

# Reader's Notebook



## 40 Book Challenge



\*Reader's Notebook book challenge  
made to fit  
standard size composition book.\*



# Terms of Use for All Products (free and paid):

If any product (free and/or paid) is published on the internet (i.e. google doc, blogging, class website, etc.), it must be in a secured format such as a PDF.

Please link back somewhere in your document to my store address or blog. (The link does not have to be on the title page; anywhere is fine.)

THANK YOU so much!

My store address:

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Cortez-Corner>

My blog:

<http://cortezcorner.wordpress.com>

\*Thank you, as always, to [kevinandamanda.com](http://kevinandamanda.com) for their fonts.

Thank you for purchasing this reader's notebook 40 book challenge.

This package was put together after much research to try to determine the best reading incentive program for my classroom. The following resources were read and adapted for my own classroom:

-Fountas and Pinnell: Guidelines for Reader's Notebook

-[The Book Whisperer](#) by Donalyn Miller

-A must read if trying to implement this 40 Book challenge

-[Beth Newingham's class website](#) for reader's workshop instruction

Thank you to [Nick Lopez](#) for your free clipart (follow him) and [kevinandamandafonts](#) for your awesome fonts!

I have included some photos to help aide in use, but for a more detailed description of how I use them, please refer to my blog at [cortezcorner.wordpress.com](http://cortezcorner.wordpress.com).

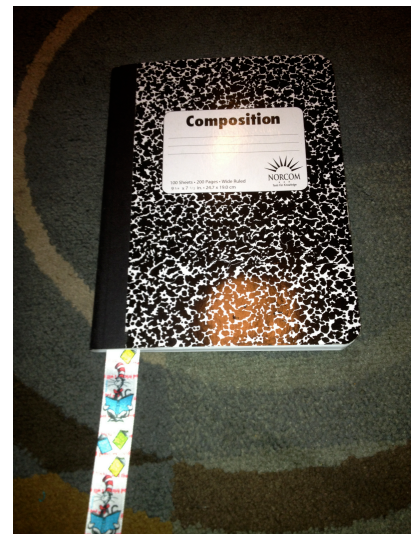
## Teacher Instructions and Tips:

1. Before beginning a reader's notebook, I would highly suggest the following:
  - a. Blocking out a specific time for silent reading / individual conference time
    - i. This is the time I have set aside to meet with students individually and discuss their reading progress.
  - b. Managing the teacher response commitment
    - i. I split my class of 34 over the course of 5 days. Six students on Monday, six on Tuesday, etc. This way I wasn't collecting reader's notebooks all on a Friday and having to respond or make notes in 34 notebooks. You must figure out a system that works for you. So far, mine has been working.
    - ii. The students know which day they are to turn in their notebooks each week.
  - c. The first month of this challenge—plan a lot of review.
    - i. You will see the strengths and weaknesses of your students and will need to set aside time to address the whole class in regards to your expectations.
    - ii. It has taken one full month for my students to understand that their one page weekly response letters and signed parent sheets are due each week—No exceptions.

