



AR Expectations

Accelerated Reader (AR) is an essential part of English 9. AR is worth **10%** of your overall grade. You are expected to read every day, and once you are finished reading a book, take a quiz on that book. Questions range from ten to twenty.

This year students are asked to earn **10 AR points** (*equal to, two six point books*). Depending on how well you do on an AR quiz determines how many AR points you earn. That means you could read a book and depending on how engaged you are with your book, you can either pass or fail the quiz. You only earn points when you get questions right.

Reader's Journal

You will write in a reader's journal weekly, answering questions, making predictions and observations. Entries will vary but it is important to answer these questions every time we read AR as a class. You want to make connections; connecting your book with your life, with other books, and society as a whole.

Book Report Rubric and Requirements:

Must be in Times New Roman: 12 Point Font or neatly written.

First: As you're reading your book you want to be keeping notes on *characters* (protagonist and antagonist), *characters development*, *setting*, and *key plot points* in the *exposition*, *the rising action*, *climax*, *falling action*, and *resolution*. As well as *major theme and conflicts*. You will be doing this in your *writer's notebook*.

Your book report will be **three paragraphs**:

1st Paragraph- Introductory paragraph. In this paragraph you want to include the *books title* and author and a brief summary of the plot, including setting, major and minor characters, a brief description of what types of conflicts (*character vs. character*, *character vs. nature*, *character vs. self*, *character vs. society*) are evident as well as what they entail, and what theme(s) are evident.

2nd Paragraph- Focus on one aspect/topic from you book: setting, conflicts, protagonist, antagonist, or theme. Give your opinion/thoughts/wonderings. Go in depth with explaining what aspects you enjoyed/disliked about this topic, why you think the author chose to do these things, questions that you have, or things you noticed. Show that you've learned or at least thought about what you've read.

3rd Paragraph- What did you like/dislike about the overall book and would you recommend it, why or why not? Give key examples and an in depth explanation into your thinking.

In your *second paragraph* you can discuss what seems confusing or unusual to you, what you think something means, what personal experiences you may have

connections with; plot, characters, or setting. You may quote passages, and respond to them, etc.

Here are some suggested sentence lead ins:

- I wonder what this means:
- I really don't understand this part because...
- The character reminds me of me because...
- This character is like (a character in another book, my friend, my parents, etc.) because...
- I think the setting is important because...
- The setting reminds me of (another book) because...
- I like/dislike this writing because...
- The part makes me think about...
- This part is particularly effective because...
- I think the relationship between—and—is interesting because...
- I like/dislike this character because...
- This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life because...
- If I were the character I would have done things differently by...

Book Report Share

You will give four presentations (one per marking period) for one book you've read that marking period. You may sign up for a presentation time approximately three weeks before the marking period ends. Sign up will depend upon availability. You will be presenting the book you read to the class. This should be similar to your book report, however if you want to make a power point presentation, or utilize another creative way to present your book, you may do so, just be sure you clear it with me. You must follow the same rubric as your book report, but feel free to add additional information where you see fit (ex. You can do slides or bullet points of information instead of paragraphs).

AR Log

You will keep track of the books you read and the points you earn on your AR quizzes. Paste your AR Log to the inside of your reader's notebook. You do not want to lose your AR log.

We will be reading independently in class every week. You must use this time wisely however, this does not mean this is your only time for reading. You must be reading outside of class.

Independent reading is one of the most important aspects of this course. You must make it a priority in order to be successful.

AR 10% of your grade
AR Points: 10 Points
Book Report: 30 Points
Book Report Share: 40 Points
AR Log: 60 Points
Total: 140 Points

Paige Sullivan
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Sullivan 3rd Period

The Outsiders

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton is a coming of age novel about two rival gangs, the Socs and the Greasers, one is rich and one is poor. The narrator is Ponyboy Curtis, a greaser, along with his two older brothers, Darry and Sodapop, and their friends Johnny, Dally, Two-Bit and Steve. Ponyboy is unlike any other greaser, he is smart and sensitive and likes to read and look at sunsets. One night he meets Cherry Valance and his life is turned upside down. Ponyboy and Johnny are confronted by Bob, Cherry's boyfriend and his Soc friends. A fight breaks out, and a Soc is left dead and Johnny is left clenching a bloody knife. Wanted for murder, the boys run away and have to deal with the fact that not only did they kill a Soc, but their lives will never be the same. On the run, they take refuge in an abandoned church where they deal with the realization that, "nothing gold can stay." When an unexpected fire breaks out, they're left with the decision to walk away, or do what they can do to help. Their decision takes them from being juvenile delinquents to heroes, but sadly, because of their heroics, they must also sacrifice the most important thing to them, each other. *The Outsiders* is a story about family and friends, and how sometimes your friends are the only family you have. The novel at times is funny; boys being boys, but also about how unfair life can be, and that sometimes, the wrong people get all the breaks.

Ponyboy Curtis, the main character is very likeable and also very innocent. He often struggles with how the Greasers are treated compared to the Socs, and has a hard time knowing what's right, especially when it comes to his Greaser friends. Ponyboy is one of my favorite characters because he's different than the other greasers; along with Johnny. I like that he likes to read and that he talks about sunsets and genuinely cares about his friends. Johnny is also a character I really liked. Johnny comes from a difficult family, parents who neglect him, and who often abuse him. He's shy and doesn't really like to fight. He longs to live where Greasers and Socs don't exist and instead have a "normal" life. He's like a puppy dog, and I love how all the other Greasers seem to protect him. He, for me, is the anchor of the group; I think Johnny is the reason that the Greasers are not as bad as the Socs and there's still some gold in them.

I really liked, *The Outsiders*. The story was exciting because of the rivalry between the two gangs but it's also about friendship which is my favorite thing to read. I really liked how Ponyboy is unlike other boys, that he's very sensitive and smart and likes to read. I thought the story was funny, with boys being boys but it's also very sad. It's sad that the Greasers have it bad and that no one seems to be paying attention to these young boys. It's sad that they get into the trouble they get into, killing a Soc. It was devastating when Johnny died because, he really was

the best one in the group, he was “gold” as they say and I don’t think he would have ever killed a Soc if it hadn’t been in self-defense. I also really liked Dally. I liked that he was hard and bad and that unlike Ponyboy, and Johnny, you had to look hard to find what made him good. How much he cared about Johnny, and the fact that he knew what people thought of him but still did good things when no one was looking. The ending of the story, is heartbreaking but also, allows the characters to realize that the most important thing is each other, and that people shouldn’t judge a boy by the amount of hair oil he wore, or which side he was born on, but rather, listen to his story, and realize, that there are more things that make us alike then make us Socs or Greasers