

40 book | CHALLENGE

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardians,

This year your child has been asked to set a personal goal of reading 40 books by the end of the school year. In order to complete this goal, it is important that they read for at least twenty minutes each night.

Furthermore, research supports nightly reading. It has been found that students who read for at least twenty minutes every night are often top achievers in school. I want your child to be successful in school, but also develop a life-long love of reading. This challenge will help your child achieve both goals!

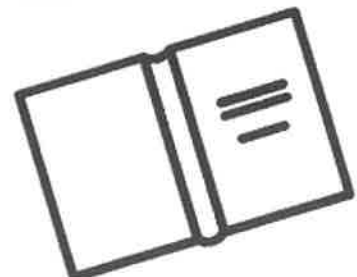
As part of this challenge, students will be required to read books (independently) from a number of genres. If a book is longer than 250 pages, it counts as two books. Books that students read at school during our silent reading time count toward their total. Students will be responding to their reading in their response journal that we keep at school. They will also be tracking their progress on a tracker that we display in the classroom.

In order for your child to tackle this challenge, it is important that they have support at home. These are just a few of the ways that you can help:

- Encourage your child to read daily. Provide them with a quiet space where they can read undisturbed.
- Check on their progress. Ask them how many books they have read, or what book/genre they are reading.
- Talk about books. Share your childhood favorites!
- Celebrate their reading accomplishments!
- Take your child to the library (or bookstore) to explore new and exciting titles.

Thank you for your support! Happy Reading!

Mrs. Michalski



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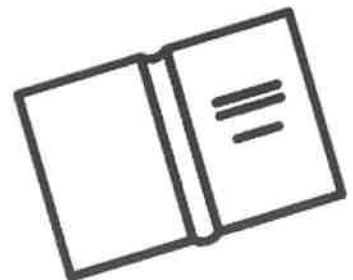
The time has come. Let's do this!

Dear _____,

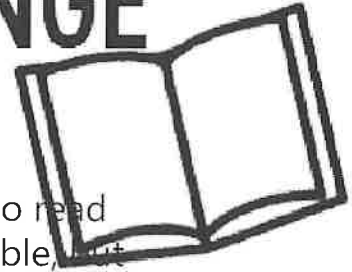
You are about to embark on something that will be new, challenging, exciting, and extremely rewarding. You must try your best to complete this challenge. If you do, I promise that you will be so happy that you did. Remember, I'm doing this with you!

Happy reading!
Sincerely,

Mrs. Michalski



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What is the 40 Book Challenge?

Over the course of this school year your goal will be to read forty books! This may seem overwhelming or impossible, but do not worry. It can be done! The idea behind the challenge is to read and read lots!

You will also be asked to read a variety of genres (realistic fiction, poetry, mystery, historical fiction, biography, fantasy, and informational text). This is designed to stretch you as a reader and discover some great books.

The forty book challenge is simply to read forty books. There will be no penalty for not reaching forty books. This is strictly a personal reading challenge.

Why the 40 Book Challenge?

Reading is fun! This challenge gives a daily opportunity to simply enjoy reading. You will not be asked to complete book reports, take AR tests, quizzes or other tests on what you read. All I want you to do is READ!

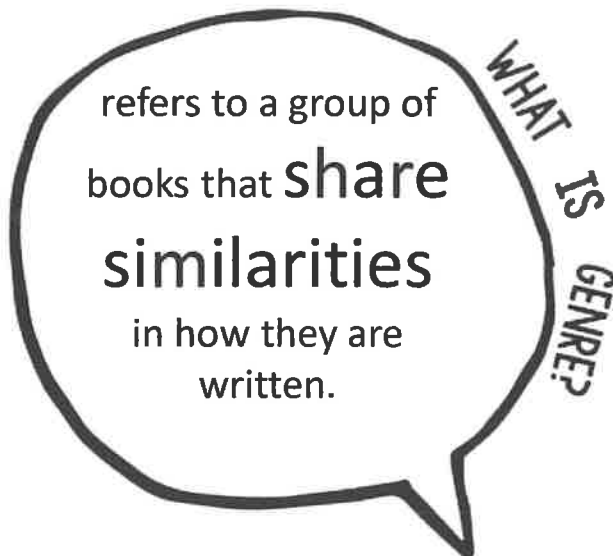
You will be asked to write about what you are reading. Good readers discuss and share the books they are reading with other people who love books (like your teacher 😊).

