

# Literature Response Ideas

Before picking one of these ideas and simply running with it, ask yourself which of the following items (if any) would be the best to represent the book you read. While one project might be good for one book, it might be a terrible idea for another.

Remember: **Be careful when you are choosing.**

Make sure that your project has something important to do with the book's storyline and is relevant; after all, simply passing out pieces of gum to the class because the main character chewed gum once in the book isn't a very good project, is it? Sure, it's delicious, but it isn't a very good representation of what the book is about or anything, is it?

Try to think of a **BIG IDEA** in the book. Something that, if you were to take it out of the story, then the story would make no sense—in other words, something that is **absolutely vital** to the storyline or something **super important**.

Try to make your project interesting. Remember, if your project is boring, if it does not make sense, or if it is total lame sauce, you are not going to keep your audience's attention **AND** you won't be doing your author any favors...remember, you want people to **WANT** to read the book you're presenting, right?

Think about the project you pick before you select it, and remember...the project that might be the best one for your book might not even be on this list; therefore, don't be afraid to branch out...ask a parent or friend to help you if you can't seem to come up with an idea that quite works. You know what? You just might surprise yourself with your own awesomeness.

1. Rewrite a portion of the novel as a play and perform it for the class with your friends.
2. Write and perform a TV commercial to sell the book (it could be live or on video).
3. Create some type of video newscast or “talk show” interviewing characters from the book.
4. Research and prepare a report on the author’s life. Put together a display of other books the author has written and tell about them.
5. Write and record a radio advertisement that will make people want to read the story.
6. Make a large, colorful, pictorial time line of the story.
7. Draw a movie poster advertising the story, and cast a real actor (or you and your friends) in each character's role.
8. Make maps or areas told about in the story.
9. Demonstrate how to make or do something from a “how-to” book and bring something to class to show made from it.
10. Dress as a character from the story and tell what role s/he played.
11. Prepare a monologue from a story and perform it for the class.
12. Write a letter recommending a book to a friend or librarian. (Use correct letter format!)
13. Make a list of new, unusual, and interesting words and expressions to share with others (using them in context – at least 15 words).
14. Decide if your story could really happen – share sections to prove your point.
15. List compound words or words with prefixes, suffixes and define them. (At least 30 words from the story).
16. Choose four pages and make a list of all the capitalized words and tell why they are capitalized.
17. Create a newspaper page for one of the novels. Summarize the plot in one of your articles. Cover the weather in another. Include an editorial and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the novel. Summarize the plot by creating a cartoon version of the novel (Use about six to eight frames) and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story. Write a “Dear Abbey” column for a few of the characters in your story – respond to their problems.
18. Move the setting of the story by changing the time and the place. What would the novel be like now?
19. Rewrite a chapter or section of your novel from another character’s point of view.
20. Why did the author write this particular story? Do some research and find out. Write what you learned.
21. You have become a character in one of the novels. Describe your experience during a conflict.
22. Write a poem about one of the novels. Touch on characters, setting, plot, and theme.
23. Choose a familiar melody, such as Mary Had a Little Lamb, and change the lyrics so they pertain to the novel.

