

Reminders for the Oral Presentation Part of the Authors Report

You are to deliver a 10-13 minute oral report in which you present a BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of your author (i.e., tell us all about his or her life) and a PRIMARY SOURCE REVIEW (i.e., book report) of a novel written by your author and read by you.

I. For the BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, you were required to:

- locate 6 library sources; for each one fill out one of the sheets found in your source sheet packet. All of the information was to come from the AHS library or one of its databases. If you have not yet finished obtaining that information, it is your responsibility to find it on your own time.
- take very specific and accurate notes regarding the material found in those sources so that you could include information regarding the author's personal and professional life. It is this information that you will tell us about in the first part of the oral. **Your presentation should include the following:**
 - * date and place of birth
 - * death date and place if your subject is no longer living
 - * family or background experiences that influenced him/her
 - * educational experiences
 - * other life experiences that influenced his/her literary career
 - * what friends, family members, other writers, and *especially critics* have to say about him/her
 - * time period in which he/she wrote
 - * types of literature he/she wrote
 - * major themes used in his/her work
 - * major concerns that may be evident in his/her work
 - * major works for which he/she is particularly well known
 - * significant awards and prizes won

II. For the PRIMARY SOURCE REVIEW of a novel written by your author and read by you, **you must discuss the following in your oral presentation:**

- to what extent the novel:
 - o is an example of the type of work for which your author is best known
 - o was influenced in any way by the author's life experiences
 - o provides an example of the author's use of a recurring theme
 - o uses specific literary devices, such as: *point of view, suspense, conflict, symbolism, irony, flashback, foreshadowing*, and the use of a particular type of *character or characterization*
- the degree to which:
 - o the sequence of events makes sense
 - o the characters are realistically portrayed
 - o the conflict(s) is (are) reasonably resolved
 - o the author's style is appropriate considering the subject of the novel
- basic information, like plot summary, as well as whether or not you would recommend the book (and why or why not).

Turn over...

III. Extra reminders:

- although you are not required to hand in any written text for your report, you must hand in your source notes/photocopies when you give your presentation.
- it is a good idea to write out what you want to say on note cards (either in text or note form), but please do not just read off the cards—**be sure to look up and make eye contact.**
- you must have a visual aid accompanying your report. What you choose is up to you. Here are some suggestions:
 - * Poster. If you choose to make a poster, it must be made on poster board and decorated; letter-size/notebook paper is not acceptable. Also, be sure to write large enough so people in the back can read your poster. Size 60 type is usually a good starting point.
 - * PowerPoint. Be sure your font is large as people in the back may not be able to read small type. If you make it on your home computer using Microsoft, please either e-mail me the PowerPoint *at least one day in advance*, or bring it in on a flash drive *the day before your presentation* so we can verify compatibility and scan for viruses. If you choose not to provide me with the PowerPoint in advance and it does *not* work, you must be prepared for the consequences. Preparing it via Google Slides is a good way to assure it will work on our system. *Also remember that you will still be graded on eye contact; you should not treat your PowerPoint like notecards.*
 - * Dress up like a character in your book and tell the story from his or her perspective. Or, dress up like your author, *if* he or she had a particular style, and tell their life story as if you were them.
 - * Make a diorama of a scene from the book.
 - * Make a pamphlet for each student. It can cover facts about the author *or* book—or both!
 - * In the past, students have baked, made sculptures, made overheads, made bookmarks for each student, made Prezis, given puppet shows.... Be creative! Do **not**, however, make a visual aid that requires the class to participate (like game shows, quizzes, etc...), because the focus is on you, not them.

Please look at the attached rubric to get an idea of how I will grade the orals. Please bring that rubric back and give it to me on the day of your presentation so I can use it to grade you.

Remember, if you are not here on the day of your presentation, you will receive a 0. Refer to the packet or schedule for directions on what to do in case you are absent.