

## **Independent Reading Program Requirements**

1. For every trimester, each student must read three books over 150 pages or a total of 700 pages. After reading a book, complete an [Independent Reading Form](#). The books must be pre-approved by Mrs. Schulze.
2. In lieu of reading all three books, students have an opportunity to choose from a variety of [Independent Reading Project Options](#) to complete their Independent Reading requirements.
3. Each student will be required to blog weekly on their independent reading book.

## **How to Choose a Book?**

- Look at the cover
- Look at the blurbs on the back
- Look at the summary inside the front cover
- See if it's an author you like
- Find books in the genres you enjoy
- Get recommendations from friends, family, the librarian, teachers, or the internet
- Check the length
- Read the first paragraph and see if it intrigues you
- Pick a book that's not too difficult for you, but also not too easy for you
- If you start a series and like it, find the other books in that series

## **Writing Program - Basic Essay Format**

### Introductory Paragraph:

Hook

TAG (title, author, genre) and main idea of story

Thesis Statement (answer to the essay prompt) and three reasons

### 3 Body Paragraphs:

Topic Sentence (reason 1) (reason 2) (reason 3)

Evidence (event from the story or quote, including page #)

Explanation of evidence and how it supports the thesis

Elaboration

### Conclusion Paragraph:

Restate the thesis

Summarize 3 reasons

Concluding thought

## **Thesis Statement:**

Your thesis statement should be specific—it should cover only what you will discuss in your paper and should be supported with specific evidence.