Statistics show students who read on a regular basis (twenty or more minutes each night) will score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests (NWEA MAP testing, SBAC are examples of standardized tests) whereas students who read for only five minutes score in the 50th percentile. By challenging yourself to read more, you will become smarter, too.

40 book|CHALLENGE

Genre Descriptions and Requirements

As you embark on your forty book challenge, I ask that you read from a variety of genres. Each genre is described for you, the number of books you need to read from each genre, and some book recommendations for each genre.



Recommendations:

- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier
- *Petey* by Ben Mikaelson
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulson
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series* by Jeff Kinney
- *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper
- *Frindle* by Andrew Clements

Realistic Fiction (5)

Realistic Fiction books are stories that could have actually happened to real people or animals.

The setting is in the present or recent past, and could have taken place in a real place or one that could be real.

Characters interact with one another as if the story takes place in real life. The characters face real issues and have to solve their problems as everyday people do.



Historical Fiction (4)

Historical Fiction books have a setting that takes place in the past. The setting is usually a real place or could have been a real place in a specific time period. The characters are real or based upon people who would have lived in the time period the book takes place. The book stays true to the time period and explores the specific issues and problems found in that era of history.

Recommendations:

- *I Survived Book Series* by Laura Tarshis
- *Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry



Biography/Autobiography (5)

A biography is a story of a real person's life written by someone else. An autobiography is a story about a real person's life told by that person. The book often contains a detailed description of the person's life and important events often in chronological order.

Recommendations:

- *Who Was...? Series*
- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* by Malala Yousafzai
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition* by William Kamkwamba

Informational Text (5)

Informational Text is a work of non-fiction and does not contain characters, but rather the author's purpose is to inform the reader about a specific topic. Often times the author will use specific text features such as a table of contents, index, glossary, bold or italicized words, photos, captions, graphs, and charts.

Recommendations:

- *Genius! The Most Astounding Inventions of All Time* by Deborah Kespert
- *The Notorious Benedict Arnold* by Steve Sheinkin
- *1st and 10: Top 10 Lists of Everything in Football* by Sports Illustrated Kids
- *Guinness Book of World Records Series*

Fantasy/Science Fiction (5)

Fantasy books explore imaginary places with impossible events such as talking animals, people with supernatural powers, and/or paranormal or magical events. The fantasy genre deals with fictional events that simply could never happen in real life. Science fiction is a type of fantasy that uses science and technology to create impossible elements. Sci-Fi stories are set in the future.

Recommendations:

- *Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling
- *One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert O'Brien
- *The Tail of Emily Windsnap* by Liz Kessler
- *Lightning Thief* by Jack Riordan

Mystery (4)

A mystery book is a fictional story with a puzzling event or crime. The event is not solved until the end of the book in order to keep the reader in suspense. Mystery books often are realistic.

Recommendations:

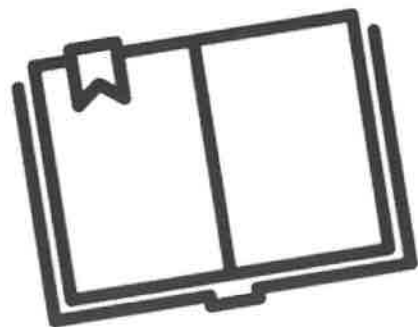
- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- *Book Scavenger* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
- *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
- *Sammy Keyes* by Wendelin Van Draanen

Poetry (2)

Poetry is written in verse to elicit thoughts and emotions from the reader. Poetry is written with a pattern using rhyme and rhythm, imagery, and figurative language to convey a message.

Recommendations:

- *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech
- *Falling Up* by Shel Silverstein
- *Booked* by Kwane Alexander



Your Choice (10)

For this challenge, choice refers to any book in any genre. If you have a favorite genre (for example, historical fiction), you can read more than the required amount and list those books in the choice category.

