

Good Book vs. Bad Book

Test Grade

Due 10/3

Visual Presentation & Reading

Visual: You will get a long sheet of paper from me. On that poster, you will contrast the characteristics that make your “good” book so awesome (the things you want to see in your own writing) with the characteristics of your “bad” book (the things you don’t want to see in your writing or are trying to stop using in your writing).

For each book you need to put on the poster:

- 5 traits of good or bad writing that you found (with examples—short)
- Visuals that symbolize what the book is about (not just a copy of the cover)
- Author
- Title
- Publisher
- Year first published

You’ll present your poster to class.

Reading:

To the class, (after presenting your poster) you will present a short reading from each book.

- For the good book you want to pick an especially awesome bit of writing. Not necessarily the best part of the plot, but more of a moment when the author’s style/voice really kicks butt. Then explain what about that bit of writing makes it “good”.
- For the bad book—just the opposite. A bit of writing that is so awful, so horrible, it’s probably going to embarrass you to read it. Then explain what it is about that bit of writing that makes it “bad”.

You do not have to have the book with you. You can have made a copy of the passages at the library, etc.

Tip: for the traits think about things you talk about in English class. I.e. big plot holes you could drive trucks through, simplistic or ridiculous word choice, horrid stereotypes, sentences that run on for days...things like that.

Book Talk #1

A book from the genre you'd like to write in for NaNoWriMo

Due 10/10

In class, we'll each present our book. You should

- have a copy of the book with you on book talk day
- have read the book

You will

- Intro the book (quick author/title/synopsis)
- Talk about why you picked it (what genre is it, why do you like/want to write in this genre, what drew you to pick this particular book)
- Review the book—good/bad/ugly?
- What did you learn from the book as far as writing goes? What do you admire about the author's style, what do you not like about the author's style, etc.
- What is one strategy the author used that you want to use in your own novel writing this November?
- Read a short excerpt—something you really liked from the book.
- I suggest you have notecards with the answers to the above questions on them ready to go so you don't leave anything out about your book.