**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 work and book talks are over. We will build up to reading for 10-15 minutes at a time.

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

**ARE THERE OTHER SSR ASSIGNMENTS? (All assignments are explained on the back of this paper.)**

Final Thought. For every book you complete you will fill out a final thought. Minimum of 2 per CM. Any final thoughts turned in above the required 2 will be counted for various reward programs to be discussed later. (formative)

Book Talks. You are required to do 2 book talks per card marking. 5 minutes of class time will be set aside for book talks after I have finished my book talk for the day. Book talks should model what you see me doing during mine. (summative)

Literary Letter. At the end of each CM you will write a reflective letter about yourself as a reader. I will give you a topic for each card marking. These will be done in class. (summative)

Reading Rates. These will be calculated at the beginning and end of each CM. They will be used to monitor your reading, establish goals, and help me provide feedback during conferences.

Reading Calendars. These will be completed daily after SSR+ time is over. They will also be used to monitor your reading, establish goals, and help me provide feedback during conferences.

**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 textbooks 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 final thoughts you can turn in, the more rewards you can earn.

SSR+ at Home. You are required to read for at least 20 minutes at home. This is your homework every night.

**All assignments will be kept in your reader’s notebook. Reader’s notebooks are not to leave the classroom. You will be given specific instructions for each entry into your reader’s notebook as they occur. They will be graded periodically throughout the cardmarking, which is why it is imperative that they be placed in the bin at the end of class.**

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| *Final Thoughts (Choose 3)*  (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 didn’t you 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 hmmmm…?** 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.** 6. **Craft: which passage(s) stuck out to you? Why? What was it about that particular part of the book that struck you? Be specific.** 7. **SOAPSTone: Analyze the book using SOAPSTone. Use specific evidence to support your analysis.** 8. **Coming Up: What books are next on your “to read” list? How do you think they will measure up to this one? What made you chose them? Are you looking forward to reading them? Why or why not?** |

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| *Book Talk*  (summative) |
| 1. **Bring a copy of the book with you.** 2. **Tell us the title and author, setting, and main character(s). You may also include his/her traits, one external and/or one internal conflict, genre, etc. Give a BRIEF summary of the book, being careful not to give away the ending or any important plot points.** 3. **Read a short passage to get us hooked. Again, 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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| *Literary Letters*  (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:*  (formative) |
| 1. **You will calculate your reading rate at the beginning and end of each card marking using the provided formula.** 2. **Your reading rate will be recorded on the reading rate chart in the proper color.** |

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| *Reading Calendar:*  (formative) |
| 1. **You will use your reading rate to fill in your reading calendar for each book that you read.** 2. **Every day after SSR+ you will record the number of minutes and pages for that day.** 3. **At the end of the cardmarking, you will write a brief reflection about the data collected on your calendar.** |

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| *Book Log:*  (formative) |
| 1. **Each book you COMPLETE for the cardmarking should be recorded on your book log.** 2. **All information on the log should be filled out.** 3. **Your book log should match your final thoughts.** |