

## **About the Sixth Grade Reading Challenge**

Our reading program is inspired by, *The Book Whisperer*, by Donalyn Miller. The main goal is to encourage a lifelong love of reading. Research shows that the best way to become a good reader is to read a lot. Therefore we will focus on creating opportunities in class to read widely and often.

### **Why reading matters**

It opens minds and changes lives. Reading exposes us to unknown worlds and other times. It helps us escape the confines of home and school, and frees us to pursue our own education wherever our paths may lead.

It is a fundamental skill for citizens of any democracy against the ever present-dangers of apathy, corruption and delusion. It is one of most valuable and least expensive forms of entertainment.

Best of all, reading (during the day) does not require batteries.

### **Reading at home**

Students are expected to read at home at least ½ hour per day. Ideally, they have a place to read that is quiet, comfortable and well-lit.

Parents can help their children develop a life-long reading habit by modeling a lifestyle that includes quality reading time. Try to maintaining a comfortable reading area, and set aside some quiet time each evening when everyone sits down to read.

# The Reading Challenge

## Can you read 40 books by June?

1. You are free to choose your own books to read (within reasonable limits).
2. Try to read at least 40 books by June. (Books over 350 pages count as two books.)
3. At any time you may abandon a book and choose another, but only books you finish reading count toward the total of books read.
4. Read at least two books from each of the following genres:
  - Realistic Fiction
  - Historical Fiction
  - Science Fiction
  - Fantasy Fiction
  - Biographies / Autobiographies / Memoirs
  - Nonfiction
  - Epics and Traditional Literature
  - Poetry
  - Graphic Novels
  - Reader's Choice
5. Maintain a list of books you'd like to read.
6. Maintain a list of the books you've read this year.

**Note: Book reports, comprehension tests, etc. are not part of the Reading Program!**

### Using the Classroom Library

- You can read any book in the classroom library.
- Library books must be checked out before they can be removed from the classroom.
- Students are responsible for taking good care of library books.
- Damaged library books should be brought to the teacher for repair or replacement.
- Returned books go to the *Return Shelf*. The Library cleanup crew will put them away.

**Donations to our classroom library are welcome!**

# Characteristics of Genre

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Genre** is a French word meaning *type* or *kind*. We use genres to classify books by their common characteristics. There are many different genres of literature, and new ones are being developed all the time. Below are some of the most common.

## Poetry

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## Traditional Literature

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## Fantasy

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## Science Fiction

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**Realistic Fiction**

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**Historical Fiction**

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**Mystery**

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**Biography / Autobiography / Memoir**

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**Nonfiction**

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# Reading Interest Survey

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Do you read books for fun?

If so, which kinds do you like to read?

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Novels     | <input type="checkbox"/> History     | <input type="checkbox"/> Picture books | <input type="checkbox"/> Funny books       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mysteries         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction     | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoons / Comics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science    | <input type="checkbox"/> Scary books | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonfiction    | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry            |

What books would you want to take with you on a long vacation?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a good place to read at home?

Do you have a public library card?

How many books have you read in the past month?

What is your favorite time of day to read?

- |                                   |  |   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never    | <input type="checkbox"/> Before school   | <input type="checkbox"/> At school      | <input type="checkbox"/> After school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evenings | <input type="checkbox"/> Before sleeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Whenever I can |                                       |

If you could meet any character from any book, who would you want to meet?



# Sixth Grade Reading Wishlist

Name \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Title, Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Started</b>	<b>Status</b>
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2				
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# Books Read in Sixth Grade

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	<b>Title and Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>
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