

Long-Term Projects and Outside Reading

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TEAM AVALANCHE



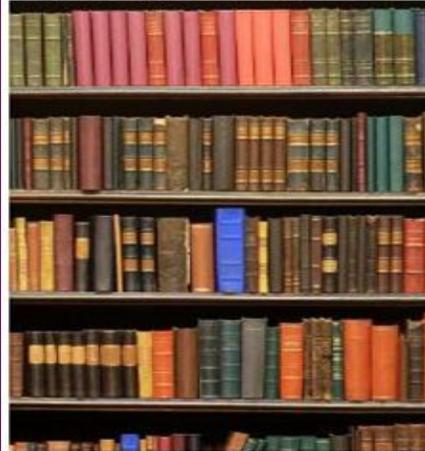
Importance of Daily Independent Reading

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Requirements

- ❑ Two books a quarter
- ❑ Appropriate level and not previously read
- ❑ At least 20 minutes a day
- ❑ Library twice a quarter
- ❑ Assessments
 - ❑ *Book conversation with annotations to show comprehension of the novel*
 - ❑ *Objective quiz*

How You Can Help Your Sixth Graders

(and How Your Sixth Graders Can Help Themselves!)

*These are life-long
studying and time
management skills (not
just for middle-school
projects)*

❑ Reading assignment

- ❑ *Divide up number of pages in book per night*
- ❑ *Enter exact pages in the agenda for each night*

❑ Review project description and rubric with a highlighter

- ❑ *Highlight important words: numbers, verbs, criteria*
- ❑ *Feeling overwhelmed? Make a checklist*

Strategies (cont.)

- ❑ Create post-it notes with criteria before reading to keep in the front of the book or selection
 - ❑ *Example: Student must find a simile in the text. The student can write “simile” on the post-it and move it to the place in the text when the student reads it.*
- ❑ Whenever possible, plan to finish project and/or prepare questions for the teacher before her after-school help session
 - ❑ ELA and Social Studies: Tuesday
 - ❑ Math and Science: Thursday

*****This is a great opportunity for a sixth grader to learn how to advocate for himself or herself*****

“Think” Marks

- Students will learn how to annotate texts while reading.
- Gives students a chance to demonstrate comprehension

Reading “Think” Marks

Good readers show what they are thinking. Use this key to help you post-it note your book as you read.

! I’m shocked

★ This is important

? Question

♥ Love this!

🚫 Do not like this!

∞ I can make a connection

LOL This is funny

4S Foreshadowing (*This will come up again later somehow*)

Frequently Heard Sixth Grade Arguments and Rebuttals

“But I hate reading . . .”

Maybe you just need to find the right book

- ❑ Ask Mrs. Humbyrd
- ❑ Ask Mrs. Humphrey
- ❑ Ask a friend what he/she is reading
- ❑ Check out [Good Reads](#) (the app or the website)

Maybe it's the physical format of the book you don't like.

- ❑ If possible, you could try an e-reader.
 - ❑ Southern Methodist University Study found that middle school boys found greater value in reading when using e-readers (“E-Readers: The Next Big Thing for Reluctant Middle School Readers”)
- ❑ Listen on an audiobook, too
 - ❑ Make sure you have the hardcopy, though to post-it and find examples.

"I lost my rubric and/or project description"

All projects and hand outs are on teacher's page of the Weebly.

- ❑ teamavalanche.weebly.com
- ❑ You need to use your rubric *before, during and after* working on the project, so print out a new one as soon as possible.

"I don't need to write about my project in the agenda. It's all on the website."

Breaking up long-term assignments is a life-long skill

Deadlines are closer than they appear

The due dates are on the website, but how many pages you individually have to read and when you actually should finish your independent work are not.

“I don’t have any post-its.”

Time to restock! Mrs. Humbyrd has some post-its, but she will run out very quickly if everyone needs them.

Write down the important pages and add the post-its in tomorrow.

“I don’t need your help. I can do this myself.”

Great! Prove it. Show me how you are breaking down this project to get it done in time.

“I read really fast. I’ll get it done in time.”

You may read very quickly, but your assessment requires thinking and that requires time.

Fast reading doesn’t show comprehension.

“I don’t know what to do.”

Check the rubric and project description. Remember, the rubric is what your teacher uses to give you a grade.

“I’ve read the rubric, but I don’t know what _____ means.”

For quick questions, ask your teacher at the start or end of class.

For more help, see your teacher during her help time. Bring what you are working on with you so she can help you check your progress.

“I can’t ask my teacher questions because . . . Can’t you call/email her and ask what I need to do?”

Sixth grade is the perfect time to learn to self-advocate.

Your teacher wants you to do well and is happy to help.

Your teacher likes kids; that’s why she teaches! She’s human (not a scary monster) and is happy to answer questions.



Thanks for Attending!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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