

## **The 40 Book Challenge**

(adapted from Ms. Sokolowski's Third Grade Learners)

Challenges are fun to do, especially when you are challenging yourself to grow in new ways. Donalyn Miller, a renowned teacher and author, created the 40 Book Challenge and wrote about it in her book, *The Book Whisperer*. I've adapted this challenge for our class, and I am very excited to share this with the students. Students will be asked to read across different genres, including realistic fiction, mysteries, poetry anthologies, traditional literature, historical fiction, fantasy/science fiction, informational and biography/autobiography/memoir.

### **What can my child read?**

Anything! (In book form) The students will be reading across many genres and they can read picture books, chapter books, or graphic novels. Students will participate in lessons in class to learn how to self-select "just right" books.

### **What if my child doesn't read all 40 books by June?**

We will celebrate the books your child did read and the growth that was made. Challenges, by nature, are not easy but it is worthwhile to try your best. All of the research shows that you become a better reader by reading! Taking on the 40 Book Challenge will help our community of readers to read more than they thought possible!

### **Is it a competition?**

No! A community of readers celebrates each member and works together for the good of the group. There will be no prizes for the student who read the most. We will all strive to do our personal best and help each other meet our goals.

### **How can I help my child to become a better reader?**

- Make books available to your child! Visit the library often. Ask for books for gifts for birthdays and holidays. Magazines subscriptions are also a good idea!
- Show interest in what your child's reading. Ask him/her to tell you about the book.
- If your child wants to read a book that is too challenging, read it with your child or to your child.
- Try audiobooks in the car for long trips!
- Never make reading a punishment. Display a positive attitude about reading!
- Allow your child options- reading from a digital reader like a Kindle or iPad can be motivating! Holding a book in your hands is also a great feeling. It doesn't always have to be one or the other.
- Don't get caught up in levels. Ask yourself: Does my child enjoy reading? Do I see him/her pick up a book without being asked? Students will grow as readers when they enjoy reading and engage in it often.
- Be a reader yourself! Let your child see you reading what you are interested in- magazines, cookbooks, sports pages, novels, blogs, etc. Talk to your child about the ways reading makes your life better. :)

## **The Forty Book Challenge Requirements:**

Realistic fiction: 8

Mystery: 2

Fantasy/Science fiction: 8

Informational: 4

Biography, autobiography or memoir: 4

Historical fiction: 2

Traditional literature: 4

Poetry anthologies: 2

Picture book choice: 3

Chapter book choice: 3

## **Genres & Examples**

**Realistic fiction:** a story that uses made up characters, but could happen in real life. Example: *Ramona* by Beverly Cleary.

**Mystery:** a suspenseful story that is not solved until the end of the book. Example: A to Z Mysteries series by Ron Roy, *Nate the Great* by Marjorie Sharmat.

**Fantasy/Science Fiction:** a story using impossible elements, such as magic, talking animals, and imaginary worlds. Science fiction is a type of fantasy that includes elements like robots, time machines, etc. Examples: *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate.

**Informational:** text that gives you facts about a topic. Examples: *Volcanoes* by Seymour Simon, *No Monkeys, No Chocolate* by Melissa Stewart.

**Biography, autobiography, memoir:** Biography is a true story about a person's life, written by another person. An autobiography is a true story that a person writes about his/her own life. A memoir is an account when a person describes past experiences and reflects on them. Examples: *Who Was Amelia Earhart?* by Kate Boehm Jerome, *When I was Young in the Mountains* by Cynthia Rylant.

**Historical fiction:** a story with made up characters but a real setting from the past. Examples: *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan, *Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan.

**Traditional literature:** stories passed down through history like fairy tales, folktales, fables, myths and legends. Examples: *The Ugly Duckling* by Jerry Pinkney, *Johnny Appleseed: A Tall Tale* by Steven Kellogg

**Poetry:** verses that express feeling, using creative language and sometimes rhythm or rhyme. Examples: *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein, *Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reverse Poems* by Marilyn Singer.

**Graphic novels:** a novel in comic strip format. Examples: *Babymouse*, *Queen of the World* by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm, *El Deafo* by CeeCee Bell. Graphic novels are the form for many different genres and are not a genre themselves.

**Picture books:** Picture books also come in many different genres. For the 40 Book Challenge, 5 books can be any picture book from any genre.

**Chapter books:** Chapter books also come in many different genres. For the 40 Book Challenge, 5 books can be chapter books from any genre.