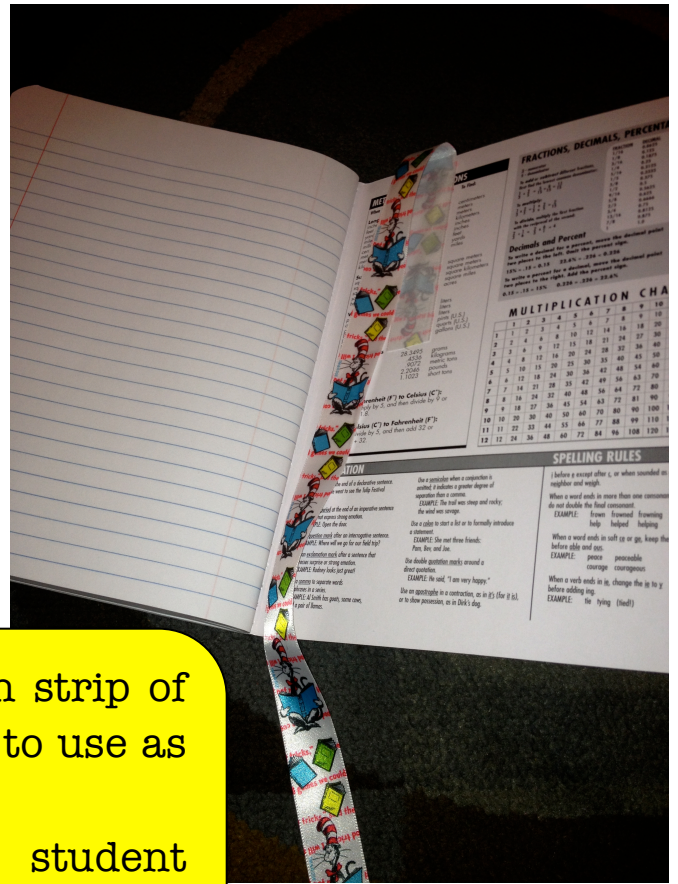
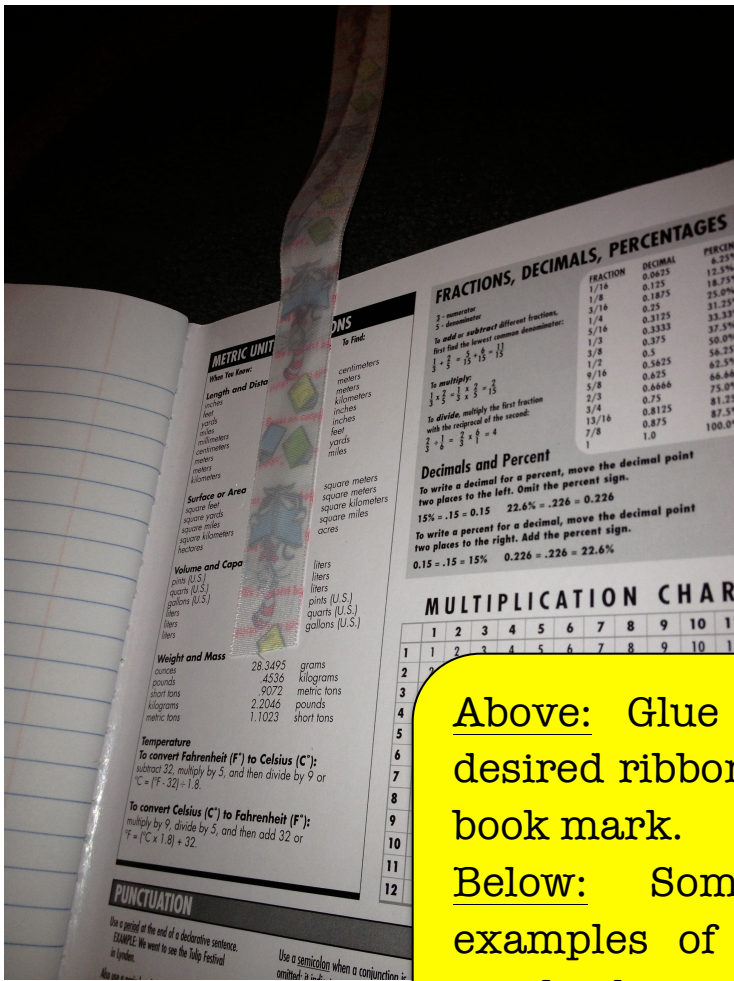
## 2. Materials needed for Reader's Notebook Decoration

- a. Standard Size Composition Book
- b. Different ribbons so students may choose one to be their book marks
- c. Hot glue gun—to glue book marks (ribbon)
- d. Modge Podge
- e. Student choice of magazine pictures, photos, Internet printout, etc.
  - These are used to personalize their covers.

**\*\*Important\*\*** Better to have students spread modge podge on front covers, then stick images on. Brush over another coat of modge podge and let dry. Otherwise, pics will come off.







Above: Glue in strip of desired ribbon to use as book mark.  
Below: Some student examples of decorated notebooks.





# Pictures taken of some student notebooks.

**Possible Topics for Your Letter**

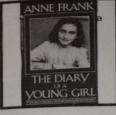
- Something that surprised you
- Something you found interesting
- An interesting or important character
- Parts of the book that are confusing
- Your thoughts and feelings about the author's message
- Why you think the author chose the title
- Your predictions and if they were correct
- Text-to-self connections
- Text-to-text connections
- Text-to-world connections
- Ending and your feelings about it
- Why you think the author wrote the book
- Whether or not you would recommend the book
- What you would change about the book

right, or challenging

out this book

---

**Reader's Notebook**



Title: The Diary of Anne Frank

Author: Anne Frank

Genre: Autobiography

I completed pages 1 to 132 and was able to read for:  
(check the box that applies to you)

<input type="checkbox"/> 4 days	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 days	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 days	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 day
Approx. 25 minutes a day.	33 minutes each day.	50 minutes each day.	over an hour and a half.