24. Redesign the front and back cover of your novel. Include the pertinent information as well as a blurb on the back.
25. Write and perform a play based on the story.
26. Make a timeline of the events of the story. Explain them.
27. Make a time capsule for one of the characters. Explain what is in the capsule and why these items are important.
28. Compare and contrast one of your novels with another that you have read for class this year or last. Remember to include how the novels are alike AND how they are different (you could use a Venn Diagram for part of this one).
29. Develop an award for your novel. Explain the criteria for the award and why this particular book was selected to receive it. A good place to start this project is by reading about the Newberry and Caldecott awards. Notice, too, the other awards particular books have been given. Design the award on a "cover" of the book. What award would you nominate this story for? Most exciting? Most likely to make you laugh your head off?
30. Create a diorama for your novel that depicts the most important scene. Write a summary of this scene, explaining its role in the storyline.
31. Design a story map for your novel. Include important information such as characters, setting, and the plot. Write a brief explanation of your map.
32. Pretend you are a character in the book and write 3 diary entries about 3 of the most important events. (Must be ½ page each)
33. Make a comic book based on the book.
34. Create another character for the story. Tell how things would change with this character's presence.
35. Rewrite your favorite part of the book using yourself as a character and a favorite place as a setting.
36. Construct a crossword puzzle of words and their definitions from the story.
37. Perform a puppet show of the story.
38. Pretend you are a movie critic. Criticize the book as if it were a movie.
39. Write and audio-record an interview with one of the characters in the story.
40. Sketch a portrait of a character and write everything about him or her.
41. Make a map of the area where the story took place. Indicate where each event occurred and be sure to include a key.
42. Make a display of items mentioned in the books. Explain their significance.
43. Construct a scrapbook of your favorite character. Explain it.
44. Write out and sing songs mentioned in the book.
45. Construct a mural about the book. Tell about it.
46. Write and illustrate a children's book summarizing the story for someone younger.
47. Prepare a recipe from something mentioned in the book...explain to the class how it was made and why. Explain the significance in the story and allow the class to try it.

48. Study the life cycle of an animal mentioned in the story and write a short report.
49. Write a letter from a character point of view to the reader explaining his or her actions in the story. (Use correct letter format!)
50. Write a letter to a character as if they were a real person – tell about your reaction to him or her in the book. (Use correct letter format!)
51. Write a letter to the author giving your reactions to the book. (Use correct format!)
52. Explain how the story would have been different if some major event had happened differently.
53. Write about the most exciting part or the most boring part of the story.
54. Create another character for the story. Tell how things would change with this character's presence.
55. Pretend you are a character in the book and write about your experience in the story during a conflict.
56. Write a summary of the same story plot, only use a different setting (time and place).
57. If you had written this book, what part would you have written differently? Write about what would have happened if some major event had happened differently.
58. What object, person, or animal from this book would you most want to have at your house? Write about it.
59. Pretend you are a newspaper reporter whose job is to interview one of the characters. Write your interview as an article in a highbrow magazine.
60. Write about one problem in this story and how the character(s) solved it. Was it a good solution? Why or why not? Write a response about it.
61. Describe the setting of the story, where and when it took place. Think about the setting of this story. Why about why you would or would not like to spend a week visiting this place. Write a journal entry about it.
62. Choose one character in this story. Think about what the character was like at the beginning of the story. Write about how the character has changed by the end of the story. What events led up to the changes of the character? (Change over time).
63. Pretend that you have been chosen to write a sequel to this story. Write a brief summary of the sequel. Include information about the sequel's plot, setting and main characters.
64. Summarize the plot of your story by creating a cartoon version of the story (storyboards). Use about 6 to 10 frames.
65. Make a travel brochure inviting tourists to visit the setting in your book.
66. Which character in the story is most unlike you and which is most like you? Use a Venn Diagram showing how you are not alike and how you are alike!
67. Use a cereal box to tell about your book. Cover your box with paper. Write a new title and put it on the front of the box. Place a short explanation of the book on the back. Add catchy phrases about the

book all over to get people to want to read the book. Include the author, copyright...

68. Design and make a sample of a magazine, (names of articles, title, authors...) that a character(s) would enjoy reading from your story.
69. Create a dance that is set to music that explains the mood of your story.
70. Pretend you are a news reporter. Make up some stories, based on the book and report it using a video camera. Add a commercial in between stories. Sell something one or more of the characters in the story would want to buy.
71. Write and record a radio advertisement that will make people want to read the story.
72. Pretend you are a news reporter and two main characters in different stories meet. What type of news would take place from their meeting? Make a video with news stories of their meeting and what happens as a result.
73. Rewrite a chapter section of your story from another character's point of view. Record it on tape. Add sound effects to your recording. Play it in class.
74. Take photos to represent someone in your story and the changes that person goes through. For example, if a character is sad all of the time at the beginning of the book you could take a picture of something blue as a symbol to represent being sad. If an event changes the character to make him happy you might want to take a picture of a something that makes you think of happiness. Put the pictures together & explain
75. Write a poem about the most important person in your story. Explain your reasoning for choosing that character.