

Dear Families,

The best way to become a better reader is to read! Extensive research demonstrates that people who are avid readers are better students. In order to help your child be more successful in school, and to create enthusiastic, life-long readers, I am encouraging your student to participate in the 40 Book Challenge this year. The challenge is for each student to read 40 books from different genres by May 31, 2022. Some class time will be devoted to independent reading, responding, and tracking their reading.

The Challenge:

Your eighth grader has been challenged to read 40 books, from a wide range of genres, by the end of the school year. Forty books may sound like a lot; however, I assure you that I have confidence your child will experience success. Students are expected to read each night. They can accomplish this challenge by the end of 8th grade by reading about one book a week. Some books, like shorter nonfiction books, can be read possibly in a day or two. Some books will obviously take longer to finish. This goal can be reached by making the right book choices and reading every day in class and at home.

The Goal:

The goal of this challenge is to encourage each child to read a variety of books and explore new genres. Ultimately, I want to see our students develop (or continue to develop!) a love of reading. Students may borrow novels from the school library. They may also use books from home or anywhere they can get their hands on a good read! We hope that they are so into their books that they will want to continue reading outside of class. Not all books are created equal. If a book is generally less than 150 pages or substantially below the student's reading level, it will not count towards the 40 Book Challenge, 300 page or more books will count as two books. Audiobooks may be appropriate for certain students and during certain times - a family road trip for example. I may give students permission to listen to audiobooks on a case by case basis.

The Rules:

- Each book must be read by your 8th grader! The books should be at his or her level.
- Books must meet the genre requirements but do not need to be read in any particular order.
- Most fiction books should be a minimum of 150 pages; nonfiction, poetry, or traditional (myths, fairy tales) will likely be shorter. Books that are 300 pages or longer will count as two books.
- Students will record each book on the "40 Book Challenge" record sheet which is posted in Google Classroom.
- Chapter books read in small groups may count, but those read as a class may not be included, since this is an independent reading challenge.
- Students may not count books they have previously read, but they may use the books they have read since the beginning of school this year.

Genre book requirement:

Poetry Anthology (collection) 1 book

Realistic Fiction 5 books

Historical Fiction 4 books

Fantasy/Mythology 3 books

Science Fiction 1 books

Mystery 3 books

Traditional literature (Fairy Tales, Fables, Folktale, Tall Tales) 2 books. These are the only books that can be less than 150 pages. Check with me to get approval.

Informational (Non-fiction) 4 books  
Biography/Autobiography 3 books  
Award Winners 4 books  
Chapter books (your choice) 10 books

Tips to help your child rise to the challenge:

- Start reading now.
- Talk with your child about the books they read.
- Have your child read aloud to you or a sibling.
- Take your child to the public library.
- Make sure your child is reading each night!
- Consider taking on the challenge and reading 40 books yourself.

The idea of reading 40 books from a variety of genres is exciting and intimidating at the same time! Please support your child as he or she works through this challenge. Please let me know if you have any questions about the 40 Book Challenge.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Hutchison

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Please return this signed form.

I have read and understand the 40 Book Challenge. I will encourage my child along the journey.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_