

Mystery Book Report

Students will pick a Mystery Book of their choice at their reading level. They will also be required to paint a pumpkin using colors, connotations, and symbols that reflect the story. Students will be required to write a 5 paragraph essay about their pumpkin and why they chose to paint it the way they did.

-Mrs. Erbstoesser



DUE DATES

Date	Due	Teacher Signature
9-16	Book Proposal	
9-25	Halfway Book Check	
10-9	Book Completed	
10-16	Essay Rough Draft Due	
10-23	Final Draft and Pumpkin Due	

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Date	Due	Points
9-16	Book Proposal	/10
9-25	Halfway Book Check	/5
10-9	Book Completed	/5
10-16	Essay Rough Draft	/10
10/23	Essay	/20
10/23	Pumpkin	/10
10/23	Total Grade	/50

ESSAY GRADE

Traits	4	3	2	1
Focus & Details	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information.	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear but are not well supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	The topic and main ideas are not clear.
Organization	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included.	The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Voice	The author's purpose of writing is very clear, and there is strong evidence of attention to audience. The author's extensive knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are limited.	The author's purpose of writing is unclear.
Word Choice	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and not forced.	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone.	The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety.	The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.

PUMPKIN EXAMPLE

Harry Potter



ESSAY EXAMPLE

In Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry shows courage and strength, even in the face of danger. I chose to paint my pumpkin the colors red and golden yellow, with a bright lightning bolt to symbolize his journey in the book. These colors represent more than just his house at Hogwarts, Gryffindor. They also have deeper meanings that relate to Harry's personality and the challenges he faces.

The color red stands for boldness, which is something we see throughout the book. Gryffindor is known for bravery, as the Sorting Hat tells Harry: "Gryffindor, where dwell the brave at heart. Their daring, nerve, and chivalry set the Gryffindors apart." From the moment Harry enters Hogwarts, he is willing to take risks, whether it's standing up to a troll or competing in a dangerous Quidditch match. His boldness proves that he deserves to be in Gryffindor.

While Harry is brave, he and his friends learn to be cautious, and the color yellow represents this character growth. Throughout the book, Harry has moments where he is careful about what he says and does. For example, when he warns people about the return of Voldemort, saying, "Voldemort's coming back! Haven't you heard what it was like when he was trying to take over?" Harry understands the danger that lies ahead and knows that being cautious is important, even if he's brave.

In addition to the colors, the lightning bolt on my pumpkin represents grit. Grit means having the strength to keep going, no matter what challenges come your way. Harry faces many obstacles in the book, but he never gives up. Whether it's dealing with bullies like Draco Malfoy or standing up to Voldemort, the main characters of this story always bounce back, showing that they have the grit to handle anything life throws at them.

In conclusion, the colors and symbols I painted my pumpkin reveal much about Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Red shows his boldness, yellow shows his caution, and the lightning bolt represents his grit. Together, these elements tell the story of a boy who is brave, smart, and strong enough to face even the darkest of challenges.