

- *Write a letter to one of the characters in the novel. Ask him/her questions as well as tell about yourself.
- *If you could change places with one of the characters, who would it be? Why?
- *Which character is most like you? Why?
- *If the main characters from two different novels could actually meet, who would you want to meet with whom? Why? What would their meeting be like?
- *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.
- *Move the setting of the story by changing the time and the place. What would the novel be like now?
- *Rewrite a chapter or section of your novel from another character's point of view.
- *Why did the author write this particular story? Express your opinion.
- *Pretend you are a newspaper reporter whose job is to interview one of the characters. Write your interview.
- *You have become a character in one of the novels. Describe your experience during a conflict.
- *Write a poem about one of the novels. Touch on the characters, setting, plot, and theme.
- *Rewrite a portion of the novel as a play.
- *Choose a familiar melody, such as Mary Had a Little Lamb, and change the lyrics so they pertain to the novel.
- *Develop a mini matrix for your novel.
- *Create a mini story wheel for your novel.
- *Create a story chain for your novel that consists of at least ten links.
- *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.
- *Redesign the front and back cover of your novel. Include the pertinent information as well as a blurb on the back.
- *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.
- *Create a triorama for your novel that depicts the most important scene. Write a summary of this scene, explaining its role in the storyline.
- *Design a story map for your novel. Include important information such as

characters, setting, and the plot. Write a brief explanation of your map.

*Design your own personal response. Remember to get your teacher's approval before you begin.

WRITING:

*Write about the most exciting part or the most boring part of the story.

*Rewrite your favorite part of the book using yourself as a character and a favorite place as a setting.

*Create another character for the story. Tell how things would change with this character's presence.

*Write a book review that might be published in the newspaper.

*Pretend you are a character in the book. Describe your experience in the story during a conflict.

*Write the same story plot, only use a different setting (time and place).

*Plan a party that your characters would want to attend from your book. Where would they enjoy going, what kind of food would they want to eat, what would they wear...

*If you had written this book, what part would you have written differently? Explain what would have happened if some major event did happen differently.

*Write a letter to the author giving reactions to the book.

*What object, person, or animal from this book would you most want to have at your house? Explain why.

*Pretend you are a newspaper reporter whose job is to interview one of the characters. Write your interview.

*Create a newspaper page for your story. 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 story.

*Write a letter to the main character of the book asking questions or making complaints about the situations in the book.

*Write a letter from the character to the reader explaining his or her actions in the story.

*If you could change places with one of the characters, who would it be and why?

*Pretend you are a movie critic. Criticize the book as if it were a movie.

*Which character from the book would make a good friend? Why?

*Pretend you are a character in the book and write a diary throughout the chapters.

*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 "Dear Abbey" column for all of the characters in your story. Respond to their problems.

*Why did the author write this story? Express your opinions.

*Compare and contrast your story with another you have read for class this year or last. Remember to include how the novels are alike and how they are different.

*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.

*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?

*Write a letter to a character in the story telling about your reaction to him or her in the book.

*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.

DRAWING:

*Create a painting of a scene from the story. Explain.

*Summarize the plot of your story by creating a cartoon version of the story. Use about 6 to 8 frames.

*Pretend you are a character from your story. Think about where this character's favorite place would be and what that character would do in their favorite place. Draw a picture and write a brief explanation.

*Redesign the front and back cover of your novel. Include the pertinent information as well as the short summary on the back. Draw 1 picture to put on the inside of your novel. State where in the story your picture would go.

*Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story. Add a caption explaining what is happening in your picture.

*Draw a picture time line showing the important events in your story.

*Draw a movie poster advertising the story, and cast a real actor in each character's role. Explain it.

*Make a series of 5 drawings depicting the major events in the story. Describe them.

*Sketch a portrait of a character. Write everything about him or her. Make up a poem about your character.

*Make a travel poster inviting tourists to visit the setting in your book.

GRAPHS:

*Which character in the story is most unlike you and which is most like you? Make graphs showing how you are not alike and how you are alike!

*Graph student reactions to critical decisions in the book.

*Make a graph of the personalities of all of the characters in your book.

*Make a graph depicting your favorite parts and your least favorite parts in the book.

