

Grade 7 Language Arts
Mrs. Nockowitz

Literature Letters

KEEP THIS SHEET! You will refer to it throughout the school year as you write lit letters to me each quarter.

Literature letters are friendly letters that you will write to me which will only be read by me. In the letter, you will discuss the book you are reading independently. You do not have to be finished with a book to write a lit letter about it. It's okay to be in the middle of it. You cannot write a lit letter about a book that you haven't started yet or that you have just started. You should be at least 1/3 of the way through the book to write about it.

I expect the letters to be substantial, thoughtful, and focused on the qualities of the book and your thoughts about it.

Follow this format for all of your lit letters this year:

1. Greet me at the beginning of the letter. (Dear Mrs. Nockowitz,)
2. In your first paragraph, identify your book (italicize the title), author, genre, and indicate where you are in the course of reading it. Also tell how you came to read this book (recommendation from a friend, picked it up because the cover looked cool, etc.).
3. In the second paragraph, tell me the setting of the novel (time and place) and describe the central characters and conflict(s) they face. Tell a little about the plot here, but don't give a looooong synopsis!
4. In the third paragraph, copy a passage that you find particularly interesting or well written. Explain why you chose it and what your reaction to it is. Be sure to give the page number. Do not copy a two page passage from your book! Just a sentence or two is enough!
5. In a short concluding paragraph, discuss your overall reaction to the book so far. Tell me how your reading is going and what I might do to help.

6. Close your letter with “Sincerely,” and your full name. If you sign your name be sure to write it out as well so I can identify you!

Special Circumstances (or, What do I do if...?):

IF you are reading a work of nonfiction, you can still answer almost all of the above questions. Instead of describing characters and settings, tell me what the book is about in full. You can still find a passage that you find interesting or well written, even in a piece of nonfiction.

IF you do not/did not like the book, you should not spend the whole lit letter trashing it. Answer all of the questions as given EXCEPT instead of telling about a passage you like, tell about one you DON'T like, one that exemplifies why you do not like the book, and thoroughly explain why you don't like it.