

# Monthly Reading Calendars



The monthly reading calendar will be used to manage the required 20 minutes of reading outside the classroom that a student is called to do each week night (Monday thru Friday). This outside reading is valuable in expanding vocabulary, comprehension, promoting a love of reading, and exposing students to different writing styles, thus helping to improve their own writing. Students will turn in their monthly reading calendars after the end of each month (typically due around the 5<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the next month). *Reading Calendar grades will be applied to the student's language arts grade.*

- Students or parents are to log in the **total monthly minutes** of the student outside reading for the month on the calendar. This total can be maintained on a daily or weekly basis – whichever is convenient for your family.
- A tally of each week's reading time (in minutes) is to be recorded on the reading calendar.
- Each month's calendar tells how many minutes are needed for the entire month to earn 100% for their reading calendar score. Students may additionally earn a Pizza Hut "Book It!" coupon by reading a required amount above the 100%.
  - 100% is earned by reading an average of 20 minutes each week night (M-F)
  - The "Book It!" coupon is earned by reading an average of 20 minutes every night (Sun-Sat) except for three nights within the month.
- Below the 100% requirement, the reading calendar grade goes down about 5 points for every 20 minutes missed (ie; miss 20 minutes = 95%, miss 40 minutes = 90%, etc.)
- Students should be reading about one P5 book each month to get a great reading experience, but I require them to read at least 5 within the year to make the P5 Club.
- A P5 Reading Sheet must be filled out for each completed P5 book. These are available in Google Classroom under the class, ShapLA. Students fill out some information and provide information about the book. If a fiction book was read, students use the P5 Fiction form. IF an informational book was read, they must use the Informational P5 form.

Students are encouraged to read novels so they are accustomed to long term reading projects, and to expose them to character development; however, informational books can be read as well.

## The Personal Five (P5)

Not all reading is "created equal." Some text is far superior to others. Of course, this depends on where each of us is according to our reading levels and experience. If we **are growing** in our reading skills, we improve our comprehension, stretch our vocabulary, and formulate more sophisticated sentences when we write.

When checking off your child's reading calendar, you want look for a check under the P5 column, (personal 5). A personal 5 book is one that I have specifically approved for your child based on his/her reading level. It's called a **personal** 5 because every student who reads 5 such books, within the school year, that I have personally approved for them is allowed to attend the P5 reading party in late May to celebrate that they have read 5 good books to accomplish those academic goals I have mentioned above. ***Every student is required to read at least five P5 books by around May 15<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the P5 Club. P5 Write-ups are graded.***

### ***What is a typical number of P5 books to read each month?***

Most students will do well to aim for **1 or 2 P5 books each month**. I would much rather see students with one or two excellent selections advancing their reading skills as opposed to 5-10 books that are below their reading levels. Students can sometimes read in spurts – some months they can complete more P5's than other months – that is natural. There are some students who will read many more P5's than others (as many as 20-30 or more books in the course of the academic year) as some children are natural readers, but it is my desire to see all students stretch their independent reading.

I love when students ask, “Would this be a P5 book?” This tells me they are serious about making wise reading choices. Some students make wise choices without having to ask the question because they consult the recommended reading list I have published. Sadly, there are students who do not check with me nor consult my list, and sometime their choices reflect they are doing little more than repeating their previous grade level. It is my hope students will find books that interest them while still advancing their reading skills.

### ***Are you REALLY READING?***

Some students, particularly reluctant readers, will look at words as they turn pages without understanding what they are reading, and they believe that by “reading” in this fashion they are checking off a book for their reading calendar, yet they are doing themselves little good. Each student must be accountable to assess whether they are really reading or merely word watching. If you're not sure, here are some questions you can ask yourself: \* Am I making pictures in my mind when I read, can I see the story happening in my mind? \* Do I feel well acquainted with the characters in the book, and do I know how each one knows the other characters? \* Do I understand what problems are happening in the story? \* Do I know where the story takes place and in what time period it is happening? \* Do I know what's going on? Students who cannot answer yes to these questions are not benefitting from the reading experience. It may be that I need to help them find a book more suited to their taste or one that is not quite so advanced for their level.

### ***Use my experience to help you find a book you will enjoy***

I have invested an enormous amount of time reading books at the elementary to middle school level in order to recommend specific books to students based on their interests and reading levels, and I am constantly reading more to expand my repertoire. Students – PLEASE USE MY EXPERIENCE. Make me your “go to” person when you are looking to find a new book. I have lined my shelves with all kinds of books and I can be your tour guide to some I think you will really enjoy. Think of me as your “Reading Coach”. Over the years, I have seen reluctant readers turn into enthusiastic readers because they have stretched themselves and trusted me to lead them to some excellent material, but they had to take that leap of faith to find out there was a whole world of enjoyment beyond what they knew.

***For More Information:*** Please go to the following webpage address for Frequently Asked Questions about the monthly reading calendar:

Link: <http://www.steveshapero.com/MonthlyReadingCalendarFAQs.pdf>