ARTS AND CRAFTS:

*Make a bookmark illustrating this story. On the back of the bookmark, write at least 5 words you would use to describe the story.

*What award would you nominate this story for? Most exciting? Most likely to make you laugh your head off? Design and make an award for this story!

*Make a display that would explain your story from beginning to almost the end. Make cards to explain the items in your display.

*Construct a mural about the book. Tell about it.

*Use a cereal box to tell about your book. Cover your box with paper.

Write a new title, place that on the front of the box. Place an 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...

*Construct a scrapbook of your favorite character. Explain it.

*Design and make a sample of a magazine, (names of articles, title, authors...) that a character(s) would enjoy reading from your story.

Make jewelry a character in your story would want to own. Explain your choices.

*Put together a collage of the story from magazine pictures. Describe.

*Make a diorama of a scene from your story.

*Make a diorama of a scene from your story and another book, by splitting it in half.

DEMONSTRATION:

*Demonstrate how to make/do something learned from the story.

*Put together a bulletin board of the story.

*Put together a display of other books the author has written. Tell about them.

*Prepare a recipe from something mentioned in the book. Show the class how to make it and give them a taste!

*Invent something new that you could add to the story to make it more interesting. Your invention could help a character with a conflict, change the event in the story...

*Make a time capsule for one of the characters. Explain what is in the capsule.

*Make a dream house for one of the character's in your book. Share with the class.

MUSIC/DANCE/DRAMA:

*Create a dance that is set to music that explains the mood of your story.

*Rewrite a portion of your novel as a play. Perform the play in class.

*Write out and sing songs pertaining to the story.

*Make three or four simple puppets of the characters in the book. Write a puppet show about your favorite part of the book. Plan to perform your puppet show for the class.

COMMUNITY PROJECT:

*Do a community project that relates to the book. Explain it to the class.

VIDEOS/TAPES/PHOTOGRAPHY:

*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.

*Write and record a radio advertisement that will make people want to read the story.

*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. Write and perform a TV commercial, on video, to sell the book.

*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.

*Take photographs 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. Paste your pictures in a book and explain.

POETRY:

*Write a poem about your story. Include characters, setting, plot, and theme.

*Pretend you are a character in your story and write a poem from that person's point of view.

*Write a poem about a specific event that happened in your story.

*Choose a familiar melody, such as Mary Had a Little Lamb, and change the

lyrics so they pertain to the story.

*Write a poem about the most important person in your story. Explain your reasoning for choosing that character.

RESEARCH:

*Research to find some additional facts that would relate to your book. Tell the facts and explain the relationship to the book.

*Study the life cycle of an animal mentioned in the story.

*Research and prepare a report on the author's life. Present it to the class.

FOR YOUNGER KIDS:

*Rewrite the story as a picture book. Read to a younger child.

*Rewrite the story as a puppet show for younger kids. Put on the puppet show for them.

PUZZLES AND GAMES:

*Make a word search, crossword or other puzzle using at least ten vocabulary words from this story. Make an answer key. Give it to a friend to solve.

*Make a game using facts from your story.

*Pretend you are a character in the book and write a diary.

*Write and perform a play based on the story.

*Make a timeline of the events of the story. Explain it.

*Write and perform a TV commercial to sell the book.

*Make a comic book based on the book.

*Make a series of 5 drawings depicting the major points. Describe them.

*Create another character for the story. Tell how things would change with this character's presence.

*Research and prepare a report on the author's life. Present it to the class.

*Rewrite your favorite part of the book using yourself as a character and a favorite place as a setting.

*Put together a display of other books the author has written. Tell about them.

*Write and record a radio advertisement that will make people want to read the story.

*Make a friendship quilt of the story. Each student sews or draws a square depicting an incident from the book. As a class put them in sequence into a quilt.

*Create a poster advertising the book. Explain it.

*Play a game with others. Ask 10 questions about a character in the book. By the end of the 10th question or before, they should guess the

character.

*Construct a crossword puzzle of words and their definitions from the story.

*Write and illustrate a poem about the story.

*Perform a puppet show of the story.

*Design the front page of a newspaper with headlines and a story about what happened in the book.

*Draw a movie poster advertising the story, and cast a real actor in each character's role. Explain it.

