

BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY



BVU

THE IVY LEAGUE FOR READERS

B.V.U.

Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

You should be reading A.R. books in your reading level for Book Club. Most of the books in your class are automatically approved. For others, you need to check with your teacher first. Projects are explained in your projects packet and/or by your classroom teacher. Each student should complete **four letters, two projects**, one biography presentation, and one poetry presentation to earn your **required** minimum Bachelor's Degree. You need to complete and pass the A.R. test with a 70% or above for the book before you complete the letter of project. You cannot use graphic novels for Book Club.

| Title of Book | Month | Genre | Letter or Project |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Sept. | Realistic Fiction | Letter |
| | Oct. | Adventure/ Mystery | Letter Project |
| | Nov./Dec. | Poetry | Poetry Presentation |
| | Jan. | Nonfiction Historical Event | Letter Project |
| | Feb. | Biography | Biography Presentation |
| | March | Sci Fi or Fantasy | Letter Project |
| | April | Nonfiction- Informational | Project |
| | May | Historical Fiction | Letter Project |



Buena Vista University

The Ivy League for Readers

- Below you will find an overview of how this independent reading program works:
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- Students will choose their own books, at their own reading level in different genres to read. Books can come from home, our class library, our school library, or the public library.
- Students will need to read their particular book in class and at home each day.
- On their assigned day, they will meet with the other members of their Book Club to share letters and/or projects.
- Book Clubs meets approximately once a month. Each student will be provided two schedules to keep one in their binder and one at home.
- By reading and completing projects and letters after finishing their books, students are working their way toward their Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees. They will be recognized at the award's assembly at the end of the year.
- Of course, they also accumulate points that make up part of their reading/language arts grade, at the end of each trimester.
- See attached packet for more information regarding Buena Vista University and Book Club.

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WRITING YOUR BOOK CLUB LETTER

Answer these questions in your letter.

* You should have 8 paragraphs total

- 1. What is the title of your book? The Author? How many pages are in the book? What is the genre of the book? (see genre list)
- 2. What is the setting of this book (place and time)? Tell us if you learned any new historical information from reading this book.
- 3. Why did you choose this book? (a friend's suggestion, teacher, first paragraph, back cover description, author, genre, B.V.U degree, etc.)
- 4. In no more than one paragraph (3-4 sentences) tell us briefly what the book is about. (who, where, when, what, how)

Now, choose any **FOUR** of these sentence starters and finish the statements with a paragraph or more of explanation.

1. A really interesting character is _____. I would describe him or her as _____ because _____ (give some examples from the book). I (would or wouldn't) like this person as a friend because _____.
2. A character who changes in this book is _____. In the beginning, s/he is _____. Later, this character becomes _____ (give examples from the book).
3. One part of the book was very _____ (exciting, sad, heartfelt, suspenseful, interesting, hopeful, mysterious, etc.). In this part, _____ (describe what happened).
4. I learned something about people or life from this book. I learned _____ (tell what you learned and why).
5. I would have done something different than the character _____. This character (tell what s/he does). Not me! I would have _____.
6. One main theme of this book is _____. Here is an example of this theme: _____.
7. I would rate this book a _____ (between 1 and 10) because _____ (what is your opinion of the plot, author's style, the interest, etc. Give a review of the book.)

8. One situation in this book is similar to something that has happened to me before. (tell about the situation or event and compare and or contrast it to your real life situation.)
9. A good idea for a sequel or part II to this book would be _____
_____ (describe your idea.)
10. Some favorite quotes I have from this book are _____
_____ (share a few quotes or lines and explain why you liked them and what they mean.)
11. My book takes place during a different time period. (tell the year or historical period that it takes place.) Some evidence in the setting of this book that helped me figure out the time period was _____
_____ (ex. horse and buggies tell that this story took place before cars.....) I would have/have not liked to live during this time period because_____.(explain with strong reasons.)
12. The author of this book was very good at several writing techniques such as _____ (give examples of how the author used good writing techniques such as, similes, metaphors, alliteration, symbolism, show-not-tell description, foreshadowing, suspense.....) These writing techniques made the story more interesting because_____.
13. If I could change something about this book it would be _____
_____ because _____.

Another idea page for book club letters

use this
to help you
write a four
paragraph update
letter to bring to
Book Club.

