CHOICE NOVEL

*\*These are not the books you’re looking for.\**

Due Date: Jan. \_\_\_\_\_\_

It has come time for everyone’s favorite English paper of the year—the research paper. For your research paper this year, you will be selecting any novel of your choice (that you think you can write a 5-7 page research paper on). You will select your own novel, genre of your choice, set your own reading schedule, and research any subject from your novel that intrigues you. Before you decide on a research topic, however, you need to read your novel. It may be a novel you have read before, but you will be required to re-read it. In fact, I encourage you to read your novel twice, once to enjoy it, and once more to dissect it.

By next week (Dec. \_\_\_\_, to be precise), you need to have selected your novel, gotten your parental permission slip signed, and completed your reading schedule.

You will be required to **annotate** your novel (on post-its, a separate sheet of paper, or in the novel itself if you own it), and you will have a quiz on your understanding of the novel. As you read, keep a **running list** of things you think you might want to research. You will have the first 15 minutes of class to silently read your choice novel every day in class until the assignment is due. During this time, I will be coming around to assess your progress.

As you analyze and enjoy your book, think about the things that surprise, interest, irritate, confound, or excite you the most. Those things will be a good place to start looking for potential research topics.

Speaking of potential research topics, it’s really not as hard to think of a topic as it sounds.

You could research, for example:

* Setting—How does Forks, Washington, impact plot, characters, and meaning in *Twilight*?
* Gender—In what ways do Katniss, Peeta, and Gale reinforce or break gender norms?
* Race—Why are there so many white people in the 12 districts of the *Hunger Games*?
* Biographical—How is Rick Riordan’s personal life reflected in *Percy Jackson*?
* Historical/Political/Social Context—How does *Game of Thrones* compare to the Medieval Ages, while still reflecting modern-day morals and values?
* Psychological—In what ways is Bella’s love for Edward similar to Stockholm syndrome?
* Allegory—What are the similarities between Voldemort and Hitler’s rise to power?
* Critical reception—Why does everybody hate on *Twilight*?
* Media adaptation—How does the new “Ender’s Game” movie minimize the psychological toll of killing compared to the book?
* Comparison/Contrast—What similarities exist between “The Simpsons” and Shakespeare?
* Symbolism—How is cancer portrayed in various novels, particularly, *The Fault in our Stars*, and what is its significance in each?
* Genre study—How did “Watchmen” change the genre of comic books/graphic novels?
* Sources/influences/Allusions—What classical (Greek and Latin) allusions appear in *Harry Potter*, and what do all those fancy magic Latin words mean?

**N.B. If you need book recommendations don’t hesitate to set up a W.T. Book Conference.**