My reading schedule (check the box that applies to you)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> worked for me.	<input type="checkbox"/> did not work for me.
--	---

Next week, I plan to (check the box that applies to you)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> keep the same	<input type="checkbox"/> change my schedule to
---	--

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Matilda

Dear Mrs. Cortez,

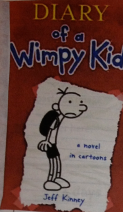
Matilda is working out for me. I LOVE this story. The reason that I like this story is that she loves to read books, just like you! The sad stuff was that like is when her parents do not care about her. The only person that likes her is the librarian and a little bit of her mother. Her teacher and her teacher are the ones that think she is dumb, selfish, not thankful, and they think that she has no manners. So far so good, I LOVE this story!

Dear Mrs. Cortez,

I am in the process of reading Pork Diaries and Alkie goes to this party and this boy named Bradon asks her out and she get so excited that she stood up all night waiting for a call and she has no call and now she thinks that he's been kidnapped by Aliens.

Also what happens in this is book

**Reader's Notebook**



Title: Diary of a wimpy

Author: Jeff Kinney

Genre: RF

I completed pages 61 to 88 and was able to read for:  
(check the box that applies to you)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 days	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 days	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 day
Approx. 25 minutes a day.	33 minutes each day.	50 minutes each day.

My reading schedule (check the box that applies to you)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> worked for me.	<input type="checkbox"/> did not work for me.
--	---

Next week, I plan to (check the box that applies to you)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> keep the same schedule.	<input type="checkbox"/> change my schedule to
---	--

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name Samantha

**Characteristics of a Genre**

Books are classified by their common characteristics.

**Realistic Fiction**

- made-up characters, but could happen in real life
- modern time, realistic place
- everyday people, everyday things

**Historical Fiction**

- fictional story in a particular time period
- historical event w/ everyday people
- Magic Tree House, My Brother Sam is Dead I survive

**Mystery**

- suspenseful story about puzzling event
- detective, detective agency
- clues ~ A to Z mysteries ~ Nancy Drew 39 clues

**Biography / Autobiography**

- someone writes a story about someone else
- AB/write a story about your own life
- Memoir - short account about your own life

