

40 BOOK CHALLENGE



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 avid, 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 15, 2019. Some class time will be devoted to independent reading, responding, and tracking their reading.

The Challenge:

Your fifth 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 as part of the reading homework. They can accomplish this challenge by the end of 5th 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 our classroom library, as well as the school library. They may use books from home, the public library, 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 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.

The Rules:

- Each book must be read by your 5th 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 when finished and get teacher signature.

- For every two books a student reads, they will receive a raffle ticket that will go into the fishbowl for a drawing at the end of the year. Items to include: books, games, writing supplies, etc.
- Students will respond each time they finish a book by completing a response to literature
- **Note:** Students reading long chapter books (over 300 pages) should write a response half way through and at the end of the book.
- 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.
- Audiobooks do not count for this challenge.
- Those who meet benchmarks for the challenge will be posted on the **Wall of Fame** for the challenge

The Requirements: 150-299 pages =  300 + pages =  

Genre	Book requirement
Poetry Anthology (collection)	1 book
Realistic Fiction	5 books
Historical Fiction	4 books
Fantasy/Mythology	3 books
Science Fiction	2 books
Mystery	3 books
Traditional literature (Fairy Tales, Fables, Folktale, Tall Tales) These are the only books that can be less than 150 pages. Check with me to get approval.	2 books
Informational (Non-fiction)	4 books
Biography/Autobiography	3 books
Award Winners	3 books
A book that was made into a movie	1 books
Chapter books (your choice)	9 books

Students can also take an AR (Accelerated Reader) test on any books they read that are AR. Some books may not be AR and that is okay!

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. I can't wait to see the difference it makes in our students as lifelong readers! Please let me know if you have any questions about the 40 Book Challenge.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Storch

Please return this signed form. Your child will keep it in their SOAR Binder to reference when making book choices.

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

Student Name: _____ Student

Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

40 BOOK CHALLENGE TALLY SHEET

Book Title	Author	# of Pages	Date Finished	Teacher Sign off
Traditional Literature (2)				
1				
2				
Realistic Fiction (5)				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
Historical Fiction (4)				
8				
9				
10				
11				
Fantasy/Mythology (3)				
12				
13				
14				

Book Title	Author	# of Pages	Date Finished	Teacher Sign off
Biography/Autobiography/ Memoir (3)				
15				
16				
17				
Non-Fiction/ Informational (4)				
18				
19				
20				
21				
Award Winner (3)				
22				
23				
24				
Poetry Anthology (1)				
25				
A book made into a movie (1)				
26				
Mystery (3)				
27				
28				
29				

Book Title	Author	# of Pages	Date Finished	Teacher Sign off
Science Fiction (2)				
30				
31				
Reader's Choice Chapter Books (9)				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				
39				
40				