Recommendations:

Read a Newbery medal winner or Newbery honor book

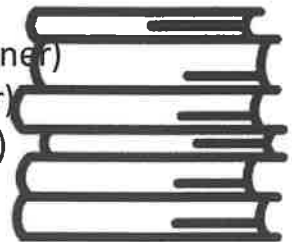
Every year the Association for Library Service to Children selects a book to receive the Newbery Medal. The award is given to the author that makes the most influence on children's literature. This means the author wrote a well-written book that was original and different than other children's books.

- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill (2017 winner)
- *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo (2014 winner)
- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead (2010 winner)
- *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread* by Kate DiCamillo (2004 winner)
- *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi (2003 winner)

Read a Coretta Scott King Award book or honor book

This award is given yearly to African American authors and illustrators. In order to be given this prestigious award, the author or illustrator has demonstrated in their writing an appreciation for African American culture and values. The award honors the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his wife Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (2015 winner)
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia (2011 winner)
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis (2000 winner)
- *As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds (2017 honor)



Genre Overview

Genre means a certain category or kind of literary work.

Genre Code	Genre	Definition
FICTION		
P	Poetry Anthology	Poetry is a collection of words that express an emotion or idea, sometimes with a specific rhythm.
TL	Traditional Literature	Traditional literature are stories that are passed down from generation to generation. They can be fairy-tales, fables, myths, or origin stories.
RF	Realistic Fiction	Realistic fiction are stories that could have actually occurred in real life. They are believable stories but not real.
HF	Historical Fiction	Historical fiction is set in the past and sometimes borrows true characteristics of the time period in which it is set.
F or SF	Fantasy or Science Fiction	Fantasy is a story with impossible elements, such as talking animals or magical powers. Science fiction is a type of fantasy that uses science and technology to create impossible elements.
M	Mystery	Mystery is a suspenseful story about a puzzling event to be solved.
DN	Dystopian Novel	A dystopian novel features a place where the state of being is very bad or oppressive, the opposite of a utopia.
GN	Graphic Novel	A graphic novel uses a combination of text and art to tell a story, often in comic-strip form.
NONFICTION		
Info.	Informational Text	Informational texts provide facts about various topics.
B, AB, M	Biography, Autobiography, or Memoir	A biography is a real story about a person's <i>entire</i> life, and it is true. An autobiography is a real story about the author, and it is true. A memoir is a real story about only a specific event in the author's life.

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Characteristics of a Genre

Books are classified by their common characteristics.

Poetry

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Traditional Literature

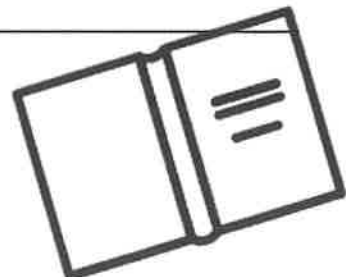
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Fantasy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

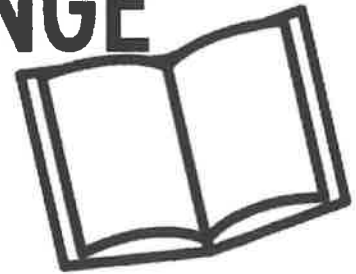
Science Fiction

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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Characteristics of a Genre



Realistic Fiction

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Historical Fiction

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Mystery

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Biography/Autobiography/Memoir

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Informational Text

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Reading Log

Each time you start a book, record the title and author here along with the date you started it. When you finish that book, write the genre code and the date you finished it. If you abandon the book, write an (A) for the Genre Code and the date you abandoned it. Note whether the book was easy (E), just right (JR), or challenging (C), then give it a rating out of four stars by coloring in the stars.