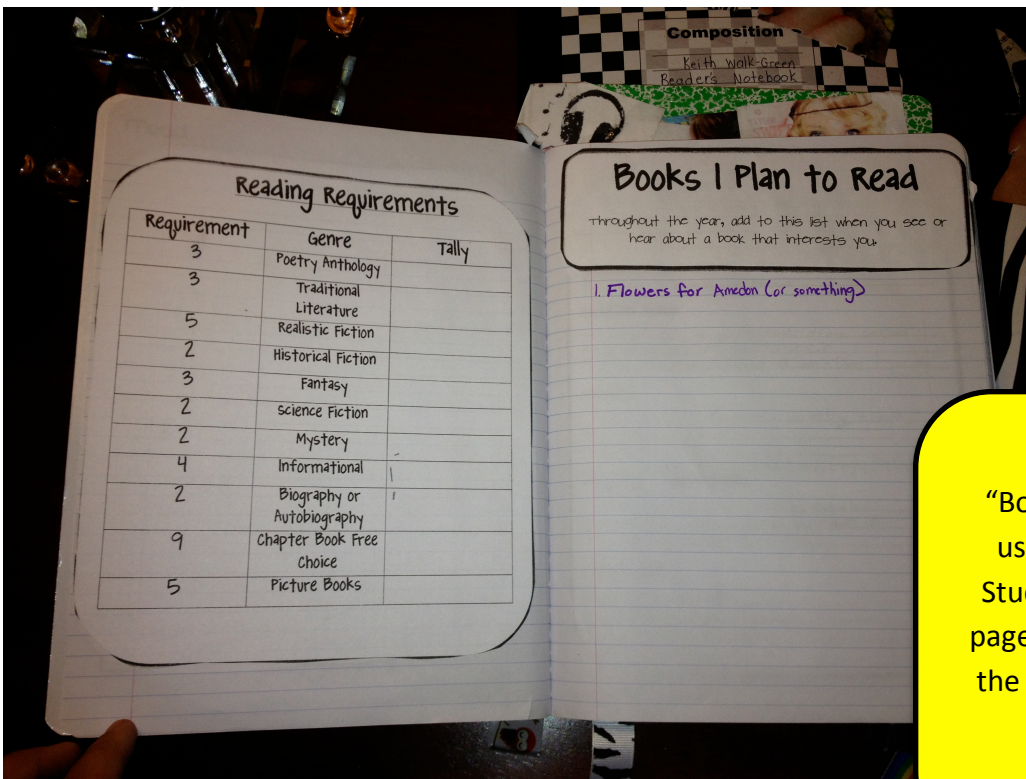
**Informational**

- nonfiction book
- purpose - provides information on a topic
- animals, sports, crafts, science





Students decorated cover of notebooks with pictures and photos.



“Books I Plan to Read” is used as just a heading. Students skip a couple of pages to make room for all the books they would like to read this year.

\*This is the page that I use because I have decided to make my challenge a 40 book challenge. If you choose to adjust your numbers, I have added a blank book challenge and genre requirement page. You can determine the requirements for your class.



# 40 BOOK challenge

The time has come.  
Let's do this!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

You are about to embark on something that will be new, challenging, exciting, and extremely rewarding. You must try your best to stick it out and, I promise, you will be so happy that you did.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,  
Your teacher



# BOOK challenge

The time has come.  
Let's do this!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

You are about to embark on something that will be new, challenging, exciting, and extremely rewarding. You must try your best to stick it out and, I promise, you will be so happy that you did.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,  
Your teacher



ENCOURAGING

words.....

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

\*This page is for the student's parent/guardian to complete. I assign this page for homework. ☺ The parent/guardian writes a letter of encouragement to their child. The students love it and it also gives the parents a chance to see what this challenge is all about.

# Reading Requirements

Requirement	Genre	Tally
	Poetry Anthology	
	Traditional Literature	
	Realistic Fiction	
	Historical Fiction	
	Fantasy	
	science Fiction	
	Mystery	
	Informational	
	Biography or Autobiography	
	Chapter Book Free Choice	
	Picture Books	



# Reading Requirements

Requirement	Genre	Tally
3	Poetry Anthology	
3	Traditional Literature	
5	Realistic Fiction	
2	Historical Fiction	
3	Fantasy	
2	science Fiction	
2	Mystery	
4	Informational	
2	Biography or Autobiography	
9	Chapter Book Free Choice	
5	Picture Books	

# Weekly Schedule



When you begin a new book, paste an image of the book cover here.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

I completed pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and was able to read for:  
(check the box that applies to you)

____ 4 days	____ 3 days	____ 2 days	____ 1 day	____ Other
Approx. 25 minutes a day.	33 minutes each day.	50 minutes each day.	over an hour and a half.	_____ _____

My reading schedule

(check the box that applies to you)

\_\_\_\_ worked for me.

\_\_\_\_ did not work for me.

Next week, I plan to

(check the box that applies to you)

\_\_\_\_ keep the same schedule.

\_\_\_\_ change my schedule to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

# Books I Plan to Read

Throughout the year, add to this list when you see or hear about a book that interests you.

## Genre Overview

<u>code</u>	<u>genre</u>	<u>definition</u>
<b>F</b>	Fantasy	Story with impossible elements such as talking animals or magical powers. (Make – believe)
<b>RF</b>	Realistic Fiction	Story with made-up characters that could happen in real life
<b>M</b>	Mystery	Suspenseful story about a puzzling event to be solved.
<b>TL</b>	Traditional Literature	Stories passed down in history; folk tales, fairy tales, myths, etc.
<b>HF</b>	Historical Fiction	Often the setting is real, but the characters and events are fictional.
<b>SF</b>	Science Fiction	A type of fantasy that uses science and technology. (robots, aliens, etc.)
<b>I</b>	Informational	Texts that provide facts about various topics.
<b>B / AB</b>	Biography / Autobiography	Story of a real person's life written by another person / or themselves.
<b>P</b>	Poetry	Often using rhythm and rhyme to create thought and feeling.

# Characteristics of a Genre

*Books are classified by their common characteristics.*

## Poetry

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Traditional Literature

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Fantasy

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Science Fiction

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Characteristics of a Genre

*Books are classified by their common characteristics.*

## Realistic Fiction

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Historical Fiction

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Mystery

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Biography / Autobiography

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Informational

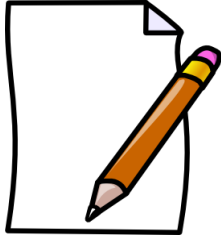
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading Log

Choose a book to read. Record the title and author on your reading log. When you have finished, write the genre and date. If you have abandoned it, write an (A), and the date you abandoned it in the date column. Note whether the book was easy (E), just right (JR) or challenging (C) for you.

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Completed	E, JR, C

**\*You will need to run multiple copies of this page for each student depending on your required amount of books. My students need 3 copies of this page.**



# Response Entries

Letters to your teacher

Date

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

This year, you and I will write letters to each other about books, reading, and authors. Our letters will give us a chance to share our thoughts and feelings about books.

Write a letter to me to share your thinking about the book you are reading. The completed letter is due on \_\_\_\_\_ each week. Use the letter format you see on the "student example" page of this notebook to help you in the letter writing process. If you are having trouble deciding what to write about, read over the "possible topic ideas" list. Your letters should be interesting and unique. These are your thoughts!

It is important that your letters are neat and easy to read so that your thoughts can be easily understood. When you think you have finished, be sure to proofread it to make sure it is just the way you want it.

I look forward to reading about your thinking and having interesting conversations with you about books this year.

Sincerely,  
Your Teacher



# Student Example Response Letter

\*Example taken from "The Book whisperer" pg. 101\*

5/12/08

Dear Mrs. Cortez,

I am in the process of reading Inkheart! I absolutely LOVE this book! I'm at the part where Fengolio and Meggie read the tin soldier back into the re-written, happy ending of a story. They are now trying to figure out a way to change Inkheart into making the shadow kill Capricorn. I am eager to see how it ends! I know there is a sequel called Inkspell. Is that worth my time to read?

I thought the Theif Lord was a little slow in the beginning, but I like the middle a lot! I thought it was cool how at first they were in the abandoned movie theatre and then moved to the Lady's house. I also liked how the detective was so nice to the kids and was on their side. I liked the way the author wrote the part when BO was taken by their Aunt. It really showed the love connection between BO and Prosper!

Sincerely,

Molly

## Possible Topics for Your Letter

- something that surprised you
- something you found interesting
- an interesting or important character
- parts of the book that are confusing
- your thoughts and feelings about the author's message
- why you think the author chose the title
- your predictions and if they were correct
- text-to-self connections
- text-to-text connections
- text-to-world connections
- the ending and your feelings about it
- why you think the author wrote the book
- whether or not you would recommend the book
- what you would change about the book
- whether the book is easy, just right, or challenging
- why you abandoned the book
- what you want to remember about this book

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Requirement Genre Check

3 Poetry Anthology \_\_\_\_\_

3 Traditional Literature \_\_\_\_\_

5 Realistic Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

2 Historical Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

3 Fantasy \_\_\_\_\_

2 science Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

2 Mystery \_\_\_\_\_

4 Informational \_\_\_\_\_

2 Bio or Autobiography \_\_\_\_\_

9 Free Choice \_\_\_\_\_

5 Picture Books \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Requirement Genre Check

3 Poetry Anthology \_\_\_\_\_

3 Traditional Literature \_\_\_\_\_

5 Realistic Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

2 Historical Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

3 Fantasy \_\_\_\_\_

2 science Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

2 Mystery \_\_\_\_\_

4 Informational \_\_\_\_\_

2 Bio or Autobiography \_\_\_\_\_

9 Free Choice \_\_\_\_\_

5 Picture Books \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Requirement Genre Check

3 Poetry Anthology \_\_\_\_\_

3 Traditional Literature \_\_\_\_\_

5 Realistic Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

2 Historical Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

3 Fantasy \_\_\_\_\_

2 science Fiction \_\_\_\_\_

2 Mystery \_\_\_\_\_

4 Informational \_\_\_\_\_

2 Bio or Autobiography \_\_\_\_\_

9 Free Choice \_\_\_\_\_

5 Picture Books \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total:**

\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
have read \_\_\_\_\_ books  
thus far. I still need to read  
\_\_\_\_\_ more books to  
complete the 40 Book  
Challenge. As a result, I  
pledge to read at least \_\_\_\_\_  
books in the upcoming  
month.

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
have read \_\_\_\_\_ books  
thus far. I still need to read  
\_\_\_\_\_ more books to  
complete the 40 Book  
Challenge. As a result, I  
pledge to read at least \_\_\_\_\_  
books in the upcoming  
month.

