

DEAR

D.E.A.R. is an acronym for Drop Everything And Read. Every night. Well, at least Monday through Thursday. DEAR has several purposes; namely to get you in the habit of reading daily and to improve your reading, but also to help you develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Step 1: Get a book

Go ahead, it won't hurt you. Find one you think you'll like and are looking forward to reading. If you get into a book and you don't like it, it's okay to put it down and get a new one. There's no excuse for not having a book. Don't know what to pick up? Ask me for suggestions, or ask your brother or your mom. Ask Ms. Lage or Ms. Horton, Mr. Cooke, your neighbor, your best friend, the Starbucks guy, your long-lost cousin Ralph... you get the idea.

Step 2: Get a notebook

Not just any notebook ... a special DEAR notebook. This will be a notebook that you won't doodle pictures in, or write your name fifty times in fifty different writing styles. You won't do math in it, or pull out pages to give to your neighbor when she forgot hers. Nope. This notebook is your DEAR notebook, and as you read Monday through Thursday for at least 20 minutes each day, you will use this notebook to respond to your reading.

Step 3: Read

See above: My expectation is that you read **Monday through Thursday for at least 20 minutes each day**. Yes, I mean it. You can use your study hall toward DEAR time. You can use your commuting time toward DEAR time. If you're like me, you might find that you use that cozy time before you go to sleep as DEAR time. Whatever the case, read! (Note: When you have assigned novels for class, you may read them during your daily DEAR time.)

Step 4: Respond to your reading

After you've read for at least 20 minutes, I'd like you to spend at least **5 minutes responding to what you've read**. The responses you write should be your thoughts, reactions, connections, and questions about what you are reading. The key here is to think about what you read; as long as you are thoughtful, you have much freedom in regard to how you respond. (See attached handout for help.) But whatever you do, **do not summarize, do not summarize! DO NOT SUMMARIZE!** Instead:

- *React*. Why do you love/hate this section or this book? Why should someone else read it? What would make it better? What would you have done in the same situations?
- *Question*. What confuses you? What are you wondering?

- *Evaluate.* How does this book compare with other books you've read? What is the author's point? What kind of readers do you think would enjoy this section, character, writing style, author, or book?
- *Connect.* What kind of connections can you make between the characters and yourself or people you know? Between this book and another? Between what's happening in the book and what's happening in your group, school, community, state, or world?
- *Predict.* What will happen next? What makes you think so? What "should" happen next? Write a new ending.
- *Quote or point out.* Quote or write about an interesting or important part of the book. Why is this important? Why is it cool? What's the point?

Step 5: Fill out your reading chart and get it signed.

Your reading chart and notebook will be turned in every **Friday**, *regardless if the day is an A day or B day*. There will be bins to turn in your notebooks, and you will need to get used to bringing your notebooks and charts into the room, *even when you don't have class with me that day*. You can drop them off before school, between classes, after lunch, before advisory, or after school. It might be a little tough in the beginning, but you will get used to knowing that Friday's are turn-in days.

How You Will Be Graded ...

When I look over your work, I'm not looking for a research paper or the next big novel. You'll be writing around 20 minutes worth of material a week, though, and that adds up (for those of you who like page estimates, this will likely be between 1-2 pages a week depending on your handwriting). What I am looking for is the following:

- Can I read it? (In other words, write neatly!)
- Can I tell you've read?
- Does what you've written make sense?
- Are you specific? Do you use examples?
- Does your entry show thought and reflection?
- Is there little/no summarizing?
- Is effort apparent?

This notebook should be a reflection of you as a reader and a thinker. While I will not grade for spelling, grammar, and mechanics, you should always try your best in each of these areas.