It’s a Challenge!

Over the summer I spent extensive time researching reading and reading instruction. Steven Krashen states no single literacy activity has a more positive effect on students’ comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, spelling, writing ability, and overall academic achievement than free voluntary reading. Research shows readers do better in school and college. Children and teens who love reading have higher IQs and are more creative than their peers who aren’t readers.

Not only do I want my students to leave my class knowing how to read, I want students to leave my class being excellent readers and loving to read. The best way to improve reading skills is to increase the amount of time and types of books we read! Because of this I am issuing my students a CHALLENGE!! Throughout the course of the school year I challenge my students to read 40 books. Yes, you read correctly…40! It may seem like a big number, but they can do it!

Students will be challenged to read in various genres (see reverse side). It is important students read books they are interested in and are on or near their reading level. I can and will help students find books here at school. We will be spending time each day reading at school. Students need to make sure they ALWAYS have a book at school and take it to ALL of their classes! To meet the challenge, students will also need to read at home.

We will be tracking our at home reading minutes with our blue Reading at Home notes (100 minutes/week are required). The blue notes are due each Monday and are worth 20 points per week. We will track the books read on a form in our Reading Response Notebooks. Books longer than 350 pages will count as two books (525 pages=3 books). Books shorter than 100 pages will count as quick reads; students are allowed 5 quick reads for the year.

In addition students will participate in required reading projects. Students will complete one creative book project per term and present at least one book talk per term. Students will be given more information concerning these items as they need it.

By the way..I AM PARTICIPATING IN THIS CHALLENGE TOO! I will be posting the books I have read in the classroom. I would love for you parents to join us in the challenge!

If you have any questions please let me know. I can be reached at sdjohnson@graniteschools.org or 385-646-4954.

40 Book Challenge Requirements!

Poetry Anthologies/Poetry Novels: 2

Traditional Literature: 2

Realistic Fiction: 5

Historical Fiction: 3

Fantasy: 3

Science Fiction: 3

Mystery or Ghost Story: 2

Informational: 5

Biography/Autobiography/Memoir: 2

Newbery Award Book: 1

Caldecott Award Book: 1

Recommended by Teacher, Classmate, etc.: 1

Personal Choice Novels: 10

P.S. I am working to build my classroom library this year. This will help provide students with easy access to good books**. Our classroom library can benefit from you.**  Please send books you no longer need to our library, especially ones you’ve loved, if you can bear †o part with them. You are also invited to come to class and share a book with us. We will place the book information on our Recommended Reading List. I would love for you to share your passion for reading and get to know our amazing class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please return the bottom section

I have read about and understand the 40 Book Challenge!

Student Signature:

Parent Signature: