

NEWSPAPER BOOK REPORT PROJECT

You will be designing a front page of a newspaper based on your March Independent Reading book. The name of the newspaper and all articles, features and "extras" should relate to your book and reflect a close reading of the text. In addition, the project should exhibit both creativity and care. Design and lay out your book report using columns and spacing similar to a real newspaper. Place the articles, features and "extras" where you think they fit best. Your final project will use either a 8.5x14 or 11x17 piece of paper. There are ways to adjust the size of a "word" document and most printers to accommodate these sizes. Paper will be provided. You are also welcome to manually cut and paste to create a front page that meets these size requirements.

NAME OF NEWSPAPER, LOCATION AND PUBLICATION DATE

Nameplate--Create a nameplate that spans the entire width of the top of the page. Example of a nameplate:



The nameplate should include the title of the newspaper, the location and a date of publication. All of these should be related to your book. Sometimes nameplates also include a teaser or tagline to draw in the reader.

ARTICLES AND FEATURES--REQUIRED

Summary--At the top of the page, write a summary of your book in several well-developed paragraphs. Make sure you answer the *who, what, where, when* and *why* of newspaper reporting. Include a headline that catches the attention of the reader.

Character--Write a brief article about the main character. This could be in interview form, an obituary or any other format you desire as long as you include who the character is, what s/he did and any additional interesting details that give us a full picture of this character. Include a headline that catches the attention of the reader.

Original Artwork--Include some form of original (made by you) artwork. This can be an illustration of a character or scene from the book, an editorial cartoon or a 3-4 panel comic strip related to the content of your book. Include a title for your artwork that catches the attention of the reader along with a "picture caption," a sentence or two in which you explain how the artwork connects to your book.

Advertisement--Create an advertisement for a location in your book or an object in your book that has special importance. For either, include some type of picture that relates to the place or object (such as a photo or illustration) and enough information in the text of the advertisement so that it is clear how it relates to your book.

ARTICLES AND FEATURES--YOUR CHOICE (include at least one (1) of the following)

Advice Column--Pretend at least two characters in your book wrote letters to an advice columnist seeking advice about important problems in the book. Write a response to each letter that is related to how that problem is solved. Include a headline.

Letter to the Editor--Choose an significant issue in your book and take a position on it. Compose a letter that represents your understanding of the issue and how you feel about it. Include a headline.

Book Review--Write a review of your book using the techniques you mastered back in November. Be sure to fully explain what you like or dislike about the book. Incorporate at least one quotation from the book to support your opinion. Include a headline.

EXTRAS--YOUR CHOICE (include at least (1) of the following)

Crossword Puzzle--Use words or events from the story to create a crossword puzzle with a minimum of 10 clues. A small image of the puzzle with the solution should be included somewhere on the front page. Include a headline.

Weather--Describe the weather for a particular day (or series of days) as it relates to your book. Include a brief explanation of why the weather situation is important to understanding an event that takes place in your book. Include a headline.

Classified Ads--Create a series of at least five "help-wanted" ads, "lost and found" ads and/or "for sale" ads related to some aspect of your book. Include a headline.

Sports--Describe a conflict in your book as if it was a sports competition. Include box scores, photos or illustrations to make the "competition" come to life. Be sure to include enough details so that your reader learns about the conflict from your book and understands how the "sporting event" represents this conflict. Include a headline.

Original Artwork--Choose another form of original artwork not used in the "required" section of this assignment. For example, if you included an illustration of a scene in your book to go with your summary at the top of the page, consider creating an editorial cartoon or 3-4 panel comic strip related to the content of your book for this "extra" section. Include a headline.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Like a newspaper, all the space on your front page should be filled with content. Moreover, everything you include must relate in some way to your Independent Reading book; "random stuff" is not acceptable. Be certain to proofread carefully. A project containing more than a few grammatical/spelling errors will be returned for revision.

IMPORTANT DATES

Finish reading your March Independent Reading book by Tuesday, March 27.

Idea Sharing about Newspaper Book Report Project on Tuesday, March 27.

Submit Layout Plan for Teacher Review on Thursday, March 29.

Receive Teacher Reviewed Layout Plan on Friday, March 30.

Submit Final Copy of Newspaper Book Report Project on Wednesday, April 4.

If you know you will not be present on this day (it is the day before Pesach Break), please submit your project one day earlier on Tuesday, April 3.