**Using the News**

**A Man, a Mouse and a Children’s Book**

The “Jeopardy” TV show tests contestants’ knowledge on a wide range of topics. After an Illinois man set a new single-day record for money won, he revealed he had expanded his knowledge by using an unusual resource. James Holzhauer told the Washington Post newspaper he had learned a great deal spending time with children’s books in the library. In particular, he said, non-fiction, informational kids’ books are a tremendous resource.

“They are chock-full of infographics, pictures and all kinds of stuff to keep the reader engaged,” he told the Post. With a huge bet in the “Final Jeopardy” part of the game, the 34-year-old Holzhauer set a single-day cash record by winning $110,914. The number wasn’t an accident. Holzhauer calculated his bet so the total would match the birthday of his daughter, who was born on 11/09/14.

Children’s books can help students learn things about the world — and about attitudes that can help them succeed. **Individually**, you will **create your own** children’s book about “Flowers for Algernon.” You can use the Internet to research children’s books, but I would suggest a trip (or a virtual trip) to the local library or to a book store to get ideas for how you will write yours.

Here are some things to consider:

* Remember that “Flowers for Algernon” was written for adults and young adults. Some of the material in the book isn’t meant for children. Make sure that your book **is** suitable for children.
* “Flowers for Algernon” has a rather advanced vocabulary in some places. You’ll want to make sure children can read your book.
* Good children’s books always have great pictures. You might not be an artist, but you’ll need pictures as well. You can get help from someone who is more of an artist, or you can print pictures from the Internet that match what you’re looking for. Just remember that the more effort **you personally put into the book**, the higher your grade will be.
* “Flowers of Algernon” has a clear plot and main idea. Make sure your story captures that completely.
* The only way to accurately reflect the book in your children’s book is to read the original – so **read your book!**

Your book must:

* **Be at least 20 pages long.** (Remember, children’s books don’t need a lot of text on each page – just enough to tell that page’s story. Make sure your book is long enough to tell Charlie’s story.)
* **Two of your pages must be a cover and a back cover**. Look at other children’s books to get ideas. Make sure to put **your name** on the cover.
* **Include illustrations throughout**. If all you can do is stick figures, that’s OK. Just make sure you give me stick figures with each turn of the page. **Be sure to add color** to your illustrations.
* **Follow the rubric for the book**.
* **Extra credit will be awarded in two areas**: (1) If you turn your book in early. (2) If you go “above and beyond” in creating your book. (“Above and beyond” is defined as “going far beyond what is required.”)

**Assignment Value:** 100 points

**Due Date:** Wednesday, May 20 (A-Day); Thursday, May 21 (B-Day)

Children’s Book Project Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 5 Points | 4 Points | 3 Points | 2 Points |
| Cover  (x2 = 10 points) | Cover includes a title, neatly drawn and colored picture, author’s name, your name, and period number. | The cover picture is not very neat or there is one item missing. | The cover picture is messy or there are more than two other items missing. | Cover is blank. (This will actually get you 0 points) |
| Spreads  **A spread is two pages side by side.**  (x4 = 20 points) | There are at least 7 spreads with writing and a hand drawn, colored picture on each page. | There are 5-6 spreads with writing and a picture on each page. | There are only 3-4 spreads with writing and a picture on each page, or there are numerous spreads missing writing or a picture. | There are less than 3 complete spreads. |
| Grammar and Spelling  (x2 = 10 points) | There are 2 or fewer spelling or grammar mistakes. | There are 3-4 spelling or grammar mistakes. | There are 5-6 spelling or grammar mistakes. | There are 7 or more spelling or grammar mistakes. |
| Story  (x 5 = 25 points) | The story includes characterization, plot, setting, conflict, and resolution. The story flows and makes sense. | The story makes sense, however one literary element is missing or not clearly defined. | The story has two literary elements that are missing or not clearly defined. | The story doesn’t make sense or there are more than two literary elements that are missing. |
| Writing  **Each paragraph must have a minimum of 3 sentences.**  (x 5 = 25 points) | Every page has at least one full complete paragraph. | One page does not contain a full complete paragraph. | Two pages do not contain a full complete paragraph. | Three or more pages do not contain a full complete paragraph. |
| On Time  (x2 = 10 points) | Your picture book is turned in completed on time. | Your picture is turned in one day late. | Your picture book is turned in two days late. | Your picture book is 3 or more days late. |