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
have read \_\_\_\_\_ books  
thus far. I still need to read  
\_\_\_\_\_ more books to  
complete the 40 Book  
Challenge. As a result, I  
pledge to read at least \_\_\_\_\_  
books in the upcoming  
month.

# Reader's Notebook Rubric

Reader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Exemplary 100%-95%</b>	<b>Strong 94%-90%</b>	<b>Proficient 89%-80%</b>	<b>Developing 79%-74%</b>	<b>Emerging 73%-65%</b>	<b>Beginning 65%- Below</b>
Student records all books on reading log.						
Student's reading log reflects an appropriate amount of books completed based on the student's reading level.						
Student accurately identifies the book's genre.						
Student is reading a variety of genres.						
Student sets reading goals that will help him/her become a better reader.						
Student's response letters to teacher are thoughtfully written and reflect good comprehension of text.						
Student's notebook is organized and in good condition.						

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Reader's Notebook Rubric

Reader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Student records all books on reading log.			
Student's reading log reflects an appropriate amount of books completed based on the student's reading level.			
Student accurately identifies the book's genre.			
Student is reading a variety of genres.			
Student sets reading goals that will help him/her become a better reader.			
Student's response letters to teacher are thoughtfully written and reflect good comprehension of text.			
Student's notebook is organized and in good condition.			

Final Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

# Reader's Notebook Rubric

Reader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Student records all books on reading log.			
Student's reading log reflects an appropriate amount of books completed based on the student's reading level.			
Student accurately identifies the book's genre.			
Student is reading a variety of genres.			
Student sets reading goals that will help him/her become a better reader.			
Student's response letters to teacher are thoughtfully written and reflect good comprehension of text.			
Student's notebook is organized and in good condition.			

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Book Talk



You will be giving a \_\_\_\_\_ minute book talk to your peers. The purpose of this presentation is to "sell" your book of choice to the audience. After your book talk, everyone should WANT to read your book!

Your "Book Talk" must include the following:

## 1. Introduction of your book

- An interesting statement or question to grab the audience's attention.
- Title, Author, Genre
- Picture of the book cover (may use the actual book, a printed image, drawing, etc.)

## 2. Short Summary

- Give a brief summary of the plot without giving too much away.
- Include main characters, setting, and main problem
- No spoilers!

## 3. Additional Information

- Provide some additional information so your audience can better understand your recommendation. Choose at least one of the following.
  - i. *Favorite scene*—Something that was really moving, suspenseful, funny, or exciting.
  - ii. *Favorite Character*—Describe your favorite character using quotes, thoughts, or some of their actions from the story.
  - iii. *Author's Purpose*—Why do you think the author wrote the book? What's the theme and/or author's message?

## 4. Rating

- Tell us how you rate this book (out of 4 stars) and why.



Did not like  
this book.



This book  
was ok.



This was a  
good book!



One of the best  
books I've ever read!



# Book Presentation

You will be giving a \_\_\_\_ minute book presentation to your peers. The purpose of this presentation is to get your audience to fall in love with your book AND to show off your creative skills!

**You may choose to create any of the following for this presentation:**

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Standard size poster
3. Movie
4. Any other idea must be teacher approved.



**Each project must include the following:**

## **1. Introduction of your book**

- An interesting statement or question to grab the audience's attention.
- Title, Author, Genre
- Picture of the book cover (may use the actual book, a printed image, drawing, etc.)

## **2. Story Map** (must be displayed in pictures and words)

- Summary Statement (one sentence)
- Characters, setting, and main problem
- No solution---Spoiler alert!

## **3. Additional Information**

- Provide some additional information so your audience can better understand your recommendation. Choose at least **one** of the following.
  - i. *Favorite scene*—Something that was really moving, suspenseful, funny, or exciting.
  - ii. *Favorite Character*—Describe your favorite character using quotes, thoughts, or some of their actions from the story.
  - iii. *Author's Purpose*—Why do you think the author wrote the book? What's the theme and/or author's message?

## **4. Rating**

- Tell us how you rate this book (out of 4 stars) and why.



Did not like  
this book.



This book  
was ok.



This was a  
good book!



One of the best  
books I've ever read!

Please go to my blog for further instructions and updates on the program. 😊

[www.cortezcorner.wordpress.com](http://www.cortezcorner.wordpress.com)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.  
We're all in this together.