

Book Rubric-

Directions: Please read a total of 50 points during the summer. Once you have finished a book and completed all of the questions to be answered, please have your parent initial your rubric. Students should be prepared to hand in all questions on the first day of school. Students may only use one category square per summer.

Category:	Total # of points:	Question to be answered in essay format:	Parent initials:
A novel that has > 500 pages (Confirm quality of book with your teacher)	60	Explain the plot structure of this novel (exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution). What is the main theme of this novel, and how is it developed throughout the course of the story? Provide at least three examples from the text. What did you find most challenging about reading this novel? Why?	
A cookbook	20	Prepare and sample at least one recipe from the book. Take pictures or bring your teacher a serving. Write a review of the food that you prepared, as well as describing your cooking experience.	
A book that has been adapted as a film	25	Watch the film version of the book and write a compare/contrast about the similarities and differences you noticed. Focus particularly on character development and theme.	
A book with nonhuman characters	25	Compare and contrast the behavior and characteristics of the characters with your experiences as a human. What are the major similarities and differences?	
A book set in North Carolina	25	How is the setting of the book also a character in the story?	
A graphic novel	20	What is one of the main themes of this book? How is it developed in at least 3 ways? How do the images develop the theme in a different way than a prose story?	
A nonfiction book	25	Write a short persuasive article about why everyone needs to know the information that this book contains. Does this book do a good job of providing that information in an engaging way?	
A prize-winning novel	30	Research the prize that the novel was awarded. What elements of the novel make it a good candidate for this award? What type of reader should read this book, and why?	
A book you can finish reading in a day or less	10	What does this book have to offer readers, even though it is brief?	
A banned/ challenged book	25	Research why this book was banned or challenged. Explain your reaction reasoning behind the ban/challenge. Do you feel the reasoning is valid? Why or why not? **May not be a children's book (no picture books)**	
A book about an immigrant	25	Explain how the main character experiences multiple cultures. What is the main theme of the book, and how does it relate to culture?	

A book that celebrates a culture different than your own	25	Define your own culture. Define the main culture in your book. What similarities and differences did you find in reading about this different culture? What did you learn about this other culture?	
A poetry anthology	30	What do the poems in this anthology have in common? Focus particularly on theme, mood, and tone. Include your favorite line from a poem and explain why the line is so meaningful to you. **An anthology is made up of poems from different poets, not the works of a single poet.**	
Poetry Collection (from same author)	30	What is the overarching theme of this collection of poems? How is it demonstrated in at least three ways? Quote evidence from multiple poems within the text.	
A book with a one-word title	25	How is the title of this book meaningful? How is the meaning developed? (Focus on the theme.)	
A book with a main character you have something in common with	25	What do you have in common with the character? Include examples from your real life. Does the author do a good job of portraying your commonality fairly? (e.g.: are all soccer players portrayed correctly, or all flute players, or all children of divorced parents, etc.)	
A play	30	How are the story elements (plot, characters, theme) developed through dialogue? Give an example of how a reader can infer something about a character from what s/he says.	
A children's book that you have never read before	10	How is your experience reading this book as a 7th grader different than it would have been if you read it when you were younger? What elements appeal to children, and what might be included for adults? Elements may include: themes, characters, literary devices, artwork, etc.	
A science-fiction novel	20	How are the characteristics of the science fiction genre included in this novel? What elements of the book are standard across other genres?	
A dystopian novel	20	How does the author establish the setting as a dystopia? What are the characters trying to accomplish in the story? What special characteristic does the main character have that will help him/her be successful?	
Biography	20	Why is the story of this person important for others to read? What can be learned from studying this person?	
Autobiography/ Memoir	20	Why do you think this author chose to share his/her story with the world? What message or truth is s/he trying to share? Or, if s/he does not have a lesson to teach, what was his/her purpose for writing this story?	
A fantasy novel	20	How does magic or the supernatural play a role in this story? What are the rules that govern it?	
A historical fiction novel	20	How does the novel portray historical events? What elements are embellished?	
An epistolary novel	20	How is the story developed through the epistolary format? What was your experience in reading this structure?	

