

Middle School ELA Project: Deep Dive Into Your Novel

Project Description:

Students will read their grade level required reading. As they read, they must annotate (by identifying and labeling) in their novel:

- All **characters**
- All **settings**
- Key **events** (important plot points, conflicts, resolutions)
- Any **unfamiliar words** (look up and define each word)

After completing the novel and annotations, students will write a **5-paragraph summary**:

1. **Introduction:** Include the book title, author, genre, and the most interesting part of the book in your own words.
2. **Paragraph 2:** Describe the main characters and their roles.
3. **Paragraph 3:** Explain the setting and how it influences the story.
4. **Paragraph 4:** Summarize major events and conflicts.
5. **Conclusion:** Discuss the theme or message of the book and your personal reflection.

Guidelines:

- Annotations can be done using sticky notes or highlighter.
- The summary must be typed and double-spaced. All paragraphs must be at least 5 sentences long.
- All of the summary must be in your own words. NO AI as it will be checked for AI and plagiarism.
- Both the annotations and the essay are due at the same time.
- **Due Date: August 15th, 2025**

Project Rubric (Total: 100 Points)

Category	Excellent (25)	Good (20)	Developing (15)	Needs Improvement (10 or below)
Annotations: Characters	All main & minor characters are clearly identified with insightful notes.	Most characters are identified with basic notes.	Some characters identified; notes lack clarity.	Few characters noted; little to no explanation.
Annotations: Setting & Events	All key settings & events are clearly marked and explained.	Most key settings & events are noted.	Incomplete or unclear annotations.	Few or no relevant settings/events marked.
Vocabulary Annotations	All unfamiliar words are defined correctly.	Most unknown words are defined.	Some words defined, some missing or incorrect.	Little to no effort in identifying/defining unknown words.
5-Paragraph Summary	Well-organized, clear, detailed, and thoughtful; strong grammar.	Organized and mostly clear; some grammar issues.	Some organization; lacks detail or clarity.	Disorganized or incomplete; many grammar issues.