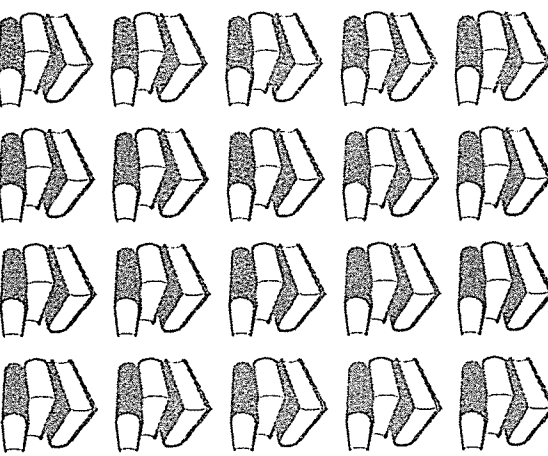
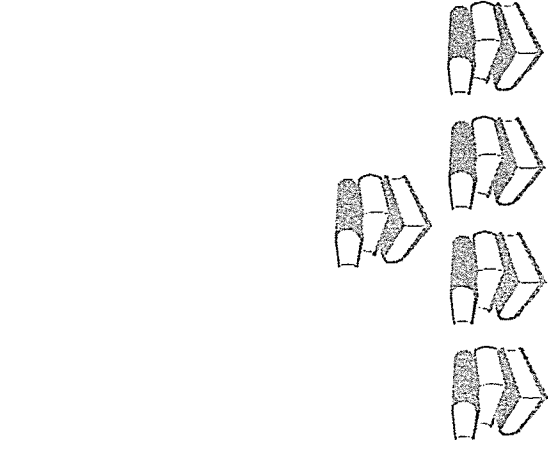



WHY READ 20 MINUTES A DAY?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

READING FLUENCY

Students who read fluently read smoothly and easily, without pausing to figure out words. These students identify words automatically. As a result, they can focus on meaning rather than word recognition when they read. As a rule, fluent readers comprehend better than non-fluent readers. Consequently, improving reading fluency is important for developing readers.

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

- * Encourage reading fluency by having your child read and reread familiar books. It can also be helpful to have your child read a short passage over several times while you record the time it takes. Children often enjoy seeing if they can improve their time from one reading to the next, and the repeated reading helps to establish a habit of reading smoothly, with no mistakes, like natural conversation.
- * Schedule 15 minutes of special time every day to read with your child. Take turns reading a page at a time. Or, read a sentence and then have your child read that same sentence until you read through the whole book.
- * When your child brings home papers containing his/her completed work, let him explain what he/she did and have your child read the completed work (e.g., journal entries) to you.
- * Select a book that you know your child will be able to read with success and spend some time reading with him/her. To make the practice into a game, flip a coin to decide who will read each page or couple of pages.
- * Read a passage aloud for your child, modeling proper expression and rate. Read the same passage together with your child and then have him/her read the passage aloud on his/her own.
- * Encourage your child to read along while listening to a tape recording of a story. Encourage your child to point to the words on the page while listening to the story as this helps to strengthen word recognition skills.

Grades 3 – 6

- * Schedule 15 minutes of special time every day to listen to your child read. If you notice that they are frustrated with reading, offer to partner read with them. Let them read one paragraph, and then you read the next, gradually adding paragraphs as they improve their reading so that it is smooth, with few mistakes, and like normal conversation.
- * Encourage reading fluency by having your child read and reread familiar books. It can also be helpful to have them read a short passage several times while you record their reading time. Children often enjoy seeing if they can improve their time from one reading to the next. Repeated reading will establish a habit of fluent reading.
- * Have your child read a book to a younger sibling (or even to a pet or friend), perhaps playing "teacher" and asking the "student" good questions as they read.
- * Read a passage aloud for your child, modeling proper expression and rate. Read the same passage together and then have them read the passage aloud on their own.
- * Encourage your child to read along while listening to a tape recording of a story. Children's literature can be found on audiocassettes or CDs in public libraries.