**Sophomore Book Report**

**Information**

**English II Grammar**

1. **Acceptable Books Due: October 8th**

The reading level of your books must be at the freshman or more advanced levels. If you are unsure of the reading level of your book, check the back of your book or ask Mrs. Fitzgerald or me. You may *not* read, for example, any R.L. Stine, Gary Paulsen, and/or Stephanie Meyer books or any books that have been made into a movie. I would recommend that you read a book written by a classic American author, but it is not required. You may also read non-fiction book, as long as the reading level is appropriate. Here is a list of some American authors we have covered in class and some we haven’t read yet:

Mark Twain

Richard Wright

Tim O’Brien

Jack London

Harper Lee

Zora Neale Hurston

Alex Haley

William Faulkner

James F. Cooper

Charles Dickens

Maya Angelou

Chinua Achebe

1. **Book Report Requirements**

Your book report should be 2-3 pages, typed, in size twelve (12), Footlight MT Light or Californian FB font. If you hand write the report, it should be written in blue or black ink on one side only of your theme paper. Your paper should be arranged as follows:

1. Type the title, capitalizing the appropriate words, italicizing the entire title, and centering it on your paper. If you are hand writing your report, underline the title.
2. Skip a line and then center the author’s name on the third line.
3. Skip two lines before beginning the first paragraph.
4. Make sure your computer is set on 1.5 spacing, one- inch margins, size twelve (12) Footlight MT Light or Californian FB font.

This book report is to consist of *at least* seven paragraphs. Each paragraph should begin with a topic sentence stating the topic of the paragraph; therefore no headings should be used. Be sure to use the dictionary or spell check to eliminate misspellings, and proofread to eliminate fragments and run-ons. Also, make sure there are smooth transitions between each paragraph. Your paper should follow the format provided on the back of this handout.

Book Report Format

First Paragraph: **Setting**- In a short paragraph, explain the setting (time and place) and mood. Use the title of this novel and the author in the first sentence. (For example, The setting of the novel, *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, is in New York during the height of the Jazz Age.)

Second: **Main Characters**- In this paragraph, write a description of the main characters. Include more than physical description; include personality and relationship to others. Use quotations from the book to support and be sure to include the page numbers from the book for your quotes.

Third: **Conflict**- In this paragraph, explain the main problems presented in the book. Des the character have a conflict with another person, himself, a force of nature, or with society?

Fourth: **Plot Summary-** Instead of summarizing every event in the book, choose three important events in the story that would be good examples of problems the character encounters as he tries to resolve the main conflict. You may discuss all three in one long paragraph or in three separate paragraphs.

Fifth: **Conflict Resolution**- In this paragraph, tell how the primary conflict is finally resolved *and* how the story ends.

Sixth: **Themes**- Themes are general, recurring ideas or events in a book; examples of themes include love, war, family, survival, freedom, society, and so on. In a paragraph or two, give *at least* two examples in your book, and provide quotes for support (remember to include the page numbers from the book for your quotes).

Seventh: **Critical Review**-In a paragraph, discuss your feelings about the book. You could relate one or two events in the story that you most enjoyed and explain why, or you should discuss some events that you disliked, and explain why you disliked them. Use direct quotes from or reference to the book, and include the page number after each quote. Finally, add a sentence or two to conclude your book report. Be aware that this is the most important part of your book report; think carefully about what you want to say, and include at least two supporting detail sentences. Do not use the sentence, “This is the best/dumbest/longest book I’ve ever read;” your comments need to be thought provoking.

1. **Note of Warning**

Your paper *must* follow the format provided on this handout. Any students who reference or copy their book reports from the internet will receive an automatic zero. **Remember there must be two book reports on file in order to pass English IIG.**