

7th Grade Summer Reading

Literary Analysis

First - Please read the novel, *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*, by Ann Braden. We have limited copies available to borrow if you have trouble getting a book.

One Pager Project

Second - Once you have finished reading the book, complete a One-Pager on *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*.



A one pager is a collage of illustrations and written analyses on one page that make up an attractive and detailed interpretation of a subject or piece of literature.

Directions:

Share your unique understanding of the text on one page by imaginatively blending your written ideas with colorful images from the story. You should spend at least 30 minutes brainstorming ideas before you begin decorating your page. It's recommended you begin with pencil first for your design so it's easy to make changes before finalizing your work in ink or color. Use a standard size piece of blank paper (8.5 x 11). Your page can be horizontal or vertical.

Below is a list of what should be included on your page:

- Include the title and the author's name
- Describe one theme or message from the text
- Provide a personal reflection in response to the text (How did you like it? Would you recommend it to a friend?)
- Include an important quote from the text

- Describe one important character from the text
- Explain one example of conflict from the text
- Choose four or more of the following literary elements to incorporate as it applies to the text specifically: *symbolism, genre, setting, point of view, climax, resolution, foreshadowing, mood, tone, imagery, motif, suspense, irony, allusion, or any example of figurative language*. If you are unsure of what these terms are, please look them up, especially BEFORE you read so you can be looking for them as you go!!!!
- Draw a minimum of four illustrations that are directly related to the text in some way
- You must fill your entire page
- Your page must be colored

Grading Rubric

Overall Appearance	Your page is detailed and neat. Images are clear and text is easy to read. The overall appearance is creative and aesthetically pleasing.	10 Points
Information	Your explanations and references are accurate. You include all the required components from the directions.	10 Points
Analysis	You demonstrate you understand the literature through your examples and commentaries. The literary elements you choose are insightful and depict important ideas from the text.	10 Points
Writing Conventions	You use proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage. Effective word choice demonstrates a strong understanding of context and purpose.	10 Points
Graphics	You choose illustrations that highlight meaningful parts of the text. The graphic elements are neat, colored, and incorporated seamlessly into the work.	10 Points

____/50 Points

If you have questions contact Mrs. GP at sgrahampye@cclcs.info; Mrs. Strakele at dstrakele@cclcs.info, or Mrs. Crema at ccrema@cclcs.info

Examples on next page...

Dr. Nolan is a compassionate psychiatrist who treats Esther with empathy. This contrasts how earlier doctors were harmful.

The main conflict in the story is

Esther's internal struggle with her mental health. She feels torn between the expectations of women and her desire to find meaning in life.

"Wherever I sat on the deck of a street café in Paris or Bangkok - I would be sitting under the same glass-bell jar, stewing in my own sour air."

Sylvia Plath conveys a powerful message about identity (theme). She encourages honesty about emotional struggles and mental illness rather than conformity or repressing oneself to meet societal expectations.

THE BELL JAR

Sylvia Plath

Set in America in the 1950s, the story highlights the expectations of feminine perfection as well as the troubling practices of psychiatric medicine. For example, Esther experiences a traumatic electroshock.



"She fed her wardrobe on the night wind like a loved one's ashes." This simile compares clothes to the ashes of someone who's been cremated.

I liked this novel because it shows what depression feels like in a real, raw, and honest way.



The fig tree

symbolizes the many life paths available to Esther, such as career, love, and family. She feels paralyzed by the fear of choosing the wrong one.



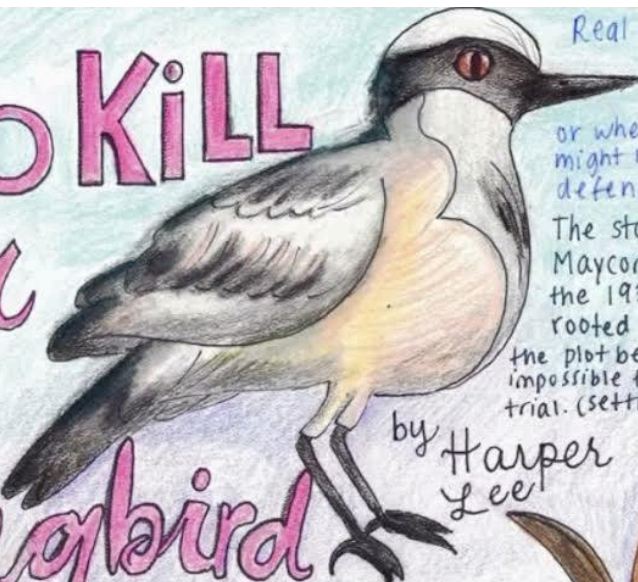
Esther's plunge down the ski slopes foreshadows her later suicide attempts.

The novel is told in first person Scout Finch. Her innocence is an unreliable narrator.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

by Harper Lee

Real courage means doing what's right even when it's scary or when you know you might not win, like Atticus defending Tom. (theme) The story takes place in Maycomb, Alabama during the 1930s. Racism is deeply rooted and directly affects the plot because it's nearly impossible for Tom to get a fair trial. (setting)



birds don't hurt anything, such as a dove.

Jem wrecks Mrs. Dubose's flowers as a way to get back at her for saying mean things about Atticus. (conflict)

Aunt Alexandra is the sister of Atticus, and Scout's aunt. She believes in the traditional Southern values. She wants Scout to wear dresses and act like a proper lady.



The rabid dog symbolizes the fear, madness, and danger of racism in the town.

Atticus is brave enough to stand up to both. Atticus does not retaliate when Bob spits in his face, demonstrating his ability to control his emotions.

