

# ***MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER LITERATURE PROJECT***

## *The Jackdaw*

Over the summer, we expect that you'll be reading a variety of books of your own choosing. Perhaps there is a particular author or genre that you especially enjoy that summer vacation allows you the leisure to pursue. We hope this will be the case. Your task then is to choose your favorite book from your summer reading and to do the following Jackdaw activity to share with the rest of the class during the first week of school.

**THE JACKDAW:** A jackdaw is a black and gray bird of Eurasia and northern Africa that is related to but smaller than the common crow. Jackdaws have a reputation for being clever and bold and for being collectors of things (especially shiny objects) that they hoard in their nests. This characteristic of jackdaws as collectors of things provides the background for our literature project.

**I. ARTIFACTS:** Find at least seven artifacts (objects) that are in some way related to the book you read. The artifacts can just be things you have around the house; you shouldn't need to buy anything. The artifacts should have significance to the book either *literally* or *figuratively/symbolically*.

If you read a book in which the main character is a baseball player, perhaps you'd decide to include a baseball glove; that's an example of an artifact with literal significance.

If your book has a character that is gravely ill, perhaps you'd include an artifact that somehow represents the character's mortality. That would be an example of an artifact with a figurative or symbolic significance.

Have fun with the collection of artifacts. As you go about looking for artifacts and making decisions about what to include, you'll be engaging in a process of critical thinking and interpretation. Think deeply, take risks and **be prepared to justify why you included the artifacts you did**. Include your justifications in writing to help support your oral presentation.

**II. CONTAINER:** Bring your artifacts in a container that itself **has significance** to your book.

**III. CREATIVE EXTENSIONS:** *(Please choose at least one)*

- Write the preceding, next, or "missing" chapter...
- Write a poem or series of poems that in some way reflect the book...
- Write a book review that evaluates the book, recommending it or not...
- Write a letter to the author in which you offer your thoughts on the book...
- Create an illustration or series of illustrations inspired by the book...
- Create a Google Slides presentation featuring illustrations and written summary/analysis...
- Create a musical composition in some way inspired by the book with written explanation...
- Create some other artistic expression of the book (including written explanation)...

**IV. ORAL PRESENTATION:** Be prepared to make a three-to-five minute presentation of your Jackdaw using the artifacts as a way to guide your presentation and share your choice(s) of creative extensions. Remember, provide justifications for each artifact in writing.

**DUE: Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**