

25 Book Challenge

Shamelessly Gleaned and Adapted from The Unpretentious Librarian Blog

<http://unpretentiouslibrarian.blogspot.com/2013/08/25-books-reading-challenge.html>

Summary: Students (and faculty) would have most of the year to read up 25 books for incremental rewards.

Pros

- Allows use of the existing books without the need for multiple copies that might otherwise go untouched; provides more opportunity for student choice.
- Ongoing momentum for the program due to incremental rewards. Students get some credit for making an effort outside of what they might have done anyway. For example: if a student read 5 books by the incremental reward date, they'd receive that reward. But if they read 5 after that date, they could still get something - a tardy pass, a Bear Pride (your mascot or campus based award here) card, etc. and they'd still have the opportunity to 'catch up' by the 10 book reward date.
- Data collection facilitated with Google Forms/Sheets. Once a student read a book, they'd fill out the Google Form, which would include the space for them to give a summary or answer whatever we'd like to know to satisfy 'reading'. Forms populate spreadsheets. At the end of the reward window, you'd sort the spreadsheet by name and then basically count the student's entries to see if they qualify for the reward. Google forms timestamp entries, so you would be able to tell if a student did it after the given time period. If a student reaches a benchmark **after** the window, they could let you know and you could go in and verify it for the alternate reward. We can have the link to the form for each campus pushed out to the iPads and added to the library computer desktops for ease.
- Opening the challenge up to faculty and students supports a reading culture on campus. Not all teachers will be interested, but some will. Teachers might have different incentives - would need to check with Principal about that - but many could be the same. If it's a coke float for 20 books, that's doable for teachers too. Definitely would do a badge or something for teachers who hit the increments; teachers seem to like to hang things up outside their door.

Cons

- This is more time consuming in that it involves looking at data to see who qualifies and coordinating a date and a reward periodically. It would be sorting the sheet and then making sure the student had valid entries. Might check with PTO and see if they would help with the reward day?
- There will be more students to coordinate. But that's kind of the point. If the goal is to make reading something of interest to kids who don't normally read, then the fact that you get something at reaching a small milestone might be attractive. I expect participation to decline as the challenge goes on, but even if a student stops at 10 books, if that's 10 more than they read last year, it's a win to me.

Proposed Rewards

5 books - October - Ice Cream Party (or maybe donut party depending on the best time of day?)

10 books - December - Movie/Popcorn in auditorium

15 books - February - Dessert served by their AP at lunch (or something similar)

20 books - April - Coke Floats

25 books - May (after STAAR) Pizza and Makerspace Free Day

This would give us some campus based flexibility in planning the actual date and also a chance to individualize it to those students. For example: I have some kids interested in sewing; I might see if Ms. Bushnell from EdTech could come do a quick lesson, because she's into that. Or just poll my teachers and see if there's anyone on campus who might be willing to come make for awhile on their conference. If we are scheduled on different days, we could pool resources to make sure there were enough activities to accommodate. If there were too many qualifiers to do one day, we could make it a ½ day. Breakfast for the 1st half and Pizza for the 2nd half. Could also break it into days by grade.

Questions/Challenges

- What is the **total** outlay for BOB yearly? Books, buses, IT'Z, whatever other cost I might be missing. Is this more or less expensive?
- What is a 'book'? I saw several things. What I liked best was:
 - >100 pages = ½ book (this gives you some credit for reading shorter books/a lot of our non-fiction is under 100 pgs and we need to encourage that too. It's more work for them to log, but they do get credit)
 - Graphic Novels = ½ book (this is something to discuss)
 - 100-249 pages = 1 Book
 - 250-499 pages = 2 Books
 - 500+ pages = 3 Books
 - Any language
- Kids might cheat their way through it. This is a real possibility. Kids do cheat on occasion. I'd be asking for Title, Author, page number, 3-5 sentence summary and 1-2 sentence review. I'd be looking for all those things to be filled out completely, but it doesn't mean they won't cheat. However, since the prize isn't of huge consequence and you'd have to fill out the form multiple times, I have a feeling the cheating won't be that rampant. I'd also encourage students to fill out the form as they read during the period. All five entries time stamped really close together would be a red flag for me. It would make me go google to check those summaries.