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Started	Date Finished	E, JR, C

Reading Log Continued

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Started	Date Finished	E, JR, C

Reading Log Continued

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Started	Date Finished	E, JR, C
			★ ★ ★ ★			
			★ ★ ★ ★			
			★ ★ ★ ★			
			★ ★ ★ ★			
			★ ★ ★ ★			
			★ ★ ★ ★			
			★ ★ ★ ★			

Reading Log Continued

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Started	Date Finished	E, JR, C
			☆ ☆ ☆ ☆			
			☆ ☆ ☆ ☆			
			☆ ☆ ☆ ☆			
			☆ ☆ ☆ ☆			
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Reading Log Continued

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Started	Date Finished	E, JR, C

Reading Log Continued

#	Title	Author	Genre Code	Date Started	Date Finished	E, JR, C
			☆☆☆☆			
			☆☆☆☆			
			☆☆☆☆			
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			☆☆☆☆			

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Letters to Your Teacher

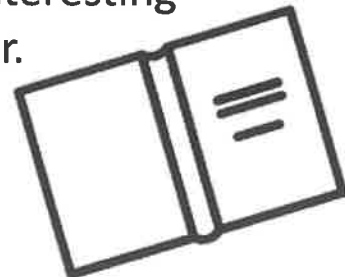
Dear _____,

This year, you will be writing letters about books, about reading, and about authors. Sometimes I will write you a letter back, but I will always read what you have to say.

When you write me letters, it is very important that you use the letter format you see on the “student letter example” page of this notebook. Also, sometimes you will be able to write a letter on a topic of your choice. If you are having trouble deciding what to write about, read over the “letter topic ideas” page. Your letters should be interesting and unique to you. Tell me what you really think about the book you are reading!

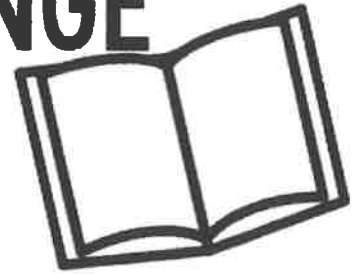
It is important that your letters are neatly written and easy to read, so that your thoughts can be easily understood. When you think you have finished, proofread it! I look forward to reading about your thinking and having interesting conversations with you about books this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Michalski



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Student Letter Example



Dear Mrs. Michalski,

I am in the process of reading Inkheart by Cornelia Funke. I absolutely LOVE this book! I'm at the part where Fengolio and Meggie read the tin soldier back into the re-written, happy ending of the story. They are now trying to figure out a way to change Inkheart into making the shadow kill Capricorn. I am eager to see how it ends! I know there is a sequel called Inkspell. Is that worth my time to read?

I thought the Thief Lord that I finished last week was a little slow in the beginning, but I like the middle a lot! I thought it was cool how at first they were in the abandoned movie theater and then they moved to the lady's house. I also liked how the detective was so nice to the kids and was on their side. I liked the way the author wrote the part when Bo was taken by the Aunt. It really showed the love connection between Bo and Prosper!

Sincerely,

Molly

REMEMBER

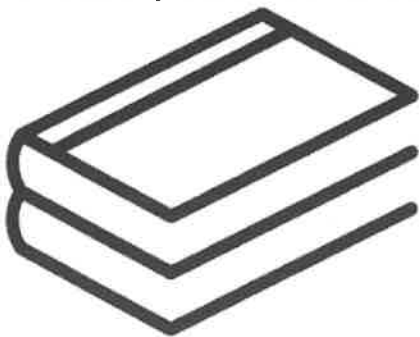
1. You must ALWAYS mention the book title and the author's name in the FIRST paragraph.
2. Underline ALL titles.

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What can I write about?

Don't know what to write about? Use the suggestions below.

- What surprised you?
- What did you think was really interesting?
- Who are the main characters?
- What problems are the main characters facing?
- Who is your favorite character? Explain.
- Can you make any predictions about what might happen next in the story?
- Connections: How does the book remind you about your own life? Other books you have read? Something that is happening in the world?
- Author's Purpose: Why do you think the author wrote the book?
- Theme: What do you think about the author's message?
- Why do you think the author chose that title?
- What part of the book is confusing? Explain.
- How do you feel about the ending?
- Would you recommend the book to someone else? Explain.



Remember:

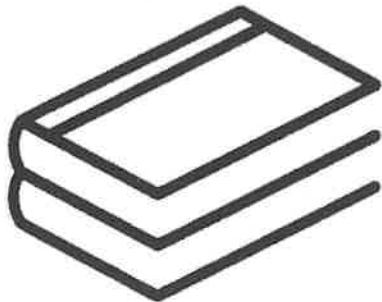
Always include the title and author of the book you are reading!

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