved from a poor neighborhood to a more affluent one. Initially, eighth grader Lincoln feels like a traitor when he plays ball for the predominantly white school he now attends. To make matters worse, his new coach seems to hold a grudge against both Lincoln and his former school, Franklin Junior High. As a game against Franklin approaches, tension mounts and Lincoln experiences clashes with several people, including some teammates. But he manages to have fun on the night of the big game and eventually makes peace with his friends.

Tears of a Tiger

700 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.5
Realistic Fiction-Teens-African-American

Sharon M. Draper

When star basketball player Robert Washington and his three closest friends mix drinking and driving in a post-game victory celebration, Robert is killed in an auto accident. The driver, Andy Jackson, is unable to resolve his feelings of guilt and remorse. Neither Andy's parents nor his psychologist accurately perceive the depth of Andy's depression, with tragic results. The story emerges through newspaper articles, journal entries, homework assignments, letters, and conversations that give the book immediacy. Andy's perceptions of the racism directed toward young Black males--by teachers, guidance counselors, and clerks in shopping malls--will be recognized by African American readers.

Students may choose to go on to read the other books in this series.

That Was Then, This Is Now

780 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 6.2
Fiction-Teens

S. E. Hinton

Ever since Mark's parents died, he has been living with Bryon. The boys are more like brothers than mere friends. They've been inseparable--until recently. Something seems to be changing between them, and Bryon can't figure it out. Is it Cathy, Bryon's new girlfriend? Is Mark jealous? Bryon is also tired of the street fighting, but Mark seems unable to quit. And where is Mark getting all of that money? In *That Was Then, This Is Now*, one of her most admired novels, S. E. Hinton paints a richly textured portrait of two boys at a crossroads in their friendship. With careful, intimate strokes, Hinton reveals a boy struggling over whether to protect his best friend or whether to follow his own beliefs about right and wrong. The ending will surprise readers, challenging them to puzzle over Bryon's dilemma in their own hearts.

Uglies (and series)

770 Lexile; Grade-level Equivalent: 5.6
Fiction-Fantasy-Teens

Scott Westerfeld

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license -- for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever.

Students may choose to go on to read the other books in this series.

7th Grade Reading Log

Name _____ Semester _____ Teacher _____

Title of Book for Independent Reading Assignment _____

by (author) _____



Date	Summary of What I Just Read	“Read & Say Something” Response to Reading (sentence starters on the back)	Start Page	Stop Page	# of Pages Read
	I can remember what I read for next time.	I can briefly think about what I just read.			

Make a Prediction:

- * I predict that...
- * I bet that ...
- * I think that...
- * Since this happened (fill in detail) then I bet the next thing that is going to happen is...
- * Reading this part make me think that this (fill in detail) is about to happen.
- * I wonder if...

Ask a Question:

- * Why did...
- * What is this part about ...
- * How is this (fill in detail) like this (fill in detail)...
- * What would happen if...
- * Why...
- * Who is...
- * What does this section (fill in detail) mean...
- * Do you think...
- * I don't get this part (fill in detail)

Clarify Something:

- * Oh, I get it...
- * Now I understand...
- * This makes sense now...
- * No, I think it means...
- * I agree with you. This means...
- * At first I thought (fill in detail), but now I think...
- * This part is really saying...

Make a Comment:

- * This is good because...
- * This is hard because ...
- * This is confusing because...
- * I like the part where...
- * I do not like this part because...
- * My favorite part so far is...
- * I think that...

Make a Connection:

- * I predict that...
- * I bet that ...
- * I think that...
- * Since this happened (fill in detail) then I bet the next thing that is going to happen is...
- * Reading this part make me think that this (fill in detail) is about to happen.
- * I wonder if...

Responding to Reading Menu

Directions: Respond to your independent reading selection by completing one of the following projects. For your semester two independent reading selection, you must choose a project from a different category. (Ex. If you choose an art project for semester one, then you must choose a project from either the writing or connection section for semester two.)

Writing Response

- **RETURN TO THE FUTURE.** Pretend that you are one of the characters who has "come back" 25 years after the novel has ended. Describe your reactions. Information about your character then and now should be present as well as evidence of connections to the text. One page typed or two pages handwritten.
- **DO A "YOU ARE THERE" news program** reporting on a particular scene, character, or event in the book. Be thorough with relevant details to show, not tell the reader about this event. One page typed or two pages handwritten.
- **DESIGN A TIME LINE FOR THE EVENTS IN THE STORY.** This should be in chronological order clearly labeling specific, relevant events from the plot. There should be at least 10 events on your timeline.

Connection Response

- **FICTION OR REALITY.** Choose a character who seems to have realistic experiences. Write about something similar that has happened to you. Be clear about the connections you are making to give the reader insight to the plot of the story. One page typed or two pages handwritten.
- **WRITE A PERSONAL LETTER TO ONE OF THE CHARACTERS YOU ADMIRE OR DESPISE.** Be specific giving reasons to support why you admire or despise. Consider what the character does or does not do to use as these reasons. One page typed or two pages handwritten.
- **WRITE THE DIARY A MAIN CHARACTER MIGHT HAVE WRITTEN.** Imagine you are the person in your book. Write a diary for a few days or weeks as she or he would have done. The reader should be able to know about the events in the character's life based on these entries. One page typed or two pages handwritten.

Art Response

- **FASHION A MOBILE FROM ITEMS RELATED TO A STORY.** Be creative by using items of your choice to attach to a wire (hanger works well) that are relevant to the story. There should be a minimum of 5 items.
- **DESIGN A COMIC STRIP RETELLING SOME EVENT IN THE STORY.** This may be expanded to tell the whole story of the novel as a comic book. There should be at least 10 pictures with captions.
- **MAKE A NEW BOOK JACKET.** It should include an attractive picture or cover design, an original summary of the book, information on the author and illustrator, and information about other books by the author.

MY PROJECT PROGRESS

Semester 1 Project Choice: _____

Materials I need to have/prepare so my project can be the best it can be:

Notes to myself to help me plan my project:

Semester 2 Project Choice: _____

Materials I need to have/prepare so my project can be the best it can be:

Notes to myself to help me plan my project:
