

Belmont Preparatory School

English Department

Independent learning tasks to respond to reading

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy

Complete any of the following tasks and be rewarded for your effort by your teacher. These tasks are designed to develop a deeper understanding of writers' ideas and crafting. The tasks become more difficult, so the first categories are slightly easier skills and the later categories are more challenging.

Reading journal: You could create a reading journal. This will track your thought-process and learning throughout the reading experience. This could be done as a written journal, or a series of mind-maps.

- You should include, for each chapter:
 - o Key characters
 - o Key events
 - o Key feelings
 - o Key themes emerging
 - o Words to summarise the chapter

Don't forget to fill out your reading record in your prep. diary over the holidays too, to secure commends for your house.

Recall

- Design a storyboard exploring the key events in the extract.
- Write character profiles for 3 characters explored in the extracts.
- Draw a character and label with key words and phrases from the text.
- Create a timeline of events from an extract.

Summarising

- Create a revision guide to summarise all of the characters in your book.
- Summarise your book in ten sentences.
- Summarise your book in five words.
- Summarise your book in one sentence.
- Summarise your book in one word.
- Create a list of emotions that are experienced in each chapter. Find one quotation from the chapter to match these emotions.
- Pick five key quotations that can explain your book to another person who has not read it.
- Write a paragraph to reflect on how you think the protagonist feels at the end of the story.
- Write a blurb to summarise what your book is about. Remember, you should not give away the whole story.

Understanding

- Re-tell the extract from the viewpoint of another character.
- Create a poster presenting visual images that the writer has created in one of the extracts.
- Write a list of questions that you would ask the author of one of the books.
- Describe an extract in five sentences, then in five words and then one word.

Applying

- Draw an image to represent the key themes and write quotations which are linked to the theme around it.
- Create a leaflet about a topic or issue that is presented in one of the books. Record some of the ideas that are discussed.
- Find an extract from another book which you think the writer has described the setting/built tension/created effective openings or introduced an interesting narrative voice. Photocopy this and annotate the features you have found.

Writing

- Write an alternative first page to your book.
- Imagine you are the main character; write a diary entry or a piece of prose to explain your thoughts and feelings in response to one of the main events of the book.
- Find your favourite event in the novel and re-write the page in your own words. Try to keep the same style and tone to the page; use the writer's choice of words and structure to help you.
- Find your favourite event in the novel and re-write the page from another character's perspective. Try to keep the same style and tone to the page; use the writer's choice of words and structure to help you.
- Find a page that you think is quite simple or boring and re-write the page in your own words. Try to keep the same style and tone; use the writer's choice of words and structure to help you.
- Write an alternative ending to your book.
- Write a letter to your main character to ask them something about the book.
- Write a creative diary entry from the perspective of the character, to explain how you think the protagonist feels at the end of the story.
- Write two new pages for your book.
- Write a section of your story, ten years after the ending of your book.
- Write a poem that reflects the key message/theme of your book.
- Write a review of your book to go in the school's newspaper.

Discussing

- Discuss with a group three key aspects of your book and why you think they are interesting, important or effective.
- In a group, swap your book with someone else; they should read the blurb and comment on what they think the book is about. Ask them why they think this and discuss with them the key events/characters/ideas of the book in response to this.
- Explain to your group the key events of your story and what you think the writer's key message is.

Analysing

- Find evidence to show how the author is creating bias either for or against a character- how are they making you like or dislike a character.
- Write a PEE paragraph analysing how the writer has described the setting/built tension/created effective openings or introduced an interesting narrative voice.

Evaluating

- Compare the effectiveness of the two extracts and support your opinions with quotations.
- Prepare a speech to present your views about how a writer has achieved effects in an extract of your choice.
- Write a critique on how one of the writers could have improved their extract.

Creating

- Write your own extract exploring setting/narrative voice/ interesting opening or building tension- use techniques you have explored and highlight these.
- Continue one of the extracts using the style that has been explored and highlight techniques which you have included.
- Draw five freeze frames on a storyboard to explain the key events of one chapter.
- Create a graph to track the protagonist's (main character's) feelings across the book.
- Draw how you imagine a key setting to look like in the book; use quotations to help you with this.
- Draw a picture to show how you imagine your character's bedroom would look like; use your understanding of your character's personality/situation to help you with this.
- Draw a comic strip to summarise a key chapter.
- Create/design a Facebook page for one of the main characters: include key information and posts from other characters on their wall.
- Draw a new front cover for your book.
- Create a model of one of the key settings in your book.
- Draw the main character in your book.

Reflecting

- Take/find three photographs that you think summarise the book.
- When you are halfway through your book, write down a prediction of how the story will end. You can do this at several points in the story and track how your opinion/ideas change.
- Write at least three paragraphs to explain how the writer uses words to create a particular atmosphere; this could be in the novel as a whole or in a particular chapter. Quotations will be needed to support this.
- Take a picture to summarise the whole book.
- Write a paragraph to explain why you like your book. You could also discuss any aspects of your book that you do not like as much and why.
- Write a paragraph to explain what you would do if you could travel to the time era that your book is set in. If it is a contemporary book (set in the 21st century), think about how you could change the plot to be of another era in time. How would this change the character's situation about why?
- Rename your book. Why have you chosen this new title?