

## **Guidelines for Portfolio Book Report**

Prepared by Scott Greene

Each Semester you will be required to submit a book report in essay form. You will then submit the report to your writing teacher as one of your writing assignments.

**First**, choose a book that you want to give the report on. It can be a book you've already read or a new one. **Second**, write a rough draft. Hand your rough draft in to me by week 10. Your rough draft can be handwritten or typed. Always, **double space** your rough draft as it is easier for me to make corrections. Your final draft can be either single spaced or double spaced. **Third**, I will proofread and make corrections to your rough draft and give it back to you. **Fourth**, rewrite your rough draft and resubmit it to me as a final draft. Then, give it to me to okay and sign. Your final draft must be typed. Remember the **title of the book** should always be *italicized* or underlined. **Fifth**, hand it in to your writing teacher by week 12.

**Your book report should begin with an introductory paragraph**. This paragraph should introduce the book. That is, tell what it is about, who the main characters are and who the author is. **The body of the book report should be one or two paragraphs long**. In this part you should summarize the story. **The last paragraph should be your conclusion. In the conclusion, you should say what you liked or didn't like about the book.**

The above sentences are single spaced. Below is an example of double spacing and an italicized title. Notice that the first line is indented.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was written by Samuel Clemons (better known as Mark Twain).

It was first published in 1876 and soon became an American classic. It shows the child that we all want to be: free adventuresome, moral and intelligent. Tom Sawyer Becky Thatcher and Huckleberry Finn are the book's main characters. It relates a tale of curiosity filled youths that has a happy ending.

Below is a sample book report that I wrote about *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Use it as an example to help you write your book report.

Scott Greene K201234  
Reading and Discussion  
Professor Tom Jones  
July 10th, 2009

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was written by Samuel Clemens (better known as Mark Twain).

It was first published in 1876 and soon became an American classic. It shows the child that we all want to be: free, adventuresome, moral and intelligent. Tom Sawyer, Becky Thatcher and Huckleberry Finn are the book's main characters. It relates a tale of curiosity filled youths that has a happy ending.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* takes place in the Mississippi River town of Hannibal Missouri. Tom and his best friend Huck Finn are happy go lucky youths who like to play hooky and go fishing. One day at school a new girl, Becky Thatcher, arrives and Tom is instantly smitten. He gives her an old doorknob as a sign of his affection and tries to impress her with his antics.

Tom and Huck sneak out one night and witness a murder by Injun Joe that is blamed on his partner in crime, Muff Potter. Tom and Huck swear to keep silent, but later Tom daringly testifies about what he saw and Muff Potter is freed. Later Tom and Huck discover that Injun Joe and his partner have buried some treasure and plan to do one more job before taking off for Texas. While on a picnic, Tom and Becky explore some caves and become lost. They discover Injun Joe hiding there. Tom and Becky escape and Becky's father has the cave sealed up. Days later Tom tells them about Injun Joe and the townspeople go in to find he has starved to death. Tom and Huck show where the money is hidden and become rich young heroes.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is a great book. It is never boring as there is always something happening to keep your attention. I also enjoyed the book because it reminds me of my own boyhood and the excitement of youth. I'd like to think there is still a little bit of Tom Sawyer in all of us.