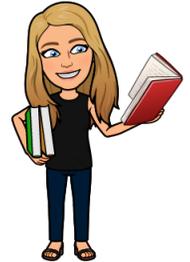


FINAL LIT CIRCLE UNIT: INDEPENDENT NOVEL STUDY

For the rest of the year, you will be participating in an Independent Novel Study! This is going to be excellent preparation for the reading program in Grade 6, as it will give you a taste of how you will be choosing and responding to novels with Mr. Berg and Mrs. Melgaard.

How it Works:

Rather than choosing between a list of 7-8 themed novels, you can pick a chapter book all on your own! You can refer to one of the online sources and read a book electronically, choose one from your home, or borrow one from the library. Please pick a book you have not read before!



Similar to Lit Circles, you will be able to read at your own pace, and submit one journal entry by the end of each week.

Journals:

Instead of What Happened/My Thinking entries, Response Questions, and Venn Diagrams, you will be submitting one Dialogue Entry by Friday each week.

A **Dialogue Entry** is essentially an open-ended conversation between yourself and a peer or teacher. Your job is to pick someone in the class who you want to talk to about your novel. It can be anyone in the class, even someone in 5A/5B!

You can...

- Share what's standing out to you!
- Tell them what questions you have!
- Write about the text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections you are making!
- Explain why you think they should read the novel!

Of course, there is more you can share! These are just some ideas to get your wheels spinning. Check out the sample journal entry on the next page.

Another change is the way you will share your entries. If you have access to a device and WiFi, please use a **GoogleDoc** to write your entry and share with a classmate. Please always share your entry with me so I can keep track of your responses. If technology is not readily available, you can continue to write in your journal and send a picture/scan of your response to your friend (and to me too!).

If someone sends YOU an entry, you should respond! Your response can be on the GoogleDoc that was shared OR you can email a response if a picture/scan was sent.

Responses should be at least 3-5 sentences long.

*Your Dialogue Entry should be written in size 12 font and should be about ½ a page long (roughly 17 full lines).

Book Recommendations:

If you're wanting some inspiration in choosing a novel, here are a few recommendations! Click on the link for a brief synopsis.

[A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle](#)

[Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson](#)

[The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau](#)

[End of Days by Eric Walters](#)

[Gentle Ben by Walt Morey](#)

[Hoot by Carl Hiaasen](#)

[Rebel Glory by Sigmund Brower](#)

[Refugee by Alan Gratz](#)

[The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart](#)

[Wonder by R.J. Palacio](#)

[White Bird \(Graphic Novel\) by R.J. Palacio](#)



Sample Dialogue Journal & Response:

Hi Mrs. Fraser,

I am so excited to talk to you about a book I am reading. It's called *Ugly*, and it's a real-life story about a brave man named Robert. He was born with severe physical deformities which lead to countless corrective surgeries, as well as challenges that I have never come close to experiencing! I don't want to give away too much about the story because I don't know if you have read it, but I absolutely would recommend it!

One of the things I love most about *Ugly* is the new perspective it's given me. I don't know about you, but I find that I can get stressed out or upset about the smallest things, like waiting in traffic! But when I read Robert's story I see how much optimism and resilience he has. He doesn't let the little things get him down or upset him.

One of the other things I noticed about Robert was the way he uses humour to combat the negativity. For example, he learned to laugh when embarrassing things happened to him, rather than giving people's words so much power.

Reading about the way Robert dealt with massive challenges has taught me of the power that can be found in choosing to focus on the good things in life, rather than dwelling on the negative.

Does this make sense, Mrs. Fraser? Have you ever felt inspired by a character in a story you have read?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Miss Kayler

See Reply
Below



Dear Miss Kayler,

I have read *Ugly* and I loved it! What I love most about it is that it is a true story about the author's life. I completely agree with you that Robert is such an amazing role model! Your explanation makes perfect sense, and I am also inspired by him, especially since he's a real person! His story is very similar to *Wonder*, and Auggie is another character who is also very inspiring.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fraser