

IMPORTANT HOMEWORK INFORMATION

(PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

"TAKE-HOME READING"

Dear Parents and Students,

NCC fifth graders will be immersed in a rigorous reading/language arts program that includes an independent reading component called "Take Home Reading", otherwise known as *THR*. This program is designed to encourage and/or maintain a daily reading habit, increase the number of books children read, and nourish the enjoyment that reading for pleasure evokes. MCPS expects students to read at least twenty-five books outside of school during the school year, and NCC's Take-Home Reading Program will help students complete this task. Students may read fiction and non-fiction, and they should choose from a variety of genres which is listed at the bottom of their Take-Home Reading Log (included in this packet). Students are encouraged to vary their reading throughout the year. **Students should read approximately THREE books per month to reach their goal of 25 books by June.** Please note the following forms included in this handout:

1. Take-Home Reading Log
2. Six coupons for our monthly raffle
3. Written Responses (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Comics, Poetry) to complete with each book read

(Extra copies of each of these handouts will always be available in class)

Student Directions for Nightly "THR" Homework

1. Read for twenty minutes each night (Monday through Thursday). Your reading may include fiction books, non-fiction books, magazines, newspaper articles, poetry, and comic strip books. (See "Written Responses" forms for details about poetry and comic strip books.) Refer to the list of genre at the bottom of your THR log in this packet.
2. After you have completed your reading, record the date, genre, title and author, and pages read on your THR log. Then, take your THR log and a pencil to your parent or babysitter, and ask them to initial the chart. This must be done **EVERY NIGHT** as part of your homework. If you are reading a chapter book or a lengthy non-fiction book which will require more time, you do not need to keep writing the genre, title, and author each night. Simply put ditto marks ("") in this column, and your teacher will understand that you are continuing with the same book. If you read your book over the weekend, you should record the pages in your log, as well. There is an example of how to fill out a THR log on the back of the blank chart for you to refer to.
3. Each time you finish reading a book, you must carefully complete the "Written Responses" form included in this packet. Directions for completing these forms will be reviewed in class. You must complete one "Written Responses" form for each book. Written responses for fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and comics are different. Please make sure that you fill out the correct form. THERE ARE PLENTY OF COPIES OF ALL "WRITTEN RESPONSES" FORMS IN CLASS.
4. When you have finished the written responses, fill out one of the coupons and have it signed by a parent. Bring your responses and coupon to class and show your reading teacher. She will check it, and you will then place the "Written Responses" form in your special file, and your coupon in the jar. You may put in **one** coupon for each book you read during the month. We will hold a raffle at the end of each month in where a name will be drawn from the jar, and the student will receive a prize. Remember, the more books you read, the more coupons you will place in the jar, and the better your chances will be of winning a prize.

5. Look for the Data Center bulletin board in your reading class, and find your name on the THR chart. Once you have filed your questions and placed your coupon in the jar, choose a small sticker from the basket and place it beside your name, one sticker for each book you read. In this way, you will keep track of your progress and watch yourself get closer and closer to the magic number "25".

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** If I finish a book and begin the Written Responses, do I also have to read for twenty minutes that night?

Answer: *No. On the night that you have completed a book and are ready to work on your "Written Responses" form, simply write "Written Responses" on your chart in the "Pages Read" column.*

2. **Question:** Is a very long chapter book with hundreds of pages worth only one sticker?

Answer: *No. During the first week of school, we will be doing a reading lesson on choosing books for independent reading. Since the reading abilities and interests of students do vary, some students will be selecting books which are several hundred pages in length. We realize that such books take longer to read. If you choose such a book, show it to your reading teacher and she will determine its sticker worth.*

3. **Question:** What do I do with my reading log once I have used up all the lines?

Answer: *Your reading log should be filled out, initialed by a parent or babysitter, and placed back in your binder EVERY NIGHT. If you run out of room, take another log from the pile that will be in the classroom. At the end of each month, your teacher will collect your log and check it for a homework grade. She will be looking to make sure you have followed all THR homework directions. If you have formed the habit of placing your log in your binder each night, it will be there when you need it.*

Good luck reaching your reading goal of TWENTY-FIVE books this year! We know you can do it!

Written Responses (Comic Strip Books)

Throughout the year, you may read and complete written responses for FOUR (4) cartoon books only. By comic strip books, we mean a collection or anthology of comic strips, for example, Calvin and Hobbes, Garfield, etc.

Name _____

Title _____

I. One the lines below, write the names of two comic strip characters and write at least three descriptive sentences for each. Include a physical description, their personality, and be sure to explain what it is that makes them funny.

1. _____

2. _____

II. Describe one of the comic strips that made you laugh, and explain why you thought it was funny.

Or

Using the characters your read about, make up your own comic strip.

Written Responses

(Poetry)

You must read at least 5 poems by the same poet and complete the following questions. It would be a good idea to choose the poetry genre when we have completed our poetry unit and you are more familiar with the poetic terms.

Name _____

Poet _____

Titles of Poems _____

I. Choose your favorite poem from the five you read and answer the following questions:

1. Write the title of the poem. _____

2. What is the mood and tone of the poem?

3. What is the message of the poem?

