

GUESS WHAT?

- 1) **Reading builds vocabulary.** *Twenty minutes of reading per day means you are encountering over a million words per year!*
- 2) **Reading makes you a stronger learner.** *Students who read for fun score higher on standardized tests!*
- 3) **Reading makes you a better writer.**
- 4) **Reading is hard and hard is necessary.**
- 5) **Reading prepares you for the world of work.** *The 25 fastest growing professions have far greater than average literacy demands, and in the business world, a person typically spends two hours a day reading.*
- 6) **Reading increases your chances of success.** *Almost 50% of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty, and 14.5% of Americans with poor reading skills are underemployed.*
- 7) **Reading opens the doors to college and beyond.**
- 8) **Reading is rewarding.**

Therefore, [drumroll] I am challenging you to read 40 books this school year!

Take a breath. It's going to be okay. There is a reason this is called the 40 Book Challenge, and that is because for most of us, including me, this is a challenging task, and that is okay. Confronting challenges, setting goals, and overcoming difficult tasks makes you a stronger, more resilient human.

It's important that you realize that this isn't an assignment. You don't get an "A" for completing 40 books, a "B" for completing 30, and so on and so forth. Instead, the purpose of this is to push yourself in your reading, to read more than you did last year, to explore different genres that you may not be familiar with, to celebrate your reading progress, and to cheer on the progress of your classmates.

Here's what you need to know:

- 1) You get to choose what books you read, but the books should be at your reading level.
- 2) You should be choosing books from a variety of genres.
- 3) Any book over 350 pages can count as two books.
- 4) Once you finish a book, fill out your completed books log, and color in one of the rectangles on the back of this paper.
- 5) Once you finish five books, bring your materials up to me. I'll look it over and sign off on your reading.
- 6) Every five books you read, you will be honored in class with a book mark and candy. (Normally, we will do honors on Monday.)
- 7) You also have the choice of adding your name to the 40 Book Challenge wall.
- 8) This is not a competition with anyone but yourself! I'm a slow reader, so I'm sure there will be students out there that read more books than I do; however, I'm still going to have my name on the 40 Book Challenge wall, I'll still be proud of my accomplishments, and I will still cheer each and every one of you on every single day.
- 9) Any negativity or shaming will not be tolerated, and if I hear this or hear of this, you could lose your 40 Book Challenge eligibility.
- 10) Throughout the year, we will have Reading Challenge Celebrations!

NOW Let's get reading!

40 BOOK CHALLENGE

Realistic Fiction Title:	Free Choice Title:	Fantasy Title:	Free Choice Title:
Free Choice Title:	Biography/Memoir Title:	Free Choice Title:	Realistic Fiction Title:
Informational Title:	Free Choice Title:	Free Choice Title:	Free Choice Title:
Historical Fiction Title:	Science Fiction Title:	Fantasy Title:	Science Fiction Title:
Biography/Memoir Title:	Graphic Novel Title:	Free Choice Title:	Free Choice Title:
Free Choice Title:	Poetry Title:	Historical Fiction Title:	Informational Title:
Free Choice Title:	Realistic Fiction Title:	Free Choice Title:	Free Choice Title:
Realistic Fiction Title:	Informational Title:	Science Fiction Title:	Poetry Title:
Free Choice Title:	Free Choice Title:	Biography/Memoir Title:	Graphic Novel Title:
Fantasy Title:	Historical Fiction Title:	Free Choice Title:	Realistic Fiction Title: