**Independent Novel Project**

Reading gives us an opportunity to explore worlds outside of our own, to empathize with characters whose stories differ greatly from our own and to see reflections of ourselves in the words of an author. Basically, reading is awesome. It’s also an invaluable skill to master, to best prepare you for your future education, careers and beyond. Because I believe so strongly in the ability to make choices for yourselves, your independent reading books will always be self-selected.

In order to get an “A” in this course, you’ll need read and review three books per quarter (6 per semester). Completion of this project each quarter will bump your grade up to the nearest letter.

In order to demonstrate that you’ve completed your novels you will need to write a 5 paragraph book review, and upload it to an online plagiarism checking website, after each book you complete.

**Requirements:**

1. Introduction:
   * major characters
   * author and title of novel
   * Basic summary of major plot points
   * Overall opinion of novel
2. Favorite character and selected quotes
   * MEL-Con style paragraph utilizing selected textual examples (including MLA citations) to reveal characterization
3. Recommended Audience (Who should read this book?)
   * MEL-Con style paragraph explaining who would most enjoy or need to read this novel and why you feel it is appropriate for that audience.
4. Conclusion: Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not?

As part of our routine we will integrate about an hour of independent reading time in class each week. Bring your book to class every day.

**Upload first 3 Book Reviews to turnitin.com (before October 30th)**

**Upload second 3 Book Reviews to turnitin.com (before January 15th)**

**My class ID #:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**My class password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**