

# BOOKMARKS

Reading Log #4 is actually a set of four bookmarks. Students will have to create several bookmarks for a novel or to represent 250 pages of reading. The front of each bookmark will be similar, but the back of the bookmark will be different in its focus. Each bookmark needs to contain the number of pages read in the novel. The size of the bookmarks is irrelevant, but they should look proportionately like a bookmark. The best advice I can give is to fold an 8.5 x 11 piece of paper in half lengthwise and “voila” you have what resembles a bookmark.



The front of each bookmark is a variance on a cover. The front needs to contain the author, and title. That will not differ for the four bookmarks. What will differ on the front is the image and tag line used. Each of the four bookmarks must contain a unique and original image(s) and tag line for the novel. Images and tag lines cannot be subtle variations of an actual cover. Students can use a significant scene from the plot, a character, the setting, etc.

Tag lines are catchy, enticing short phrases used by marketers to advertise and sell a book, movie, etc. (create “buzz”), and to sum up the plot, tone or themes of a literary or cinematic work. In 2008, according to [www.taglineguru.com](http://www.taglineguru.com) in its polling resulting in the Top 100 American Movie Taglines, [Alien \(1979\)](#) was at the pinnacle of their list: “In space, no one can hear you scream.”

The back of the bookmarks include the literary “basics”, back jacket teaser paragraphs, a significant character, and one of student choice.

The back of bookmark #1 is a summary of the novel. Students need to include the setting (time, place, and significant weather [if there is any]), characters (protagonists, antagonists, and “others”), plot (including aspects of the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution). The plot summary should be eight to ten good sentences.



The back of bookmark #2 is comparable to the book’s back cover/jacket. Students need to write two (or more) teaser paragraphs for the novel. Teaser paragraphs on a back cover provide text or a teaser that gives a hint of the story in an attractive way. Students should summarize the most important part of the plot. They can include the names of important characters, briefly describe the setting and/or identify the main conflict of the plot. Don’t spoil the ending or major plot twists for the reader. Limit your initial word count to 50 words. Include a detail that gives away something suspenseful, mysterious or intriguing about the plot. Whet the reader’s appetite for the book by hinting at a scandal, unique twist or original conflict included in the plot. Ask yourself, “What makes this story different from others in this genre?”

As an extra, but it is not required, students can include “created” quotes and those who made the quote for the novel to include with the teaser paragraphs.

The back of bookmark #3 focuses on a significant character from the novel. Students need to include the character’s name, a sketch/collage of the character, a biography (minimum one paragraph), and at least two meaningful quotes from the character (including page number).



The sketch/collage needs to visually represent the chosen character. It can be a literal, metaphorical, or symbolic depiction of the chosen character. Those who have the gift of visual artistry can create an original portrayal of the character through pencil, pen, marker (do not let it bleed through), or brush. Those of us, including myself, who continue to struggle with stick figures should focus on making a collaged representation of the character. Use the eyes, nose, lips, ears, etc from different images to create a collaged character.

A character biography should at the very least contain a physical description of the character. It also should contain some details of the character’s life. In addition to the physical and factual information, it should also contain aspects of the character’s personality and how he or she feels about his or her life or situation. Some of the information can be culled directly from the text, other information might be an inference or extension of the reading.



The back of bookmark #4 is up to the student. They have a choice. It could be a diary entry from a character, a newspaper article based on the book, an interview with the author/character, etc. The choice should represent time, effort, and a basic understanding of the novel.

The bookmarks are due at the beginning of class on Tuesday (12/4). I recommended to the students that they create rough five minute drafts of each bookmark before finalizing—a draft of bookmark #1 for last Thursday (11/29), bookmark #2 (11/30), etc. Bookmarks should be edited and revised. They should not be first drafts.