

Independent Reading Guidelines

Reading for pleasure is a polarizing topic – some people love it, some people hate it. There are those who can't get enough literature in their lives and others who would be content never opening another book as long as they live. But, as you've probably heard from many of your teachers, reading is important. Seriously, here are some of the benefits of reading consistently:

- Reduces stress
- Provides an escape
- Increases knowledge
- Aids in vocabulary expansion
- Helps with spelling skills
- Improves memory
- Delays the development of cognitive diseases
- Improves critical thinking skills
- Improves focus and concentration
- Leads to better writing skills
- Improves ability to empathize
- Increases open-mindedness
- Increases creativity

The thing about reading for pleasure is that it often gets confused with assigned reading. Assigned reading is not about an individual's interests or reading level, and this causes many people to think that they don't enjoy reading because they don't enjoy the books that are assigned to them (or they just don't like being told what to do). Pleasure reading, however, is different from assigned reading because it is based on a person's interests. There's a reason it's called a "pleasure." If you don't find reading pleasant, it's probably because you haven't found the right book. And trust me – the right book is out there.

For this year-long, independent reading assignment, you will have the ability to choose the books you read. The topics can be ones that interest you in formats that interest you, so your options are really endless. Here's how it will work:

1. Choose a book
2. Bring the book to class every day and home every day
 - a. We'll have 10 minutes of silent reading every day in class starting on Monday 9/10
 - b. You will also be expected to read for an additional 70 minutes outside of the given class time every week (so 2 hours of reading total)
3. Set weekly reading goals for yourself!
4. Document **all** of the books you read as well as amount of pages in your Reader's Notebook (set aside page #1 or inside cover to do so)
 - a. Include title, author, page length, date started, date finished, and whether you finished the book or not
 - i. Include the page you stopped on if you did not finish
 - b. Do this for **both** books you finish and books you abandon
 - i. Breaking up with books you're not into is OK!
5. Give book talks when you finish a book
 - a. 3 min max
 - b. Can be in verbal or video form
6. Keep a list of "What to Read Next" books so you have a new book to start when you finish one
 - a. Choose different kinds of books and work toward more difficult texts
7. Periodically conference with Mrs. Andrusiak

This assignment will officially begin on Monday, 9/10. On that day, you will bring your first book to class and begin your independent reading journey.