

Group Project Options

1. Advertisement for Play Version

Make a poster of an advertisement for the play-version of your novel. What modern-day celebrities would play each character? What creative title would you call this version? Use colored markers, magazines, or other visuals to enhance the poster. Include a letter selling your idea to the director.

2. Board Game

Create a board game that relates to the novel. Have "The End" represent what you all believe the characters desire to achieve or are striving for. **Hints and suggestions:**

- Have the squares represent different parts/events in the novel (in sequence).
- Have each player answer questions about the novel to advance on the game board. The tougher the question, the more squares he or she advances.
- Have the playing pieces represent the characters.

3. Book Jacket

Create a visual and informative book jacket for the novel. Design a front cover that is appealing to the eye and gives pertinent information such as title, author, publisher, a thought provoking quote, etc. On the back cover, write a brief original summary of the book. Include quotes / critiques / reviews from different sources. On one of the inside flaps, describe your favorite character (or the main character). Make him or her sound intriguing. On the opposite flap, choose: **A)** write information about the author **B)** make a detachable book mark **C)** write a prelude to a sequel for the novel.

4. CD (booklet) Project

Imagine a soundtrack for the film version of your novel and create a CD booklet (actual recordings not required) that includes a cover page with a picture or image that captures an important aspect of the novel and selections of lyrics that represent different themes and ideas. You can either select existing songs or write your own. Write brief explanations of the relationship between the song lyrics and the novel's themes on a separate piece of paper attached to your booklet.

5. Character Trait Chart

Create a character trait chart for one of the main characters in your novel. Select four different character traits and then find two different quotes to support each trait. Write a paragraph explaining how the quotation connects to the character trait (one paragraph per trait). Display your information on posterboard or butcher paper in a graphically sharp and visually appealing manner.

6. Historical Connections

Research the historical facts surrounding the time that the novel was written. What was occurring in the country where the author lived? Was there a war? Are any historical facts included in the novel? How does the novel reflect the time? Display this in any manner you choose (chart, essay, slide show, overhead, etc.)

7. Interview with the Main Character

Write an interview that you have "conducted" between yourself and the main character in the novel. Ask and answer questions that reveal their personality, morals, and beliefs. Make sure that the interview includes questions and answers about important events that occur in the book. (Minimum three pages, typed, double-space)

8. Mandala

Draw a colorful mandala on a piece of butcher paper or poster board (see Mr. Farris for samples). Select five symbols that are crucial to your interpretation of the novel. Draw a representation of each symbol in the segments of the mandala, placing the most important one in the center circle and the other four in the outside segments. Write an explanation of each symbol on the mandala (or on a separate sheet of paper). Your explanations should include quotes from the text as support.

OPTION: Select a character from the novel and choose five symbols that represent various aspects of him/her. Write a simile/metaphor in each space clarifying the connection between the symbols and the character. Be sure to extend the simile/metaphor beyond the obvious.

9. Mapping the Novel

Make a map of the setting of the novel. If the story is set in a town, draw a map of the locations of the stores and homes that are included in the novel. If the story is set in a rural area, you may draw a detailed picture of an important or particularly well-described setting. Please be thorough.

10. Mural

On a four-foot section of butcher paper, create a mural that displays one of the significant scenes of the novel. Think of unique ways to represent your scene. Remember that the artist's interpretation often tells more than the obvious. Try to incorporate a variety of color, texture, and contrast to help your group get the ideas across. On a separate sheet of paper, please write an explanation of your mural and its corresponding scene.

11. Newspaper

Create a front page of a newspaper, including headlines and graphics, that would be delivered to the characters in your novel. Write three front-page news stories covering important issues and events in the novel.

12. Posters / Advertising

On a large poster board, create a poster that advertises your novel. Select a powerful scene, character interaction, or setting as a visual backdrop. Include the novel title and the list of "starring" actors (characters). Create a quote that would capture the essence of your novel and include it on your poster. Make sure to use color, contrast, and vivid word choice to really "sell" your novel.

13. Script of Party

Create a script of a party that four of the characters in the novel attend. What do these characters say to one another? What other characters do they gossip about? Make sure that you consider each character's personality, and relate their traits to the script. Be prepared to read it to the class. (Minimum three pages, typed, double-space)

14. Sequel

Write a sequel to the novel. Begin your paper by telling the events that occurred at the end of the novel you have read, and then continue the story. You can elaborate on events that have recently occurred, or you can take the story in an entirely different direction. (Minimum three pages, typed, double-space)

15. Short Story Theme Connection

Find a short story that has the same theme as the novel that you are reading. Read the story and brainstorm about similar themes and aspects in both of the written works. Create a "thought collage" on a large sheet of paper of the similarities and differences. Then, write a two-page paper comparing and contrasting the short story and the novel. (Each group member must write his/her own paper - typed, double-space)

16. Storyboard

Create a storyboard highlighting the main events and details in your novel. The storyboard should be accurate and aesthetically pleasing. Use as many frames as necessary to display main events in the section you've read. Each frame of the storyboard should include an illustration of the main event as well as a quotation from the work clarifying that event.

17. Timeline / Historical Connection

As a group, carefully follow the dates of major events and character growth throughout your novel. Plot each date on a timeline, starting with the earliest date that you find. Once you have arranged a minimum of six dates from your novel, you will need to do some research to find out what was going on in the same geographical location during that time in history. Locate at least six major historical events and plot them on the same chart.

18. Trip Itinerary

Create an itinerary of a trip that one or two of the characters from the novel might take. Where would they go? What activities would they do each day? Make a detailed, eight-day plan for this trip. Relate the trip to the novel and the character.