Independent Author Study

*This will be both an in class and an out of class project, although most it will take place in school there will be times that you will need to do it as homework!* This will be a BIG grade!

☐ Read, summarize and analyze 2-4 books by your author (depending on the author and the length of the books).

☐ Look at the similarities and differences in the style the author uses to write the books. (so make sure you are taking notes or making a chart just like we did in class).

☐ You will compare and contrast at least two of the books you read. (in a Venn Diagram or another way of your choice)

☐ You will create an author information card (similar to a baseball card), which contains:

- a picture of the author, biographical information, and list of at least 5 books the author wrote. Make sure to include the answers to these questions:
  1. Where does the author live? 2. When/where was the author born? 3. How do they come up with story ideas? (Are their stories based on real life events or from a creative imagination?) 4. Is the author working on a new piece of literature?
  5. ***Come up with your own question about the author.***

☐ You will write a formal letter to your author.

☐ New book cover: You will design a NEW/DIFFERENT cover to a book that you have read by your author.

☐ You will create an informative author poster talking about author’s crafts from all of the books you read.

☐ You will present what you have learned about your author to the class.

*(see the attached rubrics for grading) DUE DATE IS TO BE ANNOUNCED based on the progress we make in class.*

I, the student, have read and understand what is required of me: __________________________

I, the parent, understand what my child is expected to do: __________________________

Date: __________________________
Dear (Author's Name),

We have been working on an author study project and reading your books.

Tell the author what you've learned in your author study.

Tell the author which books you've read. Let them know which one you enjoyed the most and why.

Ask any questions or make any comments you have about the author or their books.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Name__________________________________

Author Study Letter Rubric:

_____Your letter follows the correct letter format. (25 points)

_____Your letter is at least 5 paragraphs long and follows the guidelines given. (50 points)

_____Your letter follows the correct conventions of capitalization, punctuation, spelling and usage. (15 points)

_____Your letter is either typed or written in blue or black ink, unlined paper. Do not write on the back of the page. (10 points)

Total points possible: 100

Total points you think you earned:_____

Total points you earned:_____
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graphics - Relevance</td>
<td>All graphics are related to the topic and make it easier to understand. All borrowed graphics have a source citation.</td>
<td>All graphics are related to the topic and most make it easier to understand. All borrowed graphics have a source citation.</td>
<td>All graphics relate to the topic. Most borrowed graphics have a source citation.</td>
<td>Graphics do not relate to the topic OR several borrowed graphics do not have a source citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labels</td>
<td>All items of importance on the poster are clearly labeled with labels that can be read from at least 3 ft. away.</td>
<td>Almost all items of importance on the poster are clearly labeled with labels that can be read from at least 3 ft. away.</td>
<td>Several items of importance on the poster are clearly labeled with labels that can be read from at least 3 ft. away.</td>
<td>Labels are too small to view OR no important items were labeled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Elements</td>
<td>The poster includes all required elements as well as additional information.</td>
<td>All required elements are included on the poster.</td>
<td>All but 1 of the required elements are included on the poster.</td>
<td>Several required elements were missing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Gained</td>
<td>Student can accurately answer all questions related to facts in the poster and processes used to create the poster.</td>
<td>Student can accurately answer most questions related to facts in the poster and processes used to create the poster.</td>
<td>Student can accurately answer about 75% of questions related to facts in the poster and processes used to create the poster.</td>
<td>Student appears to have insufficient knowledge about the facts or processes used in the poster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content - Accuracy</td>
<td>At least 7 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.</td>
<td>5-6 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.</td>
<td>3-4 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.</td>
<td>Less than 3 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractiveness</td>
<td>The poster is exceptionally attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness.</td>
<td>The poster is attractive in terms of design, layout and neatness.</td>
<td>The poster is acceptably attractive though it may be a bit messy.</td>
<td>The poster is distractingly messy or very poorly designed. It is not attractive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics/Grammar</td>
<td>Capitalization, spelling and punctuation are correct throughout the poster.</td>
<td>There is 1 error in capitalization or punctuation or spelling.</td>
<td>There are 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation or spelling.</td>
<td>There are more than 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation or spelling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name

Book Cover Rubric

_____Your book cover is neat, attractive, and colorful. (20 points)

_____Your book cover accurately depicts the book. (10 points)

_____Your book cover has the title of the book and the author on it. (10 points)

_____Your book cover includes a brief summary of the book. (20 points)

_____Your book cover includes a brief biography of the author. (20 points)

_____Your book cover includes a picture of the author. (20 points)

Total points possible: 100
Total points you think you earned:_____
Total points you earned:_____

## Independent author study evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Accomplished</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venn Diagram Comparing 2 stories</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diagram contains 1 comparison</td>
<td>Diagram contains 2 comparisons</td>
<td>Diagram contains 3 comparisons</td>
<td>Diagram contains 4 or more comparisons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author Information Card</strong></td>
<td>Several required elements were missing.</td>
<td>All but 1 of the required elements are included on the card.</td>
<td>All required elements are included on the card.</td>
<td>The card includes all required elements as well as additional information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oral Presentation Comprehension</strong></td>
<td>Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by classmates about the topic.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately answer a few questions posed by classmates about the topic.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately answer most questions posed by classmates about the topic.</td>
<td>Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oral Presentation Listening Skills</strong></td>
<td>Sometimes does not appear to be listening and has distracting noises or movements.</td>
<td>Sometimes does not appear to be listening but is not distracting.</td>
<td>Listens intently but has one distracting noise or movement.</td>
<td>Listens intently. Does not make distracting noises or movements.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>