**What is an IRJ?**

You will keep an IRJ for this academic school year in order to record your evaluation and analysis of nine, self-selected books using a variety of literary prompts and note-taking strategies.

**What will I read?**

At least one book from each of the following genres (in no particular order):

▢ \*Historical Fiction \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ Science Fiction \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ Realistic Fiction \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ \*Autobiography/Biography \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ \*Graphic Novel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ Fantasy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ \*Classic Lit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ Free choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▢ Free choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Two books can be chosen as a repeat from any of the above genres or you may consider exploring a new genre like mystery, horror, fantasy, etc. \*Indicates a text you may choose for an in-class assignment (For example, you will read a book in Social Studies that will count).

**Where will I get these books?**

You can choose these books from the school library, my classroom library, or the local library as well as bookstores. Books can be read in digital format. Make sure you always have your book with you so you can take advantage of in-school opportunities to read.

**How often do I journal?**

Ideally, you will journal twice a month. There may be exceptions depending on the other ELA class work assigned.

**How long should each entry be?**

No longer than 400 words, not including your heading. Each journal entry should be complete and use supporting textual evidence. This means you should not only answer the questions, but provide direct quotes and explain how they support your answer. Please double-space if you type your entry. Regular font - Times New Roman or Arial - in size 12.

**How does my IRJ get graded?**

Every time you turn in your journal, you will receive feedback from me. This will also include a ✓+ (response is thorough, includes textual evidence and thoughtful analysis)

✓ (response is thorough, but there is little or no textual evidence, analysis is lacking)

✓- (response is incomplete, there is no textual evidence, shows little to no effort)

0 - (response was not done)

**IRJ Prompts**

The list below includes prompts that you should use to focus your literary analysis. Do not repeat the same prompts. You should pick a different one for each IRJ entry. Please EITHER rewrite the prompt at the top of your entry or restate it as your introduction. If I can’t tell what you are responding to, your grade will be lowered. Don’t forget to include direct quotes from the book.

1. \***Words of the Wiser:** Does the protagonist receive any advice from another character? If so, what is it, and he/she take it?
2. **\*Tough Question:**  What difficult question does the protagonist struggle to answer? How might this connect to theme or conflict?
3. **\*Memory Moment:**  Summarize a flashback and explain how it helps the reader better understand the story.
4. **\*Contrasts and Contradictions:** Does the protagonist or antagonist act in a surprising way? What might this change in behavior signify?
5. **\*Aha moment:** Does the protagonist realize something of significance? What is it and how might it affect the story?
6. **\*Again and Again:** What phrases or images does the author use multiple times? What is its importance to the story?
7. What is successful about the exposition? How does it draw the reader in?
8. From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen.
9. Pick one character and explain why you would or would not like to have him/her as a friend.
10. How does the protagonist's actions affect other characters in the story?
11. In what ways does the story’s antagonist cause conflict?
12. What role does the setting (time and place) play in this story?
13. In what way does this story/conflict/character connect to a bigger issue in society? Explain what the issue is and how the author addresses it.
14. Pick a character and explain how and why he/she is static or dynamic.

\*Notice and Note signposts.

**Heading for top of IRJ:**

Walter Worthington ( ← Your name)

IRJ #1 ( ← the IRJ #)

9/18/18 ( ← the date the IRJ is due)

Word Count: 278 ( ← How many words in total, not counting the heading)