Joni Chamber SCWRIP

Questions for Response: Book Club

After finishing your book, write us a letter in which you describe:

1. What is the title/author/genre/setting/number of pages?
2. Why did you choose this book?
3. Briefly, what is the book about? Who are the characters? What are they like? How do they change?
4. Why might someone else want to read this book?
5. Did it remind you of other books you've read?
6. What is your overall feeling about this book?
7. What will you remember the most about this book?
8. Did you learn anything from this book? What?
9. Write down favorite quotes from the book.
10. Favorite part of the book:
11. Easy? Difficult? Challenging?

B.V.U.

Requirements for the Master's Degree

Dear Graduate Student,

We are pleased that you have decided to work towards completing your **Master's Degree**. Your success in finishing your Bachelor's Degree proves that you are a skillful and hardworking student! **Here are the requirements for the Master's Degree:**

| Title of Book | Genre | Letter or Project |
|----------------------|--------------|--|
| | Information | Information project of choice |
| | | Author (2 Books) or Topic Study (3 books) and Thesis |
| | | |
| | | |

Master's Degree Thesis Information

Author Study: To complete an author study, you need to read two books by an author of your choice. (Make sure you have your teacher's approval). Then you will write an essay (your thesis) about the work of this author. Write at least one paragraph answering each of these questions or question clusters:

Paragraph #1: Who is the author you have chosen for your thesis? Why did you choose this author? Can you share some interesting details about the author's life?

Paragraph #2: What are the names of the two books you have chosen? What genre are each of the two books? How many pages long are each of the books?

Paragraphs #3 and #4: Write a one paragraph summary of each of the two books.

Paragraphs #5: Compare the settings of the two books. Are they similar or different? How? Why?

Paragraph #6: Compare the main character(s) in the two books. Are they alike or different? How? Who is your favorite character? Why? Describe at least two other interesting characters in the book.

Paragraph #7: What are the themes of the books? Are they similar or different? How? Why?

Paragraph #8: What about the author's style. Does he/she write in a similar style in each book? How would you describe it? Has he/she incorporated his/her own life experiences in the stories?

Paragraph #9: Which of the books is your favorite? Why? Write at least 3 sentences telling why you liked this book the best.

Paragraph #10: If you could challenge this author, what would you tell him/her?

Paragraph #11: Compliments for the author! What strengths did the author demonstrate in these books? Language? Humor? Characters? Plot? Suspense? Action? Emotion? Be specific and give examples from the books.

Topic Study for the Master's Degree:

If you choose to do a topic study, you need to find **three** books that are related to the same topic. One might be a fiction book and one might be non-fiction (information or biography). For example, you could read an accurate account of the sinking of the Titanic and then *S.O.S. Titanic* (fiction) and *Titanic Crossing* (fiction). You are required to choose at least one fiction book (chapter book) and one non-fiction book for your topic study. The third book can be a fiction chapter book, an information book, or a special picture book. Your teacher will be a very helpful person to consult if you choose to complete a Topic Study for your thesis. After reading your books, write an essay answering these questions:

Paragraph #1: What is the topic of your study? Why did you choose this topic?

Paragraph #2: Which books did you choose? Why did you choose them? What is the genre of the books? Who are the authors?

Paragraph #3: Start with the first book you read. If it was non-fiction, what was the most interesting information? If it was fiction, what did you learn about this topic from the point of view or experience of the characters? (In other words, what was it like in their experience? How did you feel when you read about their lives?) What questions did you have about the topic, or what did you want to know more about?

Paragraph #4: What about the second book? If it was non-fiction, what was the most interesting new information? If it was fiction, what did you learn about this topic from the point of view or experience of the characters? (In other words, what was it like in their experience? How did you feel when you read about their lives?) What questions did you still have about the topic?

Paragraph #5: What about the third book? If it was non-fiction, what was the most interesting new information? If it was fiction, what did you learn about this topic from the point of view or experience of the characters? (In other words, what was it like in their experience? How did you feel when you read about their lives?)

Paragraph #6: Did you have a favorite book of the three? Which one? Why did you choose this book? What made it stand out over the other two? If you liked them all the same, what was interesting or enjoyable about each one?

Paragraph #7: How did reading three different books help you to learn more about your topic? What did each perspective contribute to your knowledge and enjoyment?

Paragraph #8: What are your feelings about this topic? Share your responses and reactions.

Use your neatest cursive. Edit and spell carefully!

J. Chancer 2000

B.V.U.

Requirements for the Doctorate Degree

Congratulations on making it this far in your literary career!

You are clearly an exceptional reader and student. This final step in our university program may be the most interesting so far!

