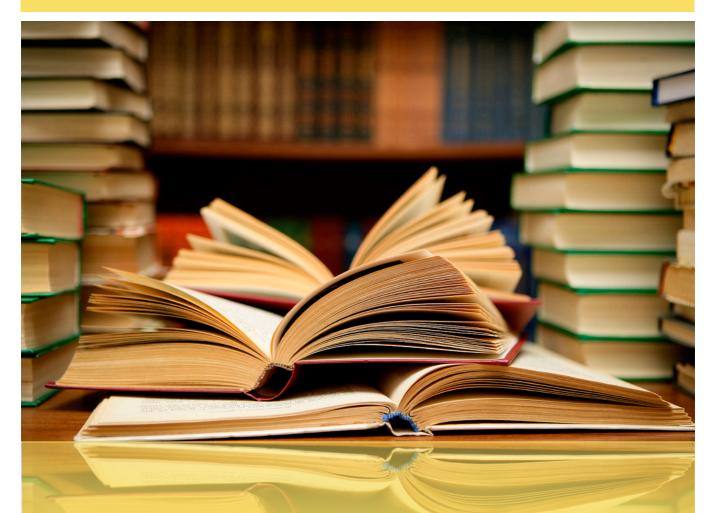# ReadBox Project
-Introduction Trimester 3-

Have you just found a great English book to read? There's no need to write a standard book report or do a test on your book afterwards. I'm not a fan of book reports; since you can copy them straight from the internet. There are other effective ways for a student to demonstrate understanding of a book they have just read. My main goal is that students enjoy and appreciate reading. I think there are alternative assignments that allow you to show understanding of a book and that might be a lot more enjoyable than writing a book report: Let's start using technology. This selection of activities is also intended to meet the needs of **different kinds of learners** and to contribute to the development of skills beyond making a test or writing an essay. Depending on the content of the book, you may decide on how you want to respond to a book - you can choose from the list on the next page. Do your utmost to promote the reading of your book ! This ReadBox Project is also a means of sharing your reading experience with your peers, your classmates. The ReadBox Project can be worked on individually or in pairs. The final results should show a representation of your knowledge and understanding of the novel. You should try to show creativity, be original, and display understanding of the novel.

Reading Process & Requirements

During the second trimester you will have to start choosing and reading a book independently. In the first trimester we have already explained how important reading is. Reading is the best way to become educated and it enables you to accomplish so much in life. You will be learning new vocabulary, learning comprehensive reading skills, but also you will learn to make new connections. Reading can be relaxing, engaging and fun ! Try to discover the true value of reading. The trick is to find a book that suits you best and knowing how to choose one is a skill you will keep the rest of your life. Choose a type of reading material that you will enjoy in order to spend more time in engaged reading. Go to your local (school)library or a bookstore. Have a look at the book covers and/ or titles that catch your eyes. Is it love at first sight ? Read the back cover and the back flap of the book and see if the information appeals to you. Open the book, look through the book, read the first chapter of the book. Do you like the writer's style ? Can you read it smoothly or do you have to look up words constantly ?

Use the five-finger rule; if there are a more than five unfamiliar words on the first few pages, you should choose an easier book. This is a simple way to find out if your book is at the right reading level and length. Once you have found a so-called 'bookmatch' go to your teacher for his or her approval and start reading.

Please, do not forget to enter your reading material in your Reading Log. Once you are done, upload the book form to your ReadBox folder in Edmodo. While reading your book, use the Notes form to keep track of important ideas, thoughts, questions, vocabulary etc. It helps you to maximise your learning. You can use these notes when you start your processing task. ***(Notes - Appendix VI)***

And if do you get stuck with a book that you do not enjoy, find another book. It is okay to decide not to read the entire book; so pick another book if the first one is not meant for you. It is important that you choose for yourself. After all, reading is supposed to be fun and not a chore. Explain to your teacher why you have decided to abandon your book; give a well-founded opinion. It is all in the process of choosing a book that you really like. Do not forget to fill in the book form once more and hand it in. Your teacher will want to know what you are reading.

Tips

★ Go to WikiHow and read **How to choose a good book** if you need help.

★ When you are dyslectic, try using an audio book. Make sure that you use the unabridged version. Read along as you listen to your audio book simultaneously. It can also help you to learn to concentrate on reading a book. And it will make it a lot easier for you to understand and think critically about the content of the story. Many audiobooks are read by the author, which makes the book more appealing to the reader. Of course, this depends on the narrator.

★ Nothing is more addictive than a good book. Go to Twitter and write a tweet to **@ReadBoxProject**. Send a tweet; let me know what your favourite book is and give other students a great reading incentive ! I will retweet the good ones.

Trimester 3

Congratulations ! You have just reached the third and final trimester. During your first two trimesters you have learnt to choose your own reading materials and to build your reading comprehension through reading articles, but also by doing your own processing tasks and creating wonderful products. You will also have learnt that you can use technology to make the reading and the creating a product of your own can be a lot of fun. And I hope that you have increased a more positive attitude towards reading and learning.

At the beginning of this trimester you will have finished reading your book. I hope you had a lot of pleasure in reading and gaining new information. Now it is time to start working on your final processing task. Please be prepared that you will have to present this last reading challenge in front of your classmates and your teacher. But do not be afraid, this is your processing task, your work you are going to talk about !

So let's have a look at the follow-up activities. There are five activities you can choose from:

▸ **The Book Trailer**

▸ **The Newspaper front page**

▸ **The Graphic Novel**

▸ **A Prezi Book presentation**

▸ **The Poster Project**

We want you to experiment, to use your creative skills, to innovate in order to make ideas and content more interesting. To do so, use a laptop or iPad (or other tablet), apps.

▸ **The Book Trailer**

We are looking for a 21st century visual form of a book report; you are going to use your creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration (if you want to work with a classmate). The purpose of the digital product is just like the purpose of a movie trailer; to make someone want to read the book. It is a great way to get readers engaged with the material you are reading in a modern and creative way. Try to keep your audience in mind: you want your peers to read your chosen book.

There are a number of great resources students can use; including **iMovie**, **Animoto** for Education, **PhotoPeach**. First check whether it's a free version !) *(See the instruction booklet for further information)*

▸ **The Newspaper front page**

During this ReadBox project you are going to become a real news writer. For this project, you will create a newspaper front page that is exclusively dedicated to the book you have read and that captures your book's characters, plot, setting and conflict(s). The front page should look as much like a real newspaper page as possible. Summarise a story, make an advertisement, have a "for sale" section, using the setting and include three fillers (advice column, obituary, weather etc.) Use pictures to support your text. You may use regular-size paper (A4) up to poster size (A3). Write your own headlines, lay out the newspaper (including photos or graphics, as appropriate) and produce a newspaper front page. *(See the instruction booklet for further information)*

▸ **The Graphic Novel**

Why don't you design a cartoon or comic instead of writing a standard book report ? You can create a short cartoon or comic strip summarising the book you have just read. Designing a comic (book) provides an opportunity for you to be creative in the presentation of your writing. This is your chance to create something unique and show your understanding of the book you have read. Choose main scenes for the characters in your book, create landscapes that fit the scenes, and write an effective dialogue. Include main characters from the book as well as the problem and solution. Use **free apps** to create the comic.
(See the instruction booklet for further information)

‣ **The Poster Project**

After you have read your book, you are going to create a poster that advertises your book. Your assignment is to design a sort of 'advertisement' to promote the reading of your book. Think about book posters; they give just enough information to give you a taste of what the book will be about. They also contain information such as the title of the book, the major characters, and a book rating. You can use **Pages** or websites like **Glogster**, or **Canva** to create an interactive, online book poster that acts as an advertisement for the book you have read. You should include the title and author of the book, key characters, use pictures that support the storyline, and create a tag line that will make others want to read your book. *(See the instruction booklet for further information)*

‣ **A Prezi book presentation**

Create a flash-based nonlinear presentation. Prezi is a more enhanced and creative way of sharing knowledge. Rather than a PowerPoint or podcast with a voice-over, the Prezi allows you to experiment with various multi-media tools. It keeps the information flowing in a sequential order.

Have a look at a Welcome to Prezi video on You Tube and convince yourself !

(See the instruction booklet for further information)

Perhaps you have another idea that you would like to try. Share it with me and send me an e-mail: c.sangers@sintjan-lvo.nl .

These assignments are especially designed to make you, the reader, become the creator of a new product. As you create, you become more involved and invested in the processes of reading and comprehension.

These assignments allow you to produce something for an audience, not just the teacher as a class assignment, never to be revisited. Let's utilise technology to inspire reading, writing, and learning beyond the walls of the classroom !

Knock your audience off their feet with a fantastic, interactive multimedia book recommendation !

A three-minute presentation, using just one slide.

And last, but not least. Don't forget, you will have to present your final product to your teacher and your classmates in a three-minute presentation, using just one Keynote slide to support you. Tell us why you have decided on this type of activity to recommend your chosen book to others and how you have achieved this. Also tell us what kind of problems you have encountered and how you solved them.

A three-minute presentation may sound short, but in reality the key message can be expressed in that time frame. So it is possible to give a solid presentation. The key is to use a solid framework for your presentation that gives you room to add or omit information depending on how much time you have left. Do not forget you are the designer of your very own product, you are familiar with the subject !

Questions and Feedback

Please share your feedback with me. Email me at **c.sangers@sintjan-lvo.nl**

After you have finished the ReadBox Project, please fill in the evaluation form.
(Evaluation - Appendix VII)