1. During the **Independent Novel Study** (I.N.S.) you may read books that you haven’t read before. I will give you a subgenre that your book must fit in. For example, the first grading period your book must be mystery, fantasy, or science fiction. I will let you know the other subgenres when the time comes.

**I.N.S. Tired of book reports? This year, let’s just talk…**

2. I expect the books to be appropriate for your age and reading ability. If you are unsure if a book is appropriate, please ask me before you begin reading.

3. Get your book from any source- our library, the public library, your home, or borrowed from a friend. Some people actually go to book stores and buy their books. Talk to me about your e-reader (Kindles, Nooks, etc.) and we will come to an agreement. Other devices, such as iPods, iPads, and cell phones are not allowed to be used as your e-reader.

4. Quarter book talks on your I.N.S. reading will count for the equivalent of a major test. To receive the full 100 points, you must successfully report on 500 pages per quarter. It is the total number of pages you read that will determine your grade, not the number of books. The scale is as follows:

A 470-500 C 366-377
A- 448-469 C- 340-365
B+ 432-447 D+ 324-339
B 420-431 D 312-323
B- 394-419 D- 286-311
C+ 378-393 F 285-0

5. Reading will take place mostly outside of class. However, you need to bring your novels with you each day to class because extra time may be given if you finish class work early. It is also important to bring your novels to CCR time.

6. The book report is an informal “book talk” with me. Your job is to convince me that you read the book. Be prepared to answer specific questions about your book.

7. Your book talk may be scheduled anytime during the quarter. I will announce deadlines in class. Be sure to schedule a book talk as soon as you finish a book to avoid your spot being taken by someone else. Do not procrastinate and wait until the end of the quarter, all time slots may be taken and extensions will not be given.

8. Book talks will be scheduled before school, during CCR time, or right after school. Please set up a time with me at least 24 hours in advance. It is important to be prepared for your scheduled time and not cancel since other students could use that time.

9. You are allowed to present only one book talk to me per day. Again, report to me as soon as your finish a book. Don’t allow your book talks to pile up and then try to do them all the day of your deadline. Every year, there’s at least one sad sole who brings two books to me on deadline only to be crushed by this rule. Don’t be that kid!

10. If you try to report on a book and are not able to convince me that you read it, I will record this on your book log and you will not receive credit.

11. You may “abandon” a book that you don’t like anywhere within the window of 25-50 pages. This means you must read at least 25 pages before you ditch the book, but you won’t get credit for anything beyond 50 pages that your read.

12. You may take notes while you read and use those notes during the book talk. Post-It notes work especially well.

13. You must have the book with you to do a book talk. No book= no book talk!

14. I will keep track of your pages. You may ask to look at your book log at any time.

15. Special note about books connected to a movie or TV show: You may report on ONE movie/TV-related book each semester, to a maximum of 150 pages total. This means that even if you read a movie/TV-related book that is, for example, 350 pages, you will not receive credit for all the pages. Make sure you understand this rule before you choose such a book.

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

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