

LEARNING CONTRACT

Hoot

by
Carl Hiassen

Dear _____,
(Student Name)

You and your teacher will agree on learning projects for you to complete after you read the book *Hoot* by Carl Hiassen. The activities will be chosen based on the goals of your Educational Plan (EP). Your teacher will help you understand the goals and pick appropriate projects. You and your teacher will agree upon a deadline for each project. You and your teacher will also create a schedule to meet on a regular basis to discuss your progress.

After you pick your projects, you will read the book. It is important to keep your projects in mind as you read. You will have a lot of ideas and questions regarding your projects as you are reading, so you will need a journal to jot them down. Depending on the projects you choose, you may get started on some of them before you finish the book. However, you should finish reading the book before you submit any of the projects to your teacher. Your teacher will give you a short test after you finish reading the book to make sure you understood the characters, events, and vocabulary.

To summarize, here are the steps:

1. Meet with your teacher to choose your projects. Your projects should align to the goals on your EP. Pick at least one project that seems like it will be fun AND at least one project that will help you improve a skill you need to work on. Determine which project you will do first, second, third, etc. Set deadlines for each project and write them in the blanks on this contract.
2. Your teacher will give you rubrics for each project you choose. The rubrics will tell you what your project must include. Study the rubrics so that you can earn the best grade possible for your project.
3. With your projects in mind, read the novel. Keep a journal that lists your ideas, questions, to-do lists, and the required materials for your projects as you read. You will need to turn this journal in with your project.
4. Meet with your teacher regularly while you are working, according to the schedule you have agreed upon. Your teacher will help you stay on a timeline, answer your questions, and help you find the materials you need to complete your projects.

Appendix A P L A N N I N G D O C U M E N T Rev. 03 01/24/06 Department of
Advanced Academic Programs Page 2 of 10 Broward County Public Schools
Domain: Curriculum and Learning Environment-Language Arts
Hoot Project Choices

Place a check mark in the box next to each project you choose.

- ☐ LA1. Roy is extremely persistent. He wants to find out the mystery of the barefoot boy and does not give up. Maybe you believed in something so strongly that you kept trying until you were successful. Write a paper describing a time when you demonstrated persistence. The paper should include a description of your goal, the steps you took to achieve your goal, and the final outcome of your persistence. The conclusion should be an evaluation of what you accomplished and an opinion as to whether or not you would “do it again” and why or why not. Your paper will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ LA2. Beatrice’s step-brother asks her to write a letter to Mother Paula’s Pancake House to ask them not to disturb the burrowing owls on the construction site. Write your own business letter to a business of your choice. You may choose any topic for your letter, but it must include an opinion regarding something that you wish the business to change and facts to back up your opinion. Your letter will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ LA3. You must have read the entire book before choosing this project. Create a poster that analyzes all the actions Mullet Fingers takes to prevent Mother Paula’s Pancake House from disturbing the burrowing owls. On the left-hand side of the poster write each action Mullet Fingers took against Mother Paula’s. On the right-hand side of the poster, write the reasons for each one of Mullet Finger’s actions. Write the reasons next to the action they correspond to. Your poster will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you.
Due Date: _____
- ☐ LA4. Research the author, Carl Hiaasen. (He is a very interesting character.) Write a biography about Carl Hiaasen. The conclusion of the biography should evaluate how the author’s experiences influenced his book Hoot. Your biography will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____

Hoot Project Choices

Place a check mark in the box next to each project you choose.

- ☐ S1. Some owls regurgitate something called “owl pellets” that contain the indigestible hairs, feathers, bones, and claws of the prey they have eaten. You will need to research and write a paper about owl pellets and include a list of the owls that produce them. Your teacher will give you an owl pellet to dissect, analyze, and reassemble into the prey contained in the pellet. You will display your reassembled owl pellet parts on a poster or science board along with your written report. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ S2. The burrowing owls in the novel Hoot had nests and babies. You will need to research and write a paper about the reproductive, life cycles, and predators of burrowing owls. You will need to include in the paper a line graph with two lines. One line on the graph should illustrate how the population of four burrowing owls will increase over 20 years assuming that no predators exist. The second line on the graph will show how the population changes over 20 years if predators are present. Both graphs will need to account for the birth of baby owls and death of older owls. You will need to analyze the difference between the lines on your graph and explain the difference in your paper. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ S3. Roy gets caught in an electrical storm which happens often in South Florida. You will need to conduct research to find out how an electrical storm is caused and find an experiment that illustrates the causes of electrical storms. You will present your experiment and a synthesized, oral explanation of the causes of electrical storms to your class. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ S4. Burrowing owls are near the top of the food chain. You will need to create a food chain to show “who eats what” including at least five burrowing owl prey traced down to the level of primary producers. You must classify everything on your food chain into the following categories and include something from each category: (1) primary producers (2) herbivores, (3) carnivores, and (4) omnivores. You will also need to classify the way everything on your food chain catches food according to the following categories: (1) filtering, digging, chasing, ambush, and scavenging. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____

Domain: Curriculum and Learning Environment-Mathematics

Hoot Project Choices

Place a check mark in the box next to each project you choose.

