Book Challenges

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# How This Books Challenge Works

## For Educators:
- Print the Book Challenge Board and display in your classroom or library for whole-class or student reading challenge
- Print the Book Challenge Board for each student to read, track, and share about books they have read
- Utilize the Book Challenge Board template to create your own book challenges

## For Students and Families:
- Display the Book Challenge Board to track how many books you have read that meet each challenge
- Use the Book Challenge Activities to hold conversations centered on books you have read
- Create your own Book Challenge Board with activities to go along with each book
In *From Striving to Thriving*, Stephanie Harvey and Annie Ward (2017) emphasize this fact on the very first page. They note that “four decades of research have established that voluminous, pleasurable reading is key to literacy development” (p. 9).

The more one reads, the better one reads. The more one reads, the more knowledge of words and language one acquires. The more one reads, the more fluent one becomes as a reader. The more one reads, the easier it becomes to sustain the mental effort necessary to comprehend complex texts. The more one reads, the more one learns about the people and happenings of our world. This increased volume of reading is essential (Allington, 2014).
Just by reading 20 minutes a day, students interact with 1.8 million words per year whereas their peers who read less than a minute only interact with 8,000 words per year.
# Book Challenge Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read a book by an Indiana author</th>
<th>Read a book where the main character is the complete opposite of you (gender, race, religion, etc.)</th>
<th>Read a book that takes place in a location where you have never been</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read a book that was published this year</td>
<td>Read a book that was published before you were born</td>
<td>Read a book that was made into a movie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read a book where the narrator is something other than a person</td>
<td>Read a nonfiction book that discusses a topic or person that is important to you</td>
<td>Read a book that is longer than any other book you have ever read</td>
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Printable Book Challenge Board with and without Images

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Elementary Book Suggestions

Help! I’m a Prisoner in the Library by Eth Clifford
Clifford, The Big Red Dog by Norman Bridwell
Mya in the Middle by Crystal Allen
What If...? Then We by Rebecca Kai Dotlich

Secondary Books Suggestions

Looking For Alaska by John Green
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut
You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson
Painted Over by Sofi Keren

Activities to Accompany Reading

Where you live and the experiences you have had allow you to have your own story. Map out what a story about you would be like. Use a storyboard or one of the plot diagrams to draw out the most important scenes. Keep in mind the progression of a story: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.

Use Book Creator or an online platform to create, write, illustrate, or record your book.
Character Opposite of You

Elementary Book Suggestions
Red by Michael Hall
Round Is a Mooncake by Roseanne Thong
The Year of the Fortune Cookie by Andrea Cheng
Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake

Secondary Books Suggestions
The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds
Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonski
Proud by Ibtihaj Muhammad
The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon
I’m Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez

Activities to Accompany Reading

During reading, ask the reader to complete a Venn Diagram to keep track of differences and similarities between themselves and the main character of the story. Consider the character’s personality, goals, values, family structure, and hobbies.

After reading, write or illustrate a reflection that explains one similarity found between the reader and the main character. Why is it important for people to find things they have in common with people who seem different than them?
New Locations

Elementary Book Suggestions

*The Water Princess* by Susan Verde  
*Elephant in the Dark* by Mina Javaherbin  
*The Boy Who Asked Why* by Sowmya Rajendran  
*The Dreamer* by Peter Sis and Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Big City Atlas* by Maggie Li

Secondary Books Suggestions

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini  
*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi  
*A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah  
*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Activities to Accompany Reading

During reading, use details from the text to draw a picture of how you imagine the location of the story to look like. You can create this drawing by hand or on a digital platform like [Doodle Buddy](#) for elementary or [Uplifting Play](#) for secondary students.

After reading, write a reflection about how the location of the story is essential to the development of the plot. Could this same story take place in a different location? Why or why not?
Published This Year

Elementary Book Suggestions
- Cool Cuts by Mechal Renee Roe
- Just Like Me by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
- Epoca by Kobe Bryant, written by Ivy Claire
- The Funny Life of Sharks by James Campbell
- Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell

Secondary Books Suggestions
- Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You by Jason Reynolds
- A Burning by Megha Majumdar
- The Ballad of Song Birds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins
- Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Activities to Accompany Reading

Before reading, brainstorm a list of three to five major events that took place during the current year.

After reading, review the list you created of major events from the year and see if you can make connections between those events and the themes that are included in the book you read. How might the lessons or themes discussed in the book change the way you think about the events that took place?
## Published Before You Were Born

### Elementary Book Suggestions
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster

### Secondary Books Suggestions
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- *Go Tell It On the Mountain* by James Baldwin
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf

### Activities to Accompany Reading

Even though this book was published before you were born, make **three different connections**.

- One connection to yourself
- One connection to another text you have read or film you have seen
- One connection to the world beyond you

Tell a family member or write down your connections.
**Elementary Book Suggestions**

- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *Nim's Island* by Wendy Orr
- *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by David Handler

**Secondary Books Suggestions**

- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *Fences* by August Wilson
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

**Activities to Accompany Reading**

Read the book, then watch the movie. Compare and contrast differences between the book and movie, then write which version you thought was better and why.

Create your critique on [Flipgrid](https://flipgrid.com) to let your peers, family, or teachers know which version you thought was best and why. Need more information about how to use Flipgrid? Check out this short [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ).
Non-Human Narrator

Elementary Book Suggestions
- *The Box Turtle* by Vanessa Roeder
- *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings
- *Dear Mrs. LaRue* by Mark Teague
- *Charlotte’s Web* by E.B. White
- *Freya & Zoose* by Emily Butler

Secondary Books Suggestions
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka
- *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

Activities to Accompany Reading

Choose a major scene from the story and imagine how it would be different if it were told from another character’s point of view. Script and illustrate the new scene.

Try [Storyboard That](https://storyboardthat.com) to create a digital setting for your scene.
**Important Nonfiction Topic**

**Elementary Book Suggestions**
- *Citizen Baby Series* by Megan Bryant and Daniel Prosterman
- *Thank You, Helpers* by Patricia Hegarty
- *A Ticket Around the World* by Natalia Diaz
- *What a Waste* by Jess French
- *Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls’ Rights* by Sarah Robbins (adapter), Malala Yousafzai

**Secondary Books Suggestions**
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X and Alex Haley
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
- *The 57 Bus* by Bashka Slater

**Activities to Accompany Reading**

Before reading, write down what you already know about this topic or person. What assumptions do you have based on things you already know? Keep this list so you can go back at the end to see if you’re correct.

After reading, look at the list you created before you read, was your knowledge accurate? What new information did you learn about this topic or person? What surprised you? What do you think the author wanted you to learn from reading their book? Is there something you can do to create change?
### Elementary Book Suggestions
- *Who Would Win* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Keena Ford Series* by Melissa Thomson
- *Granted* by John David Anderson
- *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani
- *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowlings

### Secondary Books Suggestions
- *My Sister’s Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
- *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright
- *Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bessinger
- *How to Lead a Life of Crime* by Kirsten Miller

### Activities to Accompany Reading
Create a reading goal that includes how many pages, chapters, or minutes you will read each day or week. Try to increase the goal each week you are reading.

Utilize strips of paper to jot down your thoughts after reading and place in your book as a placeholder or bookmark. Reread your notes before you start reading next time to refresh your memory on what you have already read. Continue this process throughout the book.
Thank You.

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