20 books for the 2017-2018 school year!!!

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| Teacher  |

Book title(shortened) |

Read at least 20 minutes a night at home.

Finished book: Write the title of the book in the correct genre. Come talk to your teacher about your book. The small box is for your teacher to initial. Then, tell people about your book! Periodically, I will provide time for book talks during class.

Book Review or Literature Letter: You will be required to write either a book review or a literature letter to a peer or the teacher (minimum 1 per month). Follow the rubric when writing the review or letter.

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| **Genre** |  |  |  |  |
| Poetry |

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| Traditional Literature(a “classic”) |

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| Biography or Autobiography |

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| Informational |

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| Mystery/Horror |

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| Science Fiction |

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| Fantasy |

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| Historical Fiction |

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| Realistic Fiction |

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| Total: | Quarter 1: | Quarter 2: | Quarter 3: | Quarter 4: |

This week, let me explain the reading challenge (I know, I know. Both parents and students gasped aloud when they found out about our goal to have each student read 20 books throughout this school year). Let me calm your thudding heart by outlining why we are tackling this goal.

**Reading Challenge**

**Why #1: Be a better student!**

The only way to become a better reader is to read. And read. And read some more. Reading often not only helps with comprehension and stamina, but it also translates to stronger writing. In a nutshell, reading will help you become a stronger student and will influence all of your other classes and standardized assessments.

**Why #2: Cultivate a culture of reading**

We all yearn to feel belonging, and what better way to create these bonds than through books. Throughout the year as you finish books, write your favorites on our reading wall or spotlight the story during a book talk in class. You will find some great suggestions from friends and classmates, and I am excited, too, to add some of your favorite books to my “to read” pile.

Don’t worry, I am not pushing you off a bridge here and forcing you to sink or swim in this challenge. I am here as a coach, advocate, and fellow-reader to help each student find books that are suited best for him or her. Each student is given a reading challenge chart so that they can log which books they have read and which genres they might try next. Periodically, we will highlight good books in class with book passes or book talks. I am here to help, but each student is responsible for his or her success in the challenges of school year.

If you are interested in learning more, many of my ideas come from Donalyn Miller’s book entitled *The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child*.