

Summer Reading Book Bento

A Visual Literary Analysis Assignment

This project takes its inspiration from a bento box. A bento box is a reusable Japanese-style lunch box that typically holds a single portion meal consisting of a main dish and some sides.



Book Bentos are visual representations (one flat lay photo composed of tangible objects with a carefully chosen background) that reflect actual parts of the story, conveying themes, characters, conflicts, etc. that are developed throughout the course of the story. They inspire creativity through the use of photography and design while exhibiting comprehension, interpretations, and analysis of a book.

Task:

You will need to create a Book Bento for your summer reading choice book. This project has two parts, a visual part (a photo of tangible objects and an appropriate background that reflects your book) and a written part (a book review, followed by an explanation of the items/background and choices in your photo as well as textual quotes that connect to your objects). You will upload your photo onto a Google doc and your written explanations underneath. Requirements are listed on the following page. **Examples are showcased on the third page of this document. This assignment is due the Friday of the first week of school.**

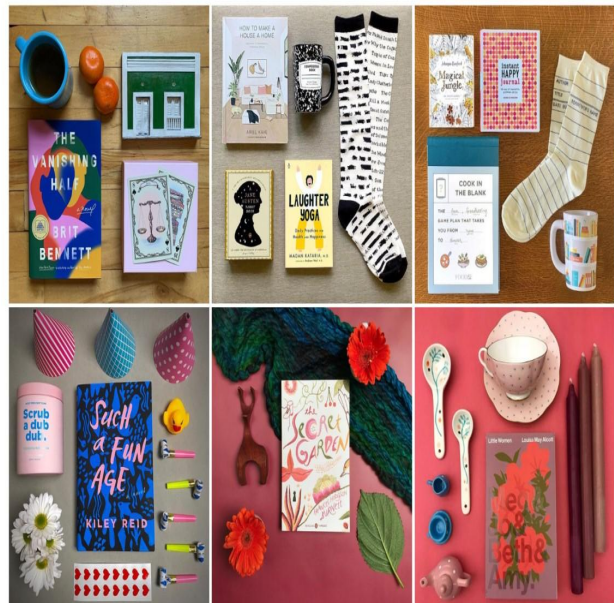


Photo Requirements:

- You will be taking **one** photo as a representation of your summer reading.
 - One Flat lay photo
 - No glare or shadows
 - Uses a consistent color palette
 - Keeps straight, geometric lines and spacing (Bento style)
 - Includes selected book
 - Uses 5-6 objects (must be actual **tangible** objects) that clearly represent the book
 - Uses a background that relates to the book

Written Requirements:

- Book Review
 - A concise plot summary of the book **without** spoilers.
 - Your evaluation of the work and why.
 - Your recommendation to the audience and why.
- Object/background Explanation
 - Explain why each item was selected
 - Explain how each item ties into your novel of choice
 - Cite textual quotes (from the book) to support your connections.
 - Be sure your objects connect to something significant to the book: setting, themes, figurative language, conflicts, characterization, etc. (no plot).
 - The paragraphs need to be mechanically correct

There are examples beginning on the next page.



"...In the right corner is an open journal to represent Johnathan Harker's journal that he kept while he was at Count Dracula's castle as well as Mina's diary. Both of these are important because the majority of the book is told through both of their private writings. On the very bottom of the picture there is an old looking scrap of paper that says "Death is all we can highly depend upon." This is a direct quote from the book that I decided to include because I thought it fit very well into the theme of the novel and it was a quote that stuck out to me immediately while reading..."



"...I chose the black and white background because Trevor Noah was mixed race. His mom was Black and his father was white. This may not seem significant, however, he grew up in South Africa during the time of racial segregation called apartheid. It was illegal for the different races to engage in sexual relationships. Since he was a result of one of these illegal relationships, he was discriminated against and never felt like he belonged. He was stuck in the middle of the two cultures and traditions, just as he is in this picture....Lastly, I chose a mood and color-changing stone. With different amounts of heat, it is able to change colors. Trevor knew a lot of languages so was able to communicate with a wide variety of people. He was able to adapt to different circumstances just like the rock. Through his multilingualism, he was able to change others' perceptions of him. When he spoke the same language as some of the blacks at school, they opened up to him. He adapted and started speaking a different language to blend in with a group of people who did not look exactly like him. His flexibility helped him succeed...."



“...Bear patches: This book bento displays three bear patches, similar to the patches of a bear on the Beartown hockey jerseys. The bear itself is a common symbol of ferocious courage. In the small town, getting to wear this patch signifies that you are a part of the hockey program, and you are to be loyal to your fellow bears – no matter the situation. This pack mentality serves as another stepping stone into the difficulty that Maya and her family go through when revealing the truth...”