

## YOU HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED!



Dear Families,

Research has shown that the more a child reads, the better reader they become. Also, **children who read more have higher vocabularies, expanded world knowledge, and score better on standardized tests.** Therefore, we are challenging all students in grade K-5 to a Tower of Books Challenge!



### The Challenge:

Your child has been challenged to **read as many books as possible during the months of March and April** from the categories listed below. Students should be **reading a minimum of 20 minutes daily**, but if you want to win the challenge, try reading twice a day for 20 minutes!!

### The Goal:

The goal of this challenge is to encourage each child to read a variety of books and explore new genres. Ultimately, we would love to see our students develop a love of reading.

### The Rules:

- Each book must be read by your child!
- The books should be at their level.
- Students must read the entire book for it to count!
- Books that are 300 pgs. or longer can count as two books.
- Record each book on the "Tower of Books Challenge" record sheet. \*see attached PDF
- Students must complete a daily reading journal writing about what they read. They can also draw a picture. (This can be done in a notebook at home. Start the first page with the title and author, and then journal each day with a summary and picture. Make sure to put the date at the top of each page. I will check journals once we are back in school.)

**\*Bonus-** Check out my reading questions and activities on my teacher webpage. Go to the school website and type in my last name, Powers, in the staff directory. \*See the Reading Book Challenge tab

### The Requirements:

<u>Categories</u>	
1. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book someone else picks for you
2. <input type="checkbox"/>	a graphic novel or comic book
3. <input type="checkbox"/>	a nonfiction book about a topic you want to learn about
4. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book featuring a character or person who interests you
5. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book by one of your favorite authors
6. <input type="checkbox"/>	a set in the past or future
7. <input type="checkbox"/>	a traditional book (fairy tale, fable, folktale, tall tale)
8. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book that will make you laugh
9. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book that will teach you a lesson
10. <input type="checkbox"/>	a Newberry Honor, Caldecott, or other award winner
11. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book that was made into a movie
12. <input type="checkbox"/>	a book by one of your favorite authors

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### TIPS to help your child rise to the challenge:

- Start reading now
- Talk with your child about the books they read
- Have your child read aloud to you or a sibling
- Make sure your child is reading every day!
- Parents can join the challenge with their child!
- You can use EPIC, RAZKIDS, and Open eBooks app to find books for the challenge. (email me if you need a code for Open eBooks)

### THE CHALLENGE!

Your child has been challenged to try and read a book from each of the 12 categories listed above by the end of April! All students who meet this challenge will be entered in a raffle to win a \$15 Barnes and Noble gift card! We will choose 4 winners in total! (students in grades 3-5 who are reading longer chapter books will be entered if they read a book from at least 8 categories) \*Bonus: For each "Not Your Grandma's Book Report: 30 Creative Ways to Respond to Literature" that you complete, you will get an extra entry. (not mandatory)

### TEACHER CONTEST!

Teachers can win too! Help your teacher out by reading as much as you can! Teachers will get the chance to be entered in a raffle to win a special prize from Dr. Bonanno! Teachers can earn an entry if more than half their students meet the Tower of Books Challenge.

We are very excited about this program. We can't wait to see the difference it makes in our students as lifelong readers!

Please email me if you have any questions about the Challenge!

Thank you for your support at home.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Powers (reading specialist)

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

Student "A" reads	Student "B" reads	Student "C" reads
20 minutes each day	5 minutes each day	1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words	282,000 words	8,000 words



90<sup>th</sup> percentile



50<sup>th</sup> percentile



10<sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> 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)

