

Independent Reading #2: "See the World–Through Books!"

Project / Activity: "Travel Channel Film Festival"

In this independent reading project, you will become an explorer, a reader, and a travel guide—all at the same time. For the concluding project, you will create a short, creative video (4 minutes) as if you are hosting a segment on a travel show. Your job is to invite viewers to visit the setting of your independent book, showing what makes this place (and time!) exciting, interesting, or important.

1. Choose a book to read independently

- You may select a fiction book, a biography, or an autobiography.
- Your book should have a clear, interesting setting—a time and place that affects the story.
- Ask Ann or Lori for suggestions if you're not sure what to read.

2. Pay close attention to the setting as you read

- Where and when does the story take place?
- What kind of environment is it? (Is it peaceful? Chaotic? Magical?)
- How does the setting affect the characters or the story?
- Take notes about what you notice!

3. Create a short "Travel Channel" video presentation (max 4 minutes)

- You'll pretend you're the host of a travel show.
- Your job is to invite us to visit the world of your book and explain why this setting is interesting, unique, or important.

4. Be creative!

- Describe the landscape, weather, buildings, or culture
- Use setting vocabulary and idioms
- Speak with energy, like a real travel guide

5. Concluding Activity: Travel Channel Film Festival

- On November 4 and 6, we will celebrate with a 2-day film festival
- We'll watch your videos and "travel the world" through storytelling.

Example Travel Video Transcript: "Visit the Land of Oz!"

Book: *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

Length: ~4 minutes when spoken slowly

[Smiles at camera] Hello, friends! Welcome to A Place Like No Other! Today, I'm your travel guide—and we're going to a magical place. Let's visit the Land of Oz!

[Gestures to a picture or map of the yellow brick road] Oz is not a real place on a map. Dorothy, a girl from Kansas, arrives in Oz after a big tornado. She wakes up in a strange and beautiful land. It feels like a dream—or a fairy tale.

[Shows drawing or points to area labeled Munchkinland] The first place Dorothy sees is Munchkinland. The sky is blue. The grass is green. The houses are small and shiny. The people are friendly and cheerful. It's very different from Dorothy's gray, dusty home.

[Moves to next area or shows a picture of a forest] Dorothy follows the Yellow Brick Road. It's a long road through many places. One place is a dark forest. The trees are tall and scary. It feels quiet, cold, and mysterious.

[Switches to Emerald City drawing or image] Then Dorothy arrives at the Emerald City! Everything is green—even the glasses people wear. The city is big, bright, and full of energy. There are people and creatures from all over Oz. It's like a whole new world!

[Softens voice a little] But not everything is perfect. The Wizard of Oz is not who he says he is. There are secrets behind the curtain.

[Final picture or image: red poppies or rainbow] Dorothy also visits poppy fields, scary castles, and magical places. In the end, she learns something very important: There's no place like home.

[Big smile] So if you like adventure, magic, and fun... Come visit the Land of Oz! Thanks for watching A Place Like No Other! See you next time!