GUIDELINES FOR A SECONDARY –LEVEL BOOK REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief plot summary and then describe the literary techniques the author used to develop the characters, action, setting, etc. Also, mention your response to the book. Refer to the “Handbook of Literary Terms” at the end of your textbook to help define any terms that are new. Write your report in complete sentences and in prose form, not an outline. The following points are thought-starters – not an outline.

- Provide the title, author’s name, genre of the book and number of pages.
- Write a short summary of the plot
- Describe one or two main characters and discuss the methods the author uses to develop them.
- Quote a passage from the book that is a good example of the author’s method
  - A physical description
  - Reactions to challenges
  - What others say about the character
- Define the central conflict that creates the plot –
  - What type of conflict is it?
  - What characters are involved in the conflict?
- Type of Conflict
  - External conflicts:  Man vs man
    Man vs. nature
    Man Vs society
  - Internal conflicts:  Man Vs. self
- Analyze the literary elements the author uses as part of his/her craft.
  - Provide quotes and examples (with page numbers) to illustrate the elements
- Consider the following possibilities:
  - Symbolism
  - Foreshadowing and suspense
  - Flashback
  - Figurative language: metaphor, simile, alteration, irony
- What theme (message about life) does the author develop?
- Would you recommend this book? Why or why not – be complete in your answer.
- Does it seem similar in content, theme, style, etc., to other books or authors?
- What aspect of the book, (plot, characterization, theme, etc.) is so well devised that the book has become a literary classic?