

SPRING SEMESTER REQUIREMENT (NONFICTION ALLOWED SPRING ALSO)

Fiction Requirements –

-: Your primary goal is to read a book of fiction in which the setting is marine, or the plot has to take around the ocean.

-The book review you write will require more creativity than the one you did on a non-fiction novel. You will have to decide how to interpret the book. You may discuss how the author used the reality of the oceans to provide a setting as most of you already did freshman year with Hemingways's Old Man and the Sea. You might choose a novel in which the author blends truth and fiction about the ocean to carry the plot the way Benchley did in Jaws, or Crichton did in Sphere. A challenging and interesting task would be to distinguish fact from invention and guess what the author intended to show by mixing fictional information in. Alternatively, you might look into regrets Benchley has expressed about helping create monstrous myths about Great White Sharks. Another possibility is to look at a science fiction novel such as Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea and compare the fictional world they created with reality. Verne's imaginary Nautilus could be compared with a modern nuclear submarine. Another challenging task would be to revisit a childhood favorite such as Island of the Blue Dolphins by O'Dell, and using additional research, compare the fictional island and characters with genuine native people who lived, fished and traded on the Channel Islands. You might even delve into children's literature and compare a large number of books; perhaps you could evaluate how they communicate in words and graphics what coral reefs or tide pools are really like. Be careful. Choosing a project on an "easy" topic, like a children's book, may be more work than analyzing an adult fiction novel. In any case, you need to demonstrate that you can use what you have been given in three quarters of Marine Biology to intelligently interpret and evaluate a work of fiction about the ocean.

Fictional Book Review for Second Semester	Points	Comments
<u>Pre-review book verification</u> - Due two weeks before the review due date. If the book is not on the pre-approved list or you have another proposal such including background research or reading more than one book of lesser point value, your written proposal and book(s) must be evaluated by the teacher for total possible point value prior to the two week deadline.	/10	
<u>Structural Assessment</u> – Overall, how well did you accomplish the primary goal in analyzing a fiction novel for this course? Otherwise, the same as the non-fiction structural assessment.	/30	
<u>Section I</u> – One introductory paragraph. Summary of book that highlights the characters, setting or plot of the novel.	/15	
<u>Section II</u> – A body of at least 3 paragraphs. In these paragraphs give specific examples of accurate and inaccurate information and explain how you verified it. How did the author use factual information about the ocean to develop the plot of the story or the setting or characters? If the author chose to use fictional information why do you think they did? What results from this use of information (e.g. In Jaws inaccurate information led to shark hysteria)?	/30	
<u>Section III</u> – Final paragraph, an evaluation of how successful the author was at presenting their story. How well organized is it? Did it keep your interest? Would you recommend it to someone for pleasure reading? How much did you learn about the ocean?	/15	