

Biology Summer Reading Assignment **Science Fact or Fiction?**

Robin Cook and Michael Crichton are two of the most popular authors of scientific thrillers. While based on scientific facts their novels are fiction. In order to recognize the difference between the concepts of fact and fiction, we would like you to explore these ideas by reading one of the following books. You may choose one of the following novels: **Jurassic Park, Outbreak, or Toxin.**

**These novels contain material and language that may be offensive to some students and parents. We encourage you to discuss and/or read the novels with your daughters to insure that your family's point of view is shared with your daughter. We have read the novels and feel their scientific merit makes them worthwhile for this age student and this type of assignment.

For your summer reading assignment, read one of the three novels identified in the previous paragraph. All are available at your local library. Once you are finished reading, write a two to three page report on the book.

Your report should include the following:

1. A brief summary (about 1 page) of the important aspects of the plot.
2. A list of five scientific facts that are presented in the novel.
3. One paragraph describing how each fact, from #2 is used to advance the fictional plot of the novel.
4. A paragraph, in which you answer the question, "Is the plot believable?" Why or why not?

The rubric for grading this report is found below. Read it carefully and be sure to include all the components to receive full credit. Your report should be **typed and double-spaced**. Use standard 12 point Times New Roman Font and 1 inch margins. Your name and class period should be on the front cover of your report. The report is due Monday, September 14, 2009. Please cut the page on the dotted line and attach the rubric to the front of your report.

Going Further: Watch the movie of the same title as your book. List five ways the plot of the movie is different from the plot of the book. If you chose to read Toxin, which has not been turned into a movie, you may find a newspaper article instead that details a situation similar to the one addressed in your novel. Print a copy of the article and relate it to Toxin's plot.

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Name: _____

Biology Class _____

Due: Monday, September 14, 2009

Summary	_____	/10 points
Facts	_____	/10 points
Use of facts in plot	_____	/20 points
Opinion	_____	/5 points
Grammar, spelling, neatness	_____	/5 points
BONUS: Going Further	5pts	_____