There are two parts to completing this advanced degree:

1) The dissertation (2 choices)

A) Theme study on three books

or

B) U.S. History Mini-Passport using 4 books on U.S. History

2) “Myself as a Reader” letter to your teacher

Theme Study

Select **three** books that share a common theme. See the list in your projects packet of possible themes. Many books have more than one theme, so you have a lot of flexibility in choosing just the right books for this study. Once you choose your three books, you will need to get approval from your graduate advisor (teacher). After your three books have been selected and read, you will follow the essay instructions for the theme study listed on the following page.

U.S. History Mini-Passport

Select four books about U.S. history. Once you have selected your four books, you will need to get approval from your graduate advisor. Once your four books have been selected and read, you will need to complete a United States History Table for each of the four books. The United States History Tables are provided in the back of this packet.

After you have completed either the theme study or the U.S. History Passport, you will need to complete the final assignment, “Myself as a Reader” reflective letter. Please follow the guidelines listed on the last page of this packet.

B.V.U.

Requirements for the Doctorate Degree

1. Choose ONE option:

(A) Theme Study

| Title of Book | Theme | Dissertation |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|
| | | One Essay for all 3 books |
| | | |
| | | |

OR

(B) U.S. History Mini-Passport

| Title of Book | U.S. History Table |
|---------------|--------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

2. "Myself as a Reader"

| "Myself as a Reader" | Teacher Signature: |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| | |

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE THEME STUDY

Paragraph #1: What is the theme you have chosen? Who is your advisor? Describe how you made your decision regarding which books to read for this study. What are the three books and their authors?

Paragraphs #2, 3, 4: Write a paragraph about each of the main characters, giving descriptions of what they were like (looked like, acted like, thought, etc.) Be sure and mention the book each character appeared in.

Paragraph #5 (this may take several paragraphs): Were the characters alike or different? How were they alike or different? Do you think they would have been friends? Why or why not? Which character did you like the best? Why? Did any of the characters have things in common with you? Which ones?

Paragraphs #6, 7, 8: Describe the settings in each of the three books. Be sure and tell me if the setting was important to the theme of the book or the plot.

Paragraphs #9, 10, 11: What were the problems in each of the books? Were they solved?

Paragraphs #12, 13, 14: What was your favorite scene in each of the three books? Write a paragraph for each book.

Paragraph #15: Compare the writing styles of the three authors. Were they alike or different? How? Which style did you prefer? Why? Which book was your favorite? Why?

Paragraph #16: Did you like reading three books about the same theme? Why or why not?

Last Paragraph! What did you learn from reading these three books about life? What lessons did the authors and characters teach you?

J Chancer 2000

United States History Table

Name _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Time Period: _____

Genre: _____

Setting: _____

Summary: (Somebody...Wants...But...So)

List **FACTS** about the United States that your book is based upon:

Draw a picture about the most important thing you learned.

List and define three new vocabulary words.

1)

2)

3)

This example would be for California history.....

Example: 15 examples from *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

1. Russians trapped otters to make money.
2. Otter skins were valuable.
3. Foreigners traded with the Native Americans.
4. The Native Americans were sometimes taken advantage of by the Europeans.
5. Native Americans gathered roots for food.
6. Native Americans used natural resources like shells, sinew, fur, teeth, and grasses for tools and weapons.
7. Native Americans had special customs (like not sharing a secret name).
8. The Chumash people traveled in canoes.
9. Missionaries took the native Americans to missions and made them wear different clothing and eat different foods.
10. There were California Indians living on the Channel Islands.
11. Men and women were given different tasks.
12. Many Native Americans died when they were attacked with guns and other examples of more modern warfare and technology (like cannons).
13. The Chumash ate abalone and fish.
14. There really WAS a woman who lived alone on San Nicolas Island (her name was Juana Maria)!
15. The Native Americans needed to have a supply of fresh water in order to live in any location.

"MYSELF AS A READER"

REFLECTIVE LETTER

This is your last step toward earning your doctorate degree! You have read many books this year (and throughout your life). This is time to think about your reading and to reflect on your accomplishments. Please write a letter to me, your teacher, answering these questions:

1. Why do you think reading is important? How will it help you?
2. Why do you think reading is enjoyable? What is fun about reading?
3. What can be difficult or challenging about reading?
4. What makes a book a GOOD book? What do you look for in your favorite books?
5. What have been several of your favorite books? Why do they stand out in your memory? (At least a sentence about each book).
6. Who are your favorite authors? Why? (At least one sentence for each author).
7. What makes a person a "good" reader? Why are you a "good" reader?
8. What are your reading goals for the future?
9. Finally, how do you feel about completing your doctorate degree?