



## Mrs. Nettling's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Independent Reading Program

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**What is the goal of Independent Reading?** One of the Ohio Standards for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading is for students to read independently. Keeping a record of that reading will help students develop good reading habits for lifelong learning. It will also count as part of their reading grade: 400 minutes per month is the equivalent of a B on a 100 point assignment; 500 minutes equals an A. 400 minutes is the *minimum* number of minutes required. The best habit to encourage is reading on a regular basis, about 20 minutes each night. At that pace missing a night here or there will still enable students to reach their goal.

**What should students read?** For their reading calendar, students must read one novel *per grading period* from the "Required Four" list of novels on the last page of this document. Students may choose their own reading material to fill the rest of the independent reading time. It is important for students to begin to discover their own preferences in what they like to read. It can also help to keep three types of reading material available at all times:

1. a chapter book novel (story)
2. a nonfiction book that tells them about something or how to do something they are interested in
3. a collection such as short stories, poems, comics, magazine, newspaper, or other anthology of brief readings.

By having this variety of reading material, students will always have what they are in the mood to read for the their available time and energy!

**When is the best time to read?** Most students find that reading before turning out the light at night works best for them. Some students keep reading material in the car for when they go to their siblings' sport events. The best time to read depends on a family's schedule.

**How can parents support their child's effort?** Good lighting, a quiet space, a lamp by the bed, and a regular routine will go a long way toward providing a pleasant reading atmosphere. Parents can help by making sure their child is logging their time on the calendar, by initialing each night's entry, and by making reading an important part of family life. Children benefit from seeing their parents read. From time to time, parents and their children can also read to each other!

### Ideas for Student Choices

One of the best ways to look for a good book is to talk about books with friends. What recommendations do they have? Another good idea is to think of a book you have already enjoyed, and look for another book by that author!

### Independent Reading

- Students must read a minimum of 400 minutes per month to earn a B on this assignment.
- Parents need to initial each daily entry.
- Students and Parents need to total the minutes and sign the log before turning it in.
- Students must read one novel per grading period from the "Required Four" list of novels.
- Students may choose their own reading material to fill the rest of the independent reading time.



## Some Award Winning Authors

- Louisa May Alcott
- Avi
- Lynn Reid Banks
- Judy Blume
- Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Betsy Byars
- Matt Christopher
- Beverly Cleary
- Bruce Coville
- Roald Dahl
- Paula Danziger
- Frank Dixon
- John R. Erickson
- Cynthia De Felice
- Kathleen Dewey
- Jean Craighead George
- Patricia Reilly Giff
- Jamie Gilson
- James and Deborah Howe
- Johanna Hurwitz
- Madeline LEngle
- Lois Lowery
- Patricia MacLachlan
- Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- Katherine Paterson
- Gary Paulsen
- Bonnie Pryor
- Roland Smith
- Elizabeth George Speare
- Jerry Spinelli
- Todd Strasser
- Gertrude Chandler
- E.B. White
- Betty Ren Wright
- Laura Ingalls Wilder
- more...

## Online

The Internet can help students locate books to read!

- **The Book Adventure** site allows you to put in the type of book you are looking for, and then pulls up a list of books that fit your description!  
[http://www.bookadventure.org/ki/bs/ki\\_bs\\_helpfind.asp](http://www.bookadventure.org/ki/bs/ki_bs_helpfind.asp)

Students can also try these websites:

- **KidInfoBooks and Authors**  
[http://www.kidinfo.com/Language\\_Arts/Books\\_Authors.html](http://www.kidinfo.com/Language_Arts/Books_Authors.html)
- **Scholastic Books**  
<http://www.scholastic.com/titles/index.htm>

## Library

Libraries are staffed with people who love to help others find books that they will enjoy.

Ask a librarian for help!



## Mrs. Nettling's "Required Four" Book List

Students must read one book per grading period from this list and do a project on it. The higher the Lexile number, the higher the reading level. Lexile Measure is a number indicating the reading demand of the text in terms of the semantic difficulty (vocabulary) and syntactic complexity (sentence length). The Lexile scale ranges from 200 to 1700 Lexiles, although actual Lexile measures can range from below zero to above 2000 Lexiles.



<b>"Required Four" Novels</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Lexile</b>
<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>	Jules Verne	Science Fiction	1030
<i>Anastasia Krupnik</i>	Lois Lowry	Realistic Fiction	700
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	Historic Fiction	950
<i>Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London	Adventure	1120
<i>Catherine Called Birdy</i>	Karen Cushman	Historic Fiction	1170
<i>The Cay</i>	Theodore Taylor	Realistic Fiction	860
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	E.B. White	Fantasy	680
<i>The Chocolate Touch</i>	Patrick Cattling	Fantasy	770
<i>Dear Mr. Henshaw</i>	Beverly Cleary	Realistic Fiction	910
<i>The Egypt Game</i>	Zilpha Keatley Snyder	Mystery	1010
<i>Grasshopper Summer</i>	Ann Turner	Historic Fiction	580
<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy	880
<i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i>	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy	940
<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i>	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy	880
<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy	880
<i>Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix</i>	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy	950
<i>Hoot</i>	Carl Hiaasen	Realistic Fiction	760
<i>The Incredible Journey</i>	Sheila Burnford	Fantasy	1320
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Scott O'Dell	Historic Fiction	1000
<i>Kneeknock Rise</i>	Natalie Babbitt	Mystery	760
<i>Lincoln: A Photobiography</i>	Russell Freedman	Nonfiction	1110
<i>Little House in the Big Woods</i>	Laura Ingalls Wilder	Historic Fiction	930
<i>The Magician's Nephew</i>	C.S. Lewis	Fantasy	790
<i>The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>	E.L. Klonigsburg	Fiction	700
<i>Number the Stars</i>	Lois Lowry	Historical Fiction	670
<i>On the Far Side of the Mountain</i>	Jean Craighead George	Realistic Fiction	760
<i>Redwall</i>	Brian Jacques	Fantasy	800
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Fiction	970
<i>Shiloh</i>	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	Realistic Fiction	890
<i>Sing Down the Moon</i>	Scott O'Dell	Historic Fiction	820
<i>The Tale of Despereaux</i>	Kate DiCamillo	Fantasy	670
<i>Tuck Everlasting</i>	Natalie Babbitt	Fantasy	770
<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Sharon Creech	Fiction	770
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Wilson Rawls	Realistic Fiction	700