



October 5, 2010 ONLINE BOOK REPORT TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Your child has received an assignment to complete a book report and send it to me using email. It is due no later than October 26, 2010. Complete directions and book report question prompts are found on my web site:

www.mrsdingman.com

Please review the tips below with your child:

* Plan your time wisely

Your child has about 3 weeks to complete the assignment. The reading or the writing of the report should not be crammed into a few days before the assignment is due. Waiting until the last minute is never a good idea.

* Choose a book wisely

For those online book report assignments that encourage free choice in reading material, children should be selecting something they enjoy; a favorite author or a favorite type of book should be guiding their selection. Choosing a book by its thickness or Reading Counts points assigned to it should NEVER be guiding a selection.

* Scholastic Reading Counts

Children are expected to check for quiz availability BEFORE beginning the reading. Checking for quiz availability may be done online on my web site's Reading Counts page. NO CREDIT will be given for a book report unless the Reading Counts quiz has been taken and passed.

NOTE: The Reading Counts quiz for each online book report may NOT be taken any earlier than the day the book report was assigned and NO later than the day the online book report is due.

* Sending the Book Report Electronically

Book reports not submitted using the "Submit" button on my web site to email the assignment by the assigned due date will receive a zero, unless there are special or unusual circumstances. I will only consider an extension of the due date with a written note from a parent/guardian. Again, waiting until the last minute is never a good idea.

* Preparing the Book Report

Your child should hand-write or use Word to type the book report, responding to each prompt BEFORE entering the information on my web site's Online Book Report page to submit to me using email. I will demonstrate how to Copy and Paste, using Word, in our classroom. The question prompts are shown on the reverse side.

* Organizing the Writing

When a question states your child should explain why he/she chose a certain part of the book, or why he/she would recommend the book to another student, it is NOT enough to simply state... "I chose this part because it was funny" or "I would recommend this book to someone else to read because it was interesting". Your child needs to explain the "why" of the "why", going on to explain specifically why that part was funny or interesting.

* Spelling and Grammar

Using "i" for "I" or "u" for "you" is fine when your child is emailing a friend. It is not fine for a school report. Please don't make corrections/changes for your child, other than help with spelling. Rather, asking your child to read an answer section aloud when an error is present, and slowing down your child's reading rate, will probably allow your child to catch and correct the mistake all on his/her own.