Common Place Assignment

# April Morning by Howard Fast or Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

The Commonplace book collects in one place knowledge and insights a person learns through reading. Commonplace books have been used for thousands of years by readers across the globe to record, remember, and reflect on their reading experiences. Commonplace Books include written comments and notes from the reader; Commonplace books can include diagrams, illustrations, images, portraits…any number of creative and analytical ways to express yourself; Commonplace Books can even be indexed so that the reader can group important themes, topics or authors if he or she chooses.

Above all, your Commonplace Book will serve as a highly personal account of what you have read, why you have read it, and what you think about what you have read.

Here are some simple guidelines for starting your Commonplace Book:

Select important phrases, lines and/or passages from the book you read and write them down in the Commonplace Book; comment on what you have written down; if you are so inclined, draw a picture or paste an image into the Commonplace Book and add a written commentary to explain how your visual image engages what you have read. Your Commonplace Book will be collected on ***October 31st***.

Commit yourself to recording the full range of what you have read and why. Above all else, enjoy the process. Students who’s Commonplace Books demonstrate a sustained, lively engagement with an array of texts will be evaluated most highly.

Your Commonplace Book will be assessed using a unique rubric. It is a creative assignment intended to develop your critical engagement with reading and writing in positive but perhaps non-traditional ways.

Assignment Rubric:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not Acceptable | Acceptable | Strong |  |
| Didn’t finish the entire book and turned in late. The grade will be less than a 60%. | Finished the entire book and turned in by due date. The student did not utilize class time wisely and could have focused more on the project. 60-80% | The student completed the entire book and turned in the project on or before the due date. The student worked on the project in class rather than being a distraction to others. 80-100% |  |
| Contains little or no artwork or pictures. | Contains a decorated front and back cover. Has adequate illustrations and pictures. | Contains creative, thoughtful, and meaningful art work on the front and back cover and throughout the book. | Images: Front and back cover must be decorated. Artwork and stickers must be strategically placed throughout the book. |
| Contains few real connections, insights, or discoveries. The insights are not explained with a response. | Contains a fair amount of discoveries, insights, and connections, but it is obviously not the student’s best effort and was completed hastily rather than diligently while in class. | Loaded with connections, insights, and discoveries! It is obvious the student gave this project their best effort. | Discoveries, insights, connections: You are having a conversation with the text. What are your ah-ha moments? What confuses you? What intrigues you? What made you think? Feel? |

Supplies: Sticky Notes (these are going to be VERY useful!) Colored Pencils, highlighters, tabs, Blooms question stems, fearlessness!