

Choice Reading

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them." – Mark Twain

Requirement: To read a book of your choice for at least **120 minutes** every week and meet your reading goal as a result.

Reading Rate (your reading goal):

Calculate your reading rate (reading goal) for every new book.

Count the number of pages you read in 10 minutes, then multiply that number by 12.

For example: 6 pages in 10 minutes = 72. That means you would need to read 72 pages each week in order to meet your goal.

Fill out the weekly log accurately every Monday, Wednesday and Friday:

Remember that you are graded from Monday to Monday, so you must meet your reading goal by Monday each week.

| Week | Book Title | Reading Rate (reading goal) | Mon. | Wed. | Fri. |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------|------|------|
| #1 Sept. 11 | <u>Sharp Objects</u> | 96 | 1 | 37 | 86 |

If you begin a new book, please fill out the chart as follows: **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE LAST PAGE NUMBER!**

| Week | Book Title | Reading Rate (reading goal) | Mon. | Wed. | Fri. |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|------|------|
| #2 Sept. 18 | <u>Sharp Objects</u> / <u>The Other Side of the River</u> (finished) | 96 / 84 | 254 (last page) / 1 | 32 | 65 |


 First page of The Other Side of the River

Weekly Grading:

If your reading rate (reading goal) is 84, then you must read at least 84 pages from Monday to Monday in order to receive full credit (50 points).

For example, if you only read 68 pages, then your grade is calculated as follows: $68/84 = .8 = 8 \text{ pts} \times 5 = 40 \text{ points (out of 50 points possible)}$.

Notebook Layout:

As you embark on your Choice Reading journey this semester, you will need to keep a notebook. This notebook will be a place for you to keep track of what you've read, what you are going to read, your thoughts and reactions, as well as demonstrate your thinking and learning. I have some requirements that are outlined below, but this notebook is *yours* and as such a certain amount of personalization is expected and will not detract from your grade.

You will need to bring this notebook to class every day. You will need to write in it several times a week, use it for conferences with me, and turn it in after you finish a book. At the end of the semester, this journal will serve as part of your final grade for the Choice Reading Program. As such, each entry needs to be complete, organized, high-quality, and thorough.

The beginning of your notebook should start with your table of contents. In your table of contents, please include the following for every book:

| Book Title | Author | Start Date | Total Pages | Pages Read |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>The Zookeeper's Wife</i> | Diane Ackerman | September 8 | 323 | 323 |

The last few pages of your journal should be your Next List. This is where you will list *at least* 2-3 books you want to read in the future. Feel free to write little notes to yourself about why you want to read them or put stars by the names of ones that sound most interesting. At no point should you finish a book and “not have anything else to read.”

You need to make a habit of keeping your notebook current. Once you complete (or abandon) a book, you must submit your entire notebook to me. I will check that book's journal entry but also glance at the other sections to make sure that you are staying on top of this and have it back to you the next day. This is one way that you will be held accountable for Choice Reading.

Reading Journal Entries:

Turn in your journal after finishing/abandoning each book. Give a book 25-50 pages before you abandon it.

Entry Format:

| # | Book Title | Author |
|---|------------|--------|
|---|------------|--------|

- ✓ You should include a brief summary of the book **only** if you think you might forget important elements, or you want it for future reference – your teacher will not really be paying much attention to this, as it only illustrates a rudimentary understanding of the plot.
 - ✓ Background on the book that drew you to it: Why did you pick this book? What are your expectations before you even begin?
 - ✓ Quotes/pg #s – mark and transcribe particularly beautiful quotes, interesting observations, illustrations of concepts that you have been looking at in class such as figurative language, etc.
 - ✓ Analytical observations/questions: You must have at least **two or three** thoughtful reactions to the content of the piece. Sample questions to consider: Does the author do anything interesting with the setting? Is the plot standard or out of order? Are the characters especially interesting and believable and why? Is this book illustrating an important theme and making you think about the world around you differently?
 - ✓ Your reaction to the book as a whole
-

Sample Reading Journal (To be submitted every time you finish a book):

4. *Olive Kitteridge* Elizabeth Stout

I picked this up because I have seen it in bookstores EVERYWHERE when we shop for used books. Its cover is bland and unappealing, but I have often found that those are the types of the books that have a rich interior...maybe a silly assumption. It is a Pulitzer prize winner; I haven't had much luck with those, but willing to try a new one.

6: "He wanted to put his arms around her, but she had a darkness that seemed to stand beside her like an acquaintance that would not go away." This is such a powerful use of imagery and simile.

58: "It made Malcolm feel better to call Walter Dalton a pathetic fairy, but it was thin milk, this form of nourishment." WOW – I love this. Bullying is weak nourishment. That's a beautiful concept.

78: "Each of his sons had been his favorite child." I LOVE THIS.

87: "For the first time in years, he thought about God, who seemed a piggy bank Harmon had stuck up on a shelf and had now brought down to look at with a new considering eye." What an interesting metaphor. It also raises the question of how religion factors into the lives of some of these characters. Do we seek God in times of trouble more than any other? Yes, I think so.

(I have at least 9 more quotes from this book which is why I keep my journal close most of the time)

Stout used a shifting narrative to show different characters in this small town, but I love that Olive somehow factored into each story like a thread that shows how connected everyone is in some way. I'm not sure that's her theme, but it definitely is something I would talk about with this novel.

The concept of judgment is so very important in this book – everyone looks at people through the wrong end of a tiny telescope (thanks for that image Edith Wharton), and they assume things about them without knowing their stories and internal issues. We ALL do that, and this book is a nice reminder.

I LOVE this book. It redeemed my faith in the Pulitzer. The writing felt simple and wholesome, like the small town it described, and didn't try too hard to be anything other than insightful. Maybe living in a small town made me like this more, but I was lost in the world she created.