Quarter 1 Response to Literature

# Genre: Mystery

# Due Date: Monday, 9th October

Dear students,

You are encouraged to actively read beyond the books assigned by the teacher. Each quarter, you will be reading chapter books and doing a project in reference to one of the books of the assigned genre. The project aims to develop your skills of critical and creative thinking and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of the books.

This quarter you are able to choose a book of **the mystery genre** for your project!

Golden Rules of Response to Literature Projects:

* Read every day
* Take notes for your project
* Follow the project instructions carefully
* Use the instructions as a checklist before handing in your project

**The Quarter 1 Project consists of two parts:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MYSTERY GENRE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**  Use the graphic organizer to provide information about the plot and typical elements of mystery novels. | **JOURNAL ENTRY**  Write two diary entries from a main character’s point of view (your gender doesn’t matter).  This should include her/his thoughts & feelings, actions, and significant events from the novel. Make sure you include the moment of the crime and the arrest.  **OR**  **NEW ACQUAINTANCES**  Select two characters. Then think  about three to five people, living or  dead, that you would like your characters to meet. Write about how you  selected these new acquaintances  and what you’d like the character to  learn from the people you introduced  him or her to. |

**EXEMPLARS**

**OPTION 1 – JOURNAL ENTRY**

**January 13, 1939**

   Today is the worst and most confusing day of my life. Werner is dead. How did he die? How could he have died? I was sleeping when it happened. I feel like I am still in my dream.

    A boy and an older man buried him in the cold snow. My poor brother has been buried in that dreary, freezing town. I did not want to leave him there. He did not deserve that. Mama had to drag me away from there, and I took a small black book from the snow. I can’t read, but I need this book. I don’t know why I took it at the time, but I had to. It just made sense, like if I took it I’d still be connected to my brother.

     I don’t know why my mama put us on that horrible train to give me to someone else. She said that these “Hubermanns” would feed me and would be my new parents. She cried when she said this. I didn’t understand – why would she give me away if it made her sad? I thought someone had forced her to. I still think so. I don’t want to come in this strange house with these strange people. Maybe if I refuse, they will have to take me back to my house and my mama. I do not want these people to be my parents. I don’t want this house to be my home.I feel like my life is a marble going down a cylinder, spinning out of control into a pit of sadness and dread.

**2 Hours Later**

    The screaming woman forced me out of the car. She swears incredibly fast and loud. My mama never swore like that. The man tried to calm her down, but she pushed him away. The man did not look so harsh. **I noticed he had nice silver eyes. The light appeared to dance in them.** When the woman screamed at me to take a bath, I went into the bathroom but did not do anything. I didn’t want to submit to this, that this would be my new home where I would take baths. Later, the man came in. He did not force me to take a bath, but rather taught me to roll cigarettes. I think I like this man. He seems friendly and kind.

“Large Project: Diary Entry.” *The Book Thief*, bookthiefjuliaelise.weebly.com/large-project-diary-entry.html.

**OPTION 2 – NEW ACQUAINTANCES**

Imagine Hercule Poirot meeting Sherlock Holmes! They would be an excellent match because they are both famous and outstanding detectives who would have a lot in common. They would talk about their famous cases. They would both give each other clues from their cases and expect the other to guess who the culprit is. The experience would be beneficial for Poirot – he would be able to see how Sherlock Holmes is a modest detective in spite of being as brilliant as Poirot. Sherlock would tell him how he doesn’t enjoy the spotlight and would rather Dr Watson didn’t write stories about the cases they had solved.

I would like Captain Arthur Hastings to meet Will Ferrell. I decided to make this match because the two of them are completely opposite. Captain Hastings takes everything at face value and often doesn’t understand jokes. It is difficult for him to understand irony and, therefore, often has misunderstandings with other people. He would benefit from meeting Will Ferrel because he is a comedian. He has directed and acted in many comedies. I believe that he would be able to teach Captain Hastings and help him understand humour. They might even work together and think of hilarious jokes we can all laugh about!