

## **Book Project: Approach Paper**

An approach paper consists of several sections:

I. Proper heading: name, date, and book title

II. Summary Paragraph: A three or four sentence paragraph which explains the ENTIRE novel using as much description and detail as possible.

III. Character Descriptions: Choose three or four main characters from the book. Next to each of these characters' names, list four or five words which describe the character distinctly. If you use a particular word to describe one character, you may not use that same word to describe another character.

IV. Discussion/Essay Questions: Write three well thought out questions that a teacher might ask you about the book.

V. Key Passage: Choose the most important passage in the book (in your opinion). Write it word-for-word in the approach paper. Make sure to identify the speakers.

VI. Key Passage Explanation: In a paragraph, explain why your chosen passage is so important to understanding the story.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

### Approach Paper Scoring Guide

Component	Description	Points earned	Points Possible
HEADING	Approach Paper, your name, date, and book title against the margin		4
SUMMARY PARAGRAPH	Explains the entire story with as much description as possible		10
CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS	Use four or five words to describe three or four main characters; you may not use any word twice		10
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	Three well thought out questions that a teacher might ask you about the book; questions that make you think		10
KEY PASSAGE & EXPLANATION	Most important passage right from the book then explain why this passage is so important to understanding the story		10
NEATNESS - HANDWRITING	Overall presentation of the approach paper of which handwriting plays a major role		6
SPELLING	1 point deduction for each incorrectly spelled word		- 1 each maximum deduction 5 points
FINAL GRADE			50

# Sample Approach Paper

## *Different Dragons*

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### SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Different Dragons is the story of Ben Tucker who is spending the weekend at his Aunt's house while his parents are away. His Aunt has agreed to keep a neighbor's dog thinking that Ben would love this idea but it turns out to be quite the opposite because Ben is afraid of dogs. Hana the girl next door loves dogs and has no fear of them. Ben and Hana find themselves stuck in the attic and only Gully the big labrador hears their yells for help over the loud music coming from the radio. Gully alerts Aunt Rose who discovers the two of them in the attic. Ben learns to face his fears, his "Dragons."

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### CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Ben: afraid, determined, intelligent, lonely,  
Hana: tomboyish, protective, imaginative, trusting  
Aunt Rose: understanding, kind, thoughtful, fair,  
Gully: friendly, loyal, gentle, very large

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ben and even Hana had to face their own personal dragons, can you describe a time when you had to face your dragons and were able to overcome a problem.
2. Why was it so important for Ben to get up into the attic no matter what?
3. What moment of the book was the scariest moment for Ben do you think? Explain

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### KEY PASSAGE

From Chapter 8, page 59:

"His face went down onto Gully's warm fur and his arm wrapped itself around the dog's great neck. He did not remember that this was a dog and he was afraid of dogs."

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### KEY PASSAGE EXPLANATION

Like most of us Ben has more than one dragon in his life. Ben is afraid of dogs but even more afraid of loud thunderstorms. When he squeezes under the bed, he finds someone else who is afraid of thunderstorms almost as much as he is...Gully. Gully and Ben hug each other to get through the thunder and the lightning and in this way Ben learns that Gully is not a dog to be feared but a real friend he can count on.