**![C:\Users\Shelley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\B8X34LZ9\MC900048059[1].wmf]()100 Book Challenge Frequently Asked Questions![C:\Users\Shelley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\B8X34LZ9\MC900048059[1].wmf]()**

**Why is it called the “100 Book Challenge”?**

This name was created when the founder of The American Reading Company challenged her students to start reading more books. Since not every book is the same, instead of counting books, we now count time in 15 minute increments called “Steps”. It’s truly the “**100 step challenge**.” Each “step” is worth 15 minutes of fully engaged reading. Students have goals of reading 25 (or more) steps every grading period. The end-of-the-year goal is 100 (or more) steps.

**How can I help at home as the “Parent Coach”?**

1) The most important thing is to ensure that your child reads **15 minutes each night** (Mon-Thurs).

2) If possible, **listen** to him or her for part of the time. Then, **ask** about what they have read at the end of each step or the end of the 15 minutes.

3) **Fill in the “Daily Reading” section** of your child’s planner. (The section starts on page 5.)

**How do we fill out the reading log?**

Each picture of a book in the planner represents one 15-minute step. For every 15 minutes a child reads, he/she should:

1) **Find the date** he/she read on the planner calendar (starting on page 5 in the planner).

2) **Write the title** of the book read above the picture of the book on that date.

3) Finally, Parent Coaches, please **initial the picture of the book** in the planner to indicate that your child read 15 minutes on that day.

4) **If your child reads for more than 15 minutes in one night**, the Parent Coaches may initial more than one book. **Please refer to the chart below:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 minutes = 1 step & 1 book initialed | 45 minutes = 3 steps & 3 books initialed |
| 30 minutes = 2 steps & 2 books initialed | 60 minutes (one hour) = 4 steps & 4 books initialed |

**What if we read challenging books together that are above my child’s reading level?**

Keep doing it! Just make sure your child is reading the books they brought home from school first. Then go ahead and read for as long as you want from your favorite books. Every 15 minutes counts as one step. If you read the same book for two steps (30 minutes) just draw a line down from the title and indicate the two steps by initialing two pictures of books in the planner on that week’s dates.

**What should my child read for 15 minutes?**

Students should begin with the books they have brought from school. Each student will pick books from their reading level. After that, your child may fill what is left of the 15 minutes with books of their choice.

**What about weekends?**

Students should read a total of 4 steps a week (Monday through Thursday). Unless the 4 steps are not completed before the weekend, they are not required to read over the weekend, but it is always encouraged!

**What if we read challenging books together that are above my child’s reading level?**

Keep doing it! Just make sure your child is reading the books they brought home from school first. Then go ahead and read for as long as you want from your favorite books. Every 15 minutes counts as one step. If you read the same book for two steps (30 minutes) just draw a line down from the title and indicate the two steps by initialing two pictures of books in the planner on that week’s dates.

**Can my child read more than 15 minutes a night?**

Of course! Students can read as many additional steps as they would like. Please just make sure they really were reading before initialing the log.

**My child really wants to read a book that is above their level. What do we do?**

In these cases we use the analogy of a “dessert book.” We can’t have dessert for every meal, but it is fine once and awhile. Make sure your child is reading first from their independent level books they bring home from school. Then, they can read some from a dessert book. Reading out-loud to your child can count for additional steps as well if there is a book they just aren’t ready to read on their own. Use your judgment in deciding what is appropriate for your child once they have read what comes home from school.

**My child wants to read a book from the library, but I don’t know what the level is. How do I know if it is a good fit for my child?**

Since students will be bringing home books from school at their independent reading level, listen to him or her read those books first. This will give you a good idea of what types of books are a **GOOD FIT** for him or her. Even without an official level, remember that independent reading should be fast, fun and easy. Students should be able to read as fast as they speak, know nearly every word and understand what is happening easily. This means they understand the humor, notice subtle details and can easily retell what they have read. *(See the “Finding Just Right Books” sheet.)*

**My child has activities some evenings. What if we don’t have time to read for 15 minutes?**

Here are some ideas to fit in the “100 Book Challenge” Reading:

|  |
| --- |
| \*Have kids read in the car on the way to and from other activities.\*Have your child read while you prepare dinner.\*Do not allow TV, video games or other electronic media until after readingor other homework is complete.\* Break the 15 minutes into two smaller chunks. 7 minutes right after school and 8 minutesafter dinner.\* If all else fails, set aside time to read ahead or catch up on the weekends. |