



THOMPSON'S CLASSES ON GOODREADS 2012-2013

Goodreads is an online bookshelf that allows you to keep track of your independent reading, review the books you read, share reading insights with classmates, and get suggestions for other books you might enjoy. One of the ways you will earn those dreaded “reading points” in this class is by keeping your Goodreads shelf up-to-date. In order to join Goodreads, you must have a working e-mail account. All students have a district account that can be used, but most people these days also have an outside account that they use as a primary e-mail address. Either one will work. Goodreads is free and our class group will be private and monitored.

*****If you already have a Goodreads account, sign in, select “edit profile,” and change your name to meet the requirements in step 1a. Then skip to step 9.**

1. Go to <http://www.goodreads.com> and select **Sign up**.
 - a. First Name: Enter the period of the day you are in my class (two digits) followed by your first name and last initial run together as a single word: 01MikeT, 02BrookeA, 06SierraT, 07RyanW. Capitalize initial letters, but don't space or punctuate. Leave the last name field blank.
 - b. E-mail address: You will have to check your e-mail and verify your account, so enter it correctly.
 - c. Password: Your password should be something you definitely will not forget! The best idea is to use your student PIN. It's REALLY important that you don't forget it! Write down your username and password, and keep them somewhere safe. You're going to have to access this account a lot this year, and *I do not keep a record of passwords!* In case you missed it the first four times, **don't forget your password!**
2. *Find Friends & Book Compatibility Test*: Select **Skip this step** on both of these screens.
3. Select **Find and add books by title, author, genre, list and more**.
4. In the *Explore Books* field, type the name of a book you are reading now and add it to your “Currently Reading” shelf.
5. Add the last ten books you remember reading to your list. Mark them as “read,” and select the month and year (if you remember) that you finished reading them. (Whenever you mark a book as “read,” Goodreads will ask you to write a review of the book. Wait until we have covered the requirements for book reviews before you start writing them.)
6. Add some books you are planning to read to your shelf. Mark these as “to read.”
7. Select the **My Books** link at the top of the website and view your online shelves.
8. Explore Goodreads to learn about all the things you can do with it. You can change any of the information using the “edit” links, but do not provide any personal information about yourself: No phone numbers, no addresses, no school names, etc. It is important to maintain your privacy online. (There was a lengthy in-class discussion regarding online safety.) If you want to upload an “avatar,” you may, but don't use an actual picture of yourself. Just remember that everything you post must be school appropriate. Also, remember that every thing you do on the Internet is tracked, so you are *not anonymous*.

9. Join our class group. Here's how:
 - a. Select the link called **Explore**. Then select **Groups** from the list.
 - b. In the Find Groups field, type "Thompson's Classes 2012-2013" and select "Search." (Spelling, capitalization, and spacing must be exact.)
 - c. When you see the eyeball, you'll know you are in the right place. Click on the class title or the Uncle Sam poster.
 - d. From the group page, select "Join Group" (under Uncle Sam).
 - e. You will get a message saying that the group's moderator (that's me!) has to approve your membership. Then you will be asked if you would like to ask permission to join the group. The code word you must type in the box is *Wolfman*. Then select "Ask to join."

When I get your request, I will check to see that you have created your account correctly (with appropriate username), and then I will add you to the class group. This allows me to regularly check on your reading, but it also requires you to update your shelves regularly. While Goodreads is designed to be a fun and social way to encourage reading, it is also a requirement for the class. So, now that you have created your account and started filling up your shelves, don't ignore them. Read often and update your shelves as you complete your reading.

Now get reading!

- Read every day. Always carry a reading book.
- Choose books you haven't read before.
- Choose books that you like and understand.
- Submit Goodreads book reviews and/or talk to Mr. Thompson (even if you haven't finished the entire book) by the midterm and end-of-term deadlines.
- Don't be surprised when I ask you about your Independent Reading Practice during class.



Reading is its own reward. My ultimate goal is to create life-long readers. While this becomes more difficult as modern culture and technology often encourage fast-paced distractions, parents and teachers can help students develop an intrinsic motivation to read widely and much. Such motivation stems from choice, goal setting, feedback, and being part of a shared community of readers. I hope such a community will include families as well as schools.

