



100 BOOK CHALLENGE Guidelines

- 1. First Do No Harm:** The purpose of 100 BOOK CHALLENGE is to be sure that all children learn the life habit of independent reading. Should any 100 BOOK CHALLENGE rule, form, or procedure begin to interfere with a child's everyday learning that reading is one of the most satisfying, natural, and essential parts of life, please assume there is a misunderstanding and call the American Reading Company office toll-free at 866-810-BOOK (2665).
- 2. Success:** A successful 100 BOOK CHALLENGE classroom is one in which every child has met the minimal goal of 800 Steps per year. 800 Steps is only 60 minutes a day for 200 days. Young avid readers read two to four times that amount on average. It is this difference in reading experience that largely explains the achievement gaps among our children.
- 3. Teacher:** The teacher is actively coaching independent reading during 100 BOOK CHALLENGE time. This is not the time for guided reading or teacher seatwork. The teacher is monitoring the whole class, working with a small group, or conferencing with individuals, but in all cases she is supporting and assessing students' success in books they have chosen to read for their own reasons.
- 4. Levels:** The classroom teacher—in collaboration with the student, parent, and school reading specialist—should be the final arbiter of whether or not a reader can handle a given reading level. The whole point of the 100 BOOK CHALLENGE is to ensure that long-term, daily, in-depth interactions with children are used to determine reading levels. No single test can determine a child's reading level as well as 100 BOOK CHALLENGE in the hands of a knowledgeable teacher.
- 5. Reading Zones:** Students should be encouraged to read widely from books in their "Reading Zones." The Reading Zone includes the highest color a reader can handle on his or her own and anything easier. Students are not required to read only from the top of their independent Reading Zones all the time. When in doubt, trust the child's preferences. Skills Cards go home daily for coaching support.
- 6. Student:** Pencils and logsheets are away. No writing of any kind should happen during the reading time. All students are doing independent reading from books they have selected. Students are not doing guided reading, shared reading, or centers. Partner reading can be useful during the second half of the reading time as emergent readers get tired; however, partner reading should be used sparingly with 2Y through 1B levels and rarely, if ever, once a child is at 2B.
- 7. Parent:** The parent is the Home Coach and in charge of deciding what "counts" for 100 BOOK CHALLENGE reading at home. There is no limit on how much home reading is allowed to count for 100 BOOK CHALLENGE. Avid readers typically read four to seven Steps a night. This should be encouraged. We recommend that students read in their Reading Zones, but the parent should be the judge of home success levels. Any book counts for 100 BOOK CHALLENGE reading, not just 100 BOOK CHALLENGE books.
- 8. Documentation:** Readers do not have to write anything to "prove" that they have actually read whatever is on the logsheets or log books. Home Coach signatures are good enough. Any book counts for 100 BOOK CHALLENGE. Do not limit student reading to just 100 BOOK CHALLENGE books. Students may read independently at other points in the school day and document this reading in their logs, provided that this is in addition to, rather than in place of, the daily Readers' Workshop when all students are reading and all adults are coaching.
- 9. Logsheets or Log Books:** 1 Step = 15 minutes of reading for Kindergarten through 12th grade.