- ☐ M1. The “mystery boy” is a fast runner. Who is the fastest runner on record and how fast could he/she run? You will need to write a short biography of this person and find a picture of him/her. You will also need to create (1) a table that shows a compilation of the distance the fastest runner travels each minute over a period of five minutes, (2) a description of the pattern you find in your table, (3) an algebraic equation using d =distance, m =minutes, and a coefficient to express the speed of the runner, and (4) a prediction table showing how long it will take for the fastest runner to run 100 meters, 1 kilometer, 50 years, and 1 mile. You must show how you used your equation to complete (4). You will present your project on a poster or in a power point so that it meets all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date:_____
- ☐ M2. Find data from a burrowing owl demography study on the internet that covers at least 4 years. Analyze the data to find the mean, median, and mode of the number of baby owls produced by each pair of burrowing owl mates over the time period of your data. Recalculate your data to show the mean, median, and mode of the entire population of owls studied over the time period. Display your results in an organized table and appropriate graphs and explain the data to your class. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date:_____
- ☐ M3. Burrowing owls are endangered, meaning the burrowing owl population is decreasing. You will need to conduct research to determine the annual percentage of population decrease and the factors contributing to the decrease. You will then need to predict what will happen to a population of 1,000 burrowing owls over the next 10 years if nothing is done AND if one factor is eliminated. You will create a poster with (1) a list of the factors contributing to the decrease, (2) a two-line line graph with one line showing the projected decrease in a burrowing owl population of 1,000 over 10 years and another line showing the projected decrease if one factor is eliminated. You will need to evaluate the impact of eliminating one of the factors and present your evaluation to the class. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date:_____
- ☐ M4. You will need to conduct research to determine the amount of space a pair of burrowing owls requires in the wild in order to have enough food and reproduce. You will then consider 3 different parcels of land: (1) a right triangle with a hypotenuse of 100 meters, (2) a pentagon with sides of 68, 40, 59, 70, and 37 meters, and (3) a quadrilateral with sides of 55, 83, 87, and 60 meters. You will need to draw and calculate the area of each shape and determine how many pairs of burrowing owls each parcel of land can support. By drawing a line from the vertex of each angle to the opposite side of the shape, you can find the interior angles of each shape. You will need to find the sum of the interior angles of each parcel of land. You will then need to discover and explain the mathematical rules for finding the sum of interior angles for any shape. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date:_____

Appendix A P L A N N I N G D O C U M E N T Rev. 03 01/24/06 Department of
Advanced Academic Programs Page 5 of 10 Broward County Public Schools
Domain: Curriculum and Learning Environment-Social Studies
Hoot Project Choices

Place a check mark in the box next to each project you choose.

- ☐ SS1. Roy tricks Dana into thinking that he bought a carton of cigarettes from the Seminole Indian Reservation. The Seminole Indians live in Florida. You will need to conduct research to find out about the history of the Seminole Nation and current issues that face them (as described on your rubric(s)). You will need to evaluate one of the issues and form an opinion backed by facts. You will need to create a Power Point presentation to present your research and your fact-based opinion to the class. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you.
Due Date: _____
- ☐ SS2. Roy claims to be from Montana even though he wasn't born there. You will need to conduct research to find out about the history, geography, people, and climate of Montana as well as current issues facing this state (as described on your rubric(s)). You will need to evaluate one of the issues and form an opinion backed by facts. You will need to create a poster with a map of Montana and its geographical characteristics (as described on your rubric(s)). You will also need to create a written report or power-point presentation to present your research and your fact-based opinion. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ SS3. One of the main points of Hoot is the power of people to make a difference. You will need to collect several articles from the paper about community issues. After analyzing them, you will need to pick one community issue to research and talk about in-depth to your class. Finally, you will need to design, organize, and conduct an action plan to make a positive impact on the community issue you chose. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you.
Due Date: _____
- ☐ SS4. The construction site of Mother Paul's Pancake House had survey stakes which were removed by the "mystery boy" who was protecting the burrowing owls. What are survey stakes? You will need to conduct research about the survey process and the occupation of surveyors and present this in a power point presentation or a poster. You will need to form an opinion as to whether or not you would enjoy being a surveyor, backing your opinion with reasons. You will present your poster and the results of your research to the class. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____

Domain: Independent Functioning

Hoot Project Choices

Place a check mark in the box next to each project you choose.

