

Middle School Self-Selected Reading Rationale and Requirements

WHY SHOULD WE ALL READ MORE?

STUDENT: Are you an athlete? musician? dancer? In order to be at the “top of your game,” you know that you must practice, practice, practice. Reading is no different. As you read more, you get better at it, which increases your enjoyment. You will also perform better in high school, college, and beyond, according to many studies. One study cited in *Reading Research Quarterly* included these findings, relating number of minutes students spend reading each day to test scores.

Percentile Rank on Reading Test	Minutes of Reading per Day
98	67.3
90	33.4
70	16.9
50	9.2
30	4.3

STUDENT AND PARENTS: Many studies suggest that reading will increase one’s chances of success in life. Tom Corley, in research for his book *Rich Habits: The Daily Success Habits of Wealthy Individuals*, found that 85% of all self-made millionaires read at least two books per month. Other studies show that reading enhances your self-esteem, reduces stress, improves your vocabulary, and sharpens your mental skills.

SELF-SELECTED READING REQUIREMENTS

STUDENTS: You will be expected to have a grade-level appropriate book with you in class each Friday, beginning August 28th. You are encouraged to always have a book with you, in case you complete other work and have time to read.

You will make brief notes on a Reading Log to document your self-selected reading. You will need to complete at least two books per quarter. The Reading Log will count as one major grade each quarter (see rubric on the back of this page).

PARENTS, please help us reinforce the importance of daily reading:

- show an interest in what your child is reading
- discuss books being read by members of the family
- determine appropriateness for your student

Sites that may help:

Common Sense Media

Compass Book Ratings

Plugged In

What’s In It? Lit Guide- The Concerned Parents’ Guide to Young Adult Literature

READING LOG RUBRIC

Criteria:	Points Possible	Points Earned
Effort/ Participation: Brought a book each Friday / Used SSR time to read	20	
Reading Checks: Explained reminders on Reading Log	20	
Book Checks: Completed two books / Both titles appear on Reading Log	60	

I understand the rationale for reading daily and have read and understand the expectations for self-selected reading this year.

Student Signature

I understand the rationale for having students read daily and have read and understand the expectations for self-selected reading this year.

Parent / Guardian Signature