

English 4 Shakespeare
Summer Reading
Something Rotten by Alan Gratz

Directions: Pick a project to demonstrate your understanding of *Something Rotten*. Bring this completed project with you on the first day of class. This book is more than just Summer Reading. It will be used during the unit on the play *Hamlet* as it relates to it very closely. The book needs to be purchased and will be brought to class during the unit in addition to the Summer Reading Project.

Project Choices

1. Soundtrack:

Create a soundtrack for the novel. Each soundtrack must have a created playlist on a slide presentation with links to the songs. Songs must be school appropriate. You must have a minimum of 10 songs, and each must be tied to a specific moment in the text. For each song, include a typed explanation (3-5 sentences) of what moment from the novel your song corresponds with and why you chose it. Your soundtrack, of course, should be original; in other words, if a soundtrack for the book (or the movie) exists already, do NOT use it as your project.

2. Alternate ending:

Rewrite the ending. If you were unhappy with the way the book ended, this is your opportunity to change it. You will start with a specific line from the book, and continue writing from there, taking on the point of view of the narrator. (Do not explain how you would change the ending, but instead write it as if you are the author.) This option should be typed and at least 3-5 pages double-spaced in a 12-point size font.

3. Sequel:

Write a sequel to the novel. Predict what happens next and write a short story in the same style as the novel (for example, if your novel is written from a particular character's point of view, write your story from that character's point of view). Your story should be at least 3-5 double-spaced pages in a 12-point size font.

4. Comic book/ Graphic novel:

Create a comic book based on the novel you read. It should have an illustrated cover with the title and author and be comic book size (5 or more pages). Inside, retell the story with illustrations of the most important characters and elements of the plot. Include dialogue directly from the book.

5. Scrapbook:

Create a scrapbook for one of the characters that reflect the important events that have occurred involving the character throughout the novel. You may include photos, postcards, letters, souvenirs—anything that might be found in a scrapbook. For each item, include a brief explanation (2 or more sentences) of how the item is significant to the character.

6. Poem:

Write an original poem based on the reading. The poem should contain at least 20 lines and should include: figurative language, imagery, repetition, and a specific structure – rhyme, stanzas, rhythm, or meter. Include a visual to support the theme of your poem.

7. Scene/ News Report:

Film an important scene from the novel. Your video should be about 2- 3 minutes long. It should capture the mood of the scene, and it should portray the characters, plot, and setting as accurately as possible. OR write a news story about the major events in the novel and film a “live” broadcast of the story. Dress the part!

8. Interview:

Imagine that a character from your book is being interviewed about the events of the book, and create a script depicting this interview. The interviewer should ask questions about the times before and after the book takes place as well as questions about your character's response to the main events of the book and to the other characters. Your interview should be typed and at least 3 pages double-spaced in a 12-point size font.

9. Art Symbol:

Create a piece of art (sculpture, diorama, painting, etc.) that represents the book metaphorically through a symbol(s) you create. This should NOT recap the plot or depict a scene from the book, but instead should creatively and artistically demonstrate an abstract theme or character of the book through the symbol(s) illustrated.

Students must bring their books with highlighting, annotations and projects on the first day of class!