- ☐ IF1. Beatrice does the cooking for her father, fixing him dinner every night. Conduct some research on the “food pyramid” produced by the government to help citizens eat a balanced diet. Plan a week’s worth of dinners for your family that meet the criteria of the food pyramid. Find all the recipes required for all of the dishes in your week’s dinner plan. From the week’s dinner plan and the recipes, create a shopping list for all the items required to prepare each dinner on your week’s dinner plan. You will present your week’s dinner plan, the menus, and shopping list in an organized portfolio. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ IF2. Roy claims to be from Montana even though he wasn’t born there. Plan a road trip by car to Montana. Find a map and highlight your route from your home to a city in Montana of your choice. List the items you will include in your suitcases. Create an itinerary that shows how long you will drive each day, where you will spend the night, and include where and when you will eat your meals. Finally, calculate how much gasoline will be required to drive your family car from your home to your destination in Montana. You will present your plan for travel to Montana in an organized portfolio. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____
- ☐ IF3. The fast-running “mystery boy” in Hoot doesn’t go to school. Assume that he will begin going to school with you. You will need to get the “mystery boy” prepared. Write a letter to him describing what he needs to know to be prepared to go to school. Create a list of the items he will need in order to be prepared. Design a chart that is a schedule for a typical school week that includes the times, places, and pertinent information of every class and event that regularly occurs at school. Finally, draw and label a map of the school that includes neighboring streets, classrooms, cafeteria, hallway, restrooms, offices, and playground. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date: _____

Domain: Social/Emotional Behavior

Hoot Project Choices

Place a check mark in the box next to each project you choose.

- ☐ SE1. Roy is faced with situations where “what is right” and “what is wrong” is not clear. His mother told him that many times in life we face situations “...where your heart tells you to do one thing and your brain tells you to do another. In the end, all that’s left is to look at both sides and go with your best judgment.” You need to think about a time when you had a conflict where your heart and your brain disagreed. Design a chart to convey (1) a complete description of the problem you faced, (2) what your heart said, (3) what your brain said, and (4) how you resolved the problem and why you made the choice you did. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date:_____

- ☐ SE2. Roy is continually bullied by Dana Matherson who is bigger and older than Roy. One the day Dana tries to choke him, Roy fights back and gets into trouble. Conduct research on bullying to find out (1) the reasons that bullies pick on people, (2) the actions that victims of bullies can take to protect themselves, (3) the actions that schools can take to prevent bullying, (4) the actions that parents can take to prevent bullying, and (5) educational programs that are designed to prevent bullying. Display the results of your research in the form of a Power Point presentation or a poster and present it to the class. Your project will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you. Due Date:_____

- ☐ SE3. Beatrice and her “mystery boy” step-brother do not have an ideal family situation. You must write two letters from Beatrice, pretending that you are Beatrice as a grown-up. One letter is to her dad and the other is to her step-mother. Each letter must contain a description of Beatrice’s feelings, suggestions to improve the family situation, and a description of how the family situation impacted her life as an adult. Repeat the same process for Beatrice’s step-brother. Your four letters will need to meet all the criteria on the rubric(s) your teacher will give you.
Due Date:_____

Appendix A P L A N N I N G D O C U M E N T Rev. 03 01/24/06 Department of
Advanced Academic Programs Page 8 of 10 Broward County Public Schools
RUBRIC 1 off 2

For Hoot Project SM1: Owl Pellets

Possible Points	Criteria for Written Report	Points Earned
20	Description of owl pellets includes (1) how they are formed, (2) their purpose, (3) where they are found, (4) which owls produce them, as well as (5) their general size, shape, and color.	
13	Research utilizes at least 5 references.	
13	Writing is well-organized and includes a quality introduction and conclusion.	
13	Writing communicates thoughts clearly and thoughts are elaborated upon to an appropriate degree of depth.	
12	Writing utilizes higher-level vocabulary throughout.	
8	Paper includes at least one drawing with an appropriately descriptive label.	
7	The last page is titled "Bibliography" and lists all references in teacher-specified style.	
7	Paper has no grammatical or spelling errors.	
5	Paper has title, 1" margins, double-spacing, ½ inch indentations for paragraphs, numbered pages, and 12-point font.	
2	Pages are stapled together in the upper-left-hand-corner. Pages are not wrinkled, torn, or out-of-order.	
Total	Total	
100	Teacher Comments:	

Appendix A P L A N N I N G D O C U M E N T Rev. 03 01/24/06 Department of
Advanced Academic Programs Page 9 of 10 Broward County Public Schools
RUBRIC 2 off 2

For Hoot Project SM1: Owl Pellets

Possible Points	Criteria for Dissection and Re-assembly of Owl Pellet	Points Earned
28	Instructions for dissection (including all safety instructions) were followed completely and accurately.	
16	Appropriate and quality reference materials were used to identify prey from hairs, feathers, bones, and claws.	
16	Parts were glued on poster board in an organized fashion according to the prey to which they belonged.	
16	Each prey found was identified correctly.	
10	Labels of prey were correct, neatly printed or typed, and included the Latin name of the species.	
8	Owl pellet display was titled appropriately. Title was neatly printed or typed.	
6	Owl pellet pieces were kept orderly and were not lost during the dissection or re-assembly process.	
Total	Total	
100	Teacher Comments:	

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SAMPLE:

1. Teacher Notes
2. Correlation to Sunshine State Content Standards
3. Rubrics/Assessments for all Projects
4. Assessments for Comprehension and Vocabulary