

7th Grade Independent Reading

What is it?

Independent reading is simply about reading for pleasure. You will choose a book based on personal preference and read this book both in and out of class.

Why do it?

Volume and stamina are what drive improvements in reading, increase vocabulary, and impact writing. Reading more will improve your performance in Language Arts and other classes, and will help you develop skills you will need to navigate in the real world.

Minutes Per Day Spent Reading Outside of School	Words Read Per Year in Books
65.0	4,358,000
21.2	1,823,000
14.2	1,146,000
9.6	622,000
6.5	432,000
4.6	282,000
3.2	200,000
1.8	106,000
.7	21,000
.1	8,000

Adapted from: Anderson, R.C., & Nagy, W.E. (1992). "The vocabulary conundrum." *American Educator*, 16 (4); 14-18, 44-47.

What do I need to have?

A book you love! My book is due in class by _____

What do I need to do?

Read your book. Read **at least 1 hour per week** outside of class time. You decide if you read a