An instructional book	20	In your own words, write a brief version of the instructions that you read. Separate the stages into paragraphs and include relevant details.	
A humorous novel	20	How does the author develop humor? What type of humor is mainly used in this novel? What role does humor play in developing the theme? (Begin by explaining the theme, then elaborate on how humor develops the theme.)	
A mystery novel	20	How does the author develop suspense? Give at least two examples of foreshadowing that the author used to help you make predictions about the plot as you read. Were you surprised by the ultimate outcome of the novel? Why/why not?	
Sports Book (fictional novel)	20	What qualities does the character have that make him/her excel at a sport? Pick one quality and show how it develops (or gets stronger) throughout the course of the novel. Explain how it was lacking, then show how it got stronger.	
Sports Book (nonfiction)	20	What can a person learn from studying this sport? Does it teach any character traits or habits that are useful to life in general? What type of person would excel at this sport, and how would the sport help him/her to excel in the real world?	
YouTube	20	For this category, read a book that was written by a YouTube personality. How does the internet and/or social media influence this book? In what ways is this book a "21st century" text? Use evidence from the book to support your answers.	
NYTimes Bestseller	25	A theme might make a book popular. How might the theme be relevant to the lives of many different readers? Explain how the theme is developed in the book and how it might relate to many different lifestyles. **No children's/picture books!**	
Book in a Series	20	(Remember, must be a grade-level appropriate book) Characters that change are called dynamic characters. How does a character develop from one book to the next? Explain how the character was in a previous book, then use details from the later book to explain how the character developed.	
Horror/ Thriller	20	What essential elements of a horror/thriller novel are evident in this book? How does the author cultivate fear in the reader? How is the element of surprise used in the novel--which parts of the story shocked you?	
Super Hero	20	How is the hero's character developed throughout the story? What is the hero's tragic flaw and how does it influence the plot of the story and the character's actions? What is the major conflict of the story, and how does the hero resolve it?	
Novel about a Character with a Handicap	30	What is the character's handicap, and how does it influence the character's development throughout the novel? Does the author portray the character fairly? How is the character defined by their handicap? In what way does the character overcome their	

		handicap? How does the author create empathy throughout the story?	
A Book on Crafts	20	Choose at least one craft featured in the book and make it. Bring it in to show to your teacher and classmates. (If it cannot be transported to school safely, take a high-quality photo and bring that to share.) Write a reflection on your experience making the craft. Why did you choose this craft? What was the most challenging step to complete?	
A Book With a Similar Theme	25	If a book that you are reading has a similar theme to a book you have read previously, compare and contrast the ways the characters develop the theme. How does the character from the previous book develop this theme? How does the character from the current book develop the theme?	
Songs of Your Favorite Artist	30	Look up the lyrics to the songs of your favorite album. Copy and paste them into a Google document and share that with your teacher or print them out. Explain the main idea or theme of the album in general, then select a quote from at least 3 songs that demonstrates that theme. Explain how the quotes demonstrate the theme. This must be a 5 paragraph essay.	
Characters Who Make Bad Choices	20	Have you ever been reading a book and thought that the character should have acted differently? Explain the main poor choice that your character makes and why they make that decision. Pay close attention to the details that explain why the character acts the way that s/he does. Next, explain how you would choose to act differently.	
Holocaust Novel (Fiction)	25	According to your background knowledge and research, how accurately does this novel portray events of the holocaust? What are some specific examples of how the author drew upon historical facts in order to weave the story? How does the point of view from which the novel is told affect your experience of reading the story?	
Holocaust Memoir (Nonfiction)	25	How does the author's point of view illuminate the experience of the holocaust for you as a reader? What information does the author share from firsthand experience that you could not have gotten from simply researching third person nonfiction articles or educational texts? What is the author's tone, and what mood does it create throughout the book? How does the text structure affect how the information is conveyed to the reader? Give specific examples from the text to support your responses.	
A Social Justice Novel	25	Read a novel that deals with a social justice issue (past or present). Explain how the novel portrays the conflict and how the characters in the novel work to resolve the issue. What lesson do you think readers could learn from this novel and apply to the process of resolving real-world conflicts?	
Realistic Fiction	20	What is the main theme of this novel? How does it manifest in real-life situations? Discuss at least three major details of the novel that classify it as realistic fiction, citing specific evidence from the	

		book.	
Fanfiction	20	Read a novel or collection of fanfiction stories. (See your ELA teacher if you have questions about specific length requirements or text complexity.) Compare/contrast the fanfiction with the original text. Discuss how well the fanfiction fits within the canon of the original story arch. Does the author portray the characters in a way that is consistent with their original depiction? What, if any, liberties does the author take in altering characters or advancing plot?	
Book told from Multiple Points of View	35	Read a book that is told from the point of view of more than one character. Compare and contrast the different points of view, and explain how the reader's experience of the story is affected by the different perspectives. Is one narrator more trustworthy than the other? How do the different perspectives come together to complete the tale? Cite specific evidence from the novel to support your response.	
Time-Travel	20	How are the different time periods presented? Explain how the author develops and contrasts each setting. How does the character(s) adapt to the change in settings?	
Overcoming Adversity	25	How does the character(s) overcome an obstacle? What traits must the character possess in order to overcome? How are those traits demonstrated, and how does the character subsequently develop throughout the story? Give specific examples to support your answer.	
A book set in the 21st Century	20	How does this book demonstrate realistic elements of 21st century life? How would this book change if it were set in a different time period? Why do you think the author chose this time period? Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer.	