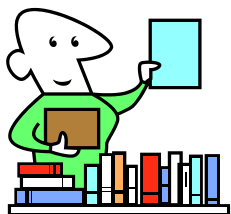


Eighth Grade Summer Reading Project

Key Concept: Change & Genre

Statement of Inquiry: The genre of a book changes how you read it.



Assignment: Over the summer, choose two books to read, one fiction and one nonfiction, and compare the genre of each.

The fiction book :

- Your choice.
- At or above your reading level
- Clear fiction qualities are easiest to journal (sci-fi, fantasy, etc.)
- A fun book for you to read

As you read, create a journal with an entry for each chapter (or for longer books group chapters together). Your journal should be a notebook, composition book, or sheets of loose-leaf stapled together. You may type your entries also in one Google Doc.

Each journal entry should include:

- **Examine** the Statement of Inquiry (How am I reading this differently because of its genre? How is reading this genre the same as any other?).
- **Examine** the key concepts of change and genre (How do I know what genre this book really is? What changes are happening in the book, and are they related to genre?).
- Include quotations from the text to **justify** your writing.

Also, you should answer one or more of the following:

- What Predictions about the future did you have and did those predictions come true?
- What mood is the author creating and how do you feel as you are reading?
- What connections to your own life do you see or how are the characters like people you know?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- What are your opinions about and reactions to what is happening in that chapter or section of the book?
- Do you agree or disagree about decisions that characters are making?
- What IB Attributes do the characters exhibit?

The Nonfiction Book:

- Corresponds to the fiction book that you have chosen
- At your reading level
- Photo books, travel books

For example, if you read an historical fiction book about the revolutionary war, read a nonfiction book about the war as well. Another example would be if you choose a book that is set in Miami, Florida, then read a nonfiction book about Miami also.

The last entry of your journal should answer the following questions:

- How did you read the two genres differently?
- How are the two books related in spite of being different genres?
- How did the nonfiction book aid your understanding of the fiction book?
- How would you interpret the fiction book differently now?

Below you will find a few sample journal entries from students in the past:

(Quotations from the text have been removed.)

#1 Chapter Six--Tim goes to Mr. Heron who tells him to come the next morning to pick up the letter. In the morning, Tim picks up the letter. On the road, Betsy asks about the letter. They get into a fight and Betsy gets the letter. She opens it and inside it says, "If this message is received, the we will know that the messenger is reliable." What Betsy did was horrible. What if she had shown the attribute of caring? She had no business with the letter. If this story had been nonfiction, I wonder if she would really have reacted like that? I predict that Mr. Heron will not trust Tim and he will go back home. I think Sam is well off into the war and will never come back. I think he will be ashamed to see his father.

#2 Dear Journal,

It turns out that Carolina (Joseph's mother) didn't need to worry at all about seeing the girl that looks like Margareta. She and her supposed "uncle" are always either out of the boarding house or in their room. What could they be doing? Sometimes they are very secretive about coming and leaving. Why? Later, Cassandra asks Joseph if it is true that he can read minds. She asks him whether making money off his "gift" affects his abilities. Is he being principled? He doesn't understand what she's talking about and waves the question off. I am wondering if she really is clairvoyant. The next day there is an ad in the paper for a "natural clairvoyant" at Mrs. McKenna's boarding house, Mademoiselle Delphine, Cassandra. She is able to see the past, present, and future and diagnose ailments. My prediction was correct. I think that she really does possess second sight, which definitely makes this fantasy fiction rather than nonfiction. I doubt that it is a fake.

Sincerely,
Me

#3 The 7th chapter consists of the reactions of the boys, Manny and Michael. Michael had always told Carlos that he didn't have time for girls. He was too concentrated on baseball. Carlos always replied, "Oh, you'll make time." Michael now understands what Carlos had been telling him all these years. He realized that the attribute of communication is key. As Manny and Michael talked to Ellie, the mystery girl, Michael liked her more and realized what a great girl she is. They played in the late afternoon for two hours. Ellie pitched to Michael as Manny was batting. She was quite the pitcher, as she struck out Manny on three pitches. Mike Lupica's vision and thought process about the kids playing a little game was fantastic. When I was reading the 7th chapter, I was so occupied & interested by the relationship the kids showed. I don't think that a nonfiction story would have drawn me in like that.