

# Rules for Independent Reads

1. **BRING YOU BOOK EVERY DAY!** You are expected to read during the time allotted for independent reading.
2. **The books are your choice.** Suggestions may be made, but you ultimately choose what you read. Be smart about your choices, however.
  - *You may NOT read magazines or newspapers for your independent reading selections.* While these are good to read on your own time, they do not offer the extended prose needed to practice and develop fluency. In addition, they don't let you explore the world of books.
3. **Don't read a book you don't like!** There are a lot of books out there. If you don't like the one you chose initially, pick a different one. Don't waste your time on a book you really aren't going to read.
  - Books can be found in the Media Center, local libraries, through friends, bookstores, and e-books.
  - Ask friends, teachers, and other peers and adults for suggestions to find something you will like.
4. **It is okay to reread a book you love.** Reading a book more than once will allow you to see things you missed the first time and get more from the book. In addition, as you mature and think differently over time, you may think about the book differently as you read it.
5. **It's okay to skim or even skip parts of a book that are slow or uninteresting as long as you still understand the story.** Good readers do this, too. Just be careful that you do not skip too much. If you find that you are skipping large chunks of a book, perhaps it is time to abandon the book and find another.
6. **Read as much as you can!** The more you read, the better you get and the more enjoyable it will be.

You will be expected to do the following during independent reading time and throughout the semester:

- A. You will write down the page numbers for each day we have independent reading. At the end of the week, you will tally (add up) the pages you have read. At the end of the semester, we will tally ALL of the pages you have read.
- B. You will occasionally be expected to give a quick "book talk". This isn't a presentation, but a few sentences about what you are reading at the time. This may interest others in the class who will want to read the same book.
- C. **Treat all books with respect!** Do not fold pages (use a bookmark), do not throw them around, and always return books to their rightful owners.

**Independent Reads will be part of your "participation" grade in this class. Do what you are supposed to and you will receive your full credit.**