*Pretend you are a movie critic. Criticize the book as if it were a movie.

*Write and tape-record an interview with one of the characters in the story.

*Sketch a portrait of a character and write everything about him or her.

*Make a map of the area where the story took place. Indicate where each event occurred and be sure to include a key.

*Make a display of items mentioned in the books. Explain their significance.

*Design a word search puzzle using words from the story.

*Demonstrate how to make/do something learned from the story.

*Construct a scrapbook of your favorite character. Explain it.

*Write out and sing songs mentioned in the book.

*Put together a bulletin board of the story. Label the parts.

*Construct a mural about the book. Tell about it.

*Write and illustrate a children's book summarizing the story for someone younger.

*Prepare a recipe from something mentioned in the book.

*Put together a collage of the story from magazine pictures. Describe.

*Study the life cycle of an animal mentioned in the story.

*Write a letter from a character to the reader explaining his or her actions in the story.

*Write a letter to a character telling about your reaction to him or her in the book.

*Create a painting of a scene from the story. Tell about it.

*Graph student reactions to critical decisions in the book.

*Write a letter to the author giving your reactions to the book.

*Explain how the story would have been different if some major event had happened differently.

BOOK REPORTS - 31! Count 'Em!

1. Create life-sized models of two of your favorite characters and dress them as they are dressed in the book. Crouch down behind your character and describe yourself as the character. Tell what your role is in the book and how you relate to the other character you have made.
2. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
3. Interview a character from your book. Write at least ten questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. However you choose to present your interview is up to you.
4. Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during, or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.
5. If you are reading the same book as one or more others are reading, dramatize a scene from the book. Write a script and have several rehearsals before presenting it to the class.
6. Give a sales talk, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push this book.
7. Build a miniature stage setting of a scene in the book. Include a written explanation of the scene.
8. Make several sketches of some of the scenes in the book and label them.
9. Describe the setting of a scene, and then do it in pantomime.
10. Construct puppets and present a show of one or more interesting parts of the book.
11. Dress as one of the characters and act out a characterization.
12. Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. **YOU MAY ONLY USE BOOKS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN MADE INTO MOVIES.**
13. Write a book review as it would be done for a newspaper. (Be sure you read a few before writing your own.)
14. Construct a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, buildings, plants, and animals) of one of the main events of the book. Include a written description of the scene.
15. Write a feature article (with a headline) that tells the story of the book as it might be found on the front page of a newspaper in the town

where the story takes place.

16. Write a letter (10-sentence minimum) to the main character of your book asking questions, protesting a situation, and/or making a complaint and/or a suggestion.

17. Read the same book as one of your friends. The two of you make a video or do a live performance of MASTERPIECE BOOK REVIEW, a program which reviews books and interviews authors. (You can even have audience participation!)

18. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found or drawn.

19. Write a FULL (physical, emotional, relational) description of three of the characters in the book. Draw a portrait to accompany each description.

20. After reading a book of history or historical fiction, make an illustrated timeline showing events of the story and draw a map showing the location(s) where the story took place.

21. Read two books on the same subject and compare and contrast them.

22. Read a book that has been made into a movie. (Caution: it must have been a book FIRST. Books written from screenplays are not acceptable.)

Write an essay comparing the movie version with the book.

23. Create a mini-comic book relating a chapter of the book.

24. Make three posters about the book using two or more of the following media: paint, crayons, chalk, paper, ink, real materials.

25. Design costumes for dolls and dress them as characters from the book. Explain who these characters are and how they fit in the story.

26. Write and perform an original song that tells the story of the book.

27. After reading a book of poetry, do three of the following: 1.) do an oral reading; 2.) write an original poem; 3.) act out a poem; 4.) display a set of pictures which describe the poem; 5.) write original music for the poem; 6.) add original verses to the poem.

28. Be a TV or radio reporter, and give a report of a scene from the book as if it is happening "live".

29. Design a book jacket for the book. I STRONGLY suggest that you look at an actual book jacket before you attempt this.

30. Create a newspaper for your book. Summarize the plot in one article, cover the weather in another, do a feature story on one of the more interesting characters in another. Include an editorial and a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story. (Thank you A. A. for this idea.)