**SSR+: All You Ever Wanted To Know**

**WHY ARE WE DOING SUSTAINED SILENT READING (SSR)?**

Building Interest in Reading. You can read books of your choice!

Building Stamina. You will be able to read for longer and longer periods of time.

Practicing Metacognition. You will learn about yourself as a reader.

Building Schema. You will add to your background knowledge.

**WHAT HAPPENS DURING SSR+ TIME?**

Reading in Class. SSR reading time starts as soon as bell rings. We will build up to reading for 10-15 minutes at a time.

Conferencing with the Teacher. We/I will meet with 3-4 people a day during SSR+ time. We/I will discuss your book during that time. Be prepared to answer metacognitive questions about the book you are reading.

**ARE THERE OTHER SSR ASSIGNMENTS? (All assignments are explained on the back of this paper. They will also be posted in the classroom for quick reference)**

MetaCognitive Log. To record each marking period the books you are reading, your thoughts while reading, your exit tickets, reflective letter and your reading rate. The metacognitive log should never leave class. (10 points formative)

Exit Ticket. For every book you complete you will fill out an exit ticket. Minimum of 2 per CM. Exit tickets will be recorded the week prior to progress reports and the week prior to the end of the card marking. No exit tickets are graded the last week of the card marking. Any exit tickets turned in above the required 2 will be counted as 1 pt extra credit. (10 points each formative)

Book Talks. You are required to do a minimum of 1 book talks per card marking. 5 minutes of class time will be set aside for book talks.The book talk is to give other students a chance to hear some of the great reads out there. It isn’t about having the whole book done and should never tell the whole story. It is to give them a taste of the book so that they might decide to read it themselves. (20 points summative)

Reflective Letter. At the end of each CM you will write a reflection letter about yourself as a reader. I will give you a topic for each card marking. These will be done in class the last week of the card marking. (20 points summative)

Reading Rate Graph . These will be calculated at the end of each CM. They will be used to monitor your reading, establish goals, and help me provide feedback during conferences. (10 points formative)

**WHAT CAN I READ FOR SSR?**

Choices. You can read fiction or nonfiction, long books or short books, and books on almost any topic you can imagine. You can start off by reading a book that is familiar to you or that you find very easy to read. As the year progresses, you should be choosing more difficult books (but still books you want to read!) to challenge yourself and grow as a reader.

Non Choices. You may not choose newspapers or magazines, or books from other classes.

Minimum Limit. You are required to read **TWO** books per card marking. You can, of course, read more than that. The more books you read, the more exit tickets you can turn in, the more extra credit you can earn.

**SSR at Home**. You will need to read at home in order to finish 2 books a card marking. Consider this as your nightly homework every night. There is nothing you need to record, it is simple to give you more time to read.

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| *Exit Tickets (Choose 3)*10 points each formative |
| 1. **The “Trailer”: Give you most enthusiastic preview and summary of the highlights of the book. Tell me what you liked.**
2. **Connections: Any connections to any other books you’ve read or movies you have seen?**
3. **The “Lowlights”: Here is your chance to nitpick and complain! What did you not like? Where did the author miss the mark? Did the plot fall short? Was the vocab too difficult or style of writing too unusual?**
4. **Questions: Things that make you go hmmm…?**
5. **Recommend it: Thumbs up or thumbs down? Explain why you do or do not recommend this book to the class. This is different than highlights or lowlights.**
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| *Book Talk*20 points summative |
| 1. **Bring a copy of the book with you.**
2. **Tell us the title and author, setting, main character(s) and his/her traits, one external and one internal conflict, and genre.**
3. **Read a short passage to get us hooked. Don’t give away the ending or any important plot points, just read enough to make us want to read the book ourselves. You may not read the back cover or inside flap.**
4. **Practice what you are going to say BEFORE you come to class. If it becomes apparent that you have not practiced, I will stop you and give you a chance on another day to complete your book talk.**
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| *Reflection Letters*20 points summative |
| 1. **It must be written in letter form.**
2. **I will give you a specific topic to focus on for each card marking.**
3. **It should NOT contain: a summary or a review of any particular book, although you may reference books that you have read in your letter.**
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| *Reading Rate:You will calculate your reading rate at the beginning and end of each card marking and record the number on the reading rate chart I provide.*10 points formative |
| **Reading Rate Formula (beginning of CM):**1. **Read a text for ten minutes.**
2. **Record the number of pages read in those ten minutes.**
3. **Multiply that number by six (there are six blocks of ten minutes in one hour).**
4. **Double that number (how far students should get after two hours of reading, which is the total number of minutes you should be reading per week at home.).**

**Reading Rate Formula (end of CM):**1. **Add up total number of pages read that CM.**
2. **Divide by total number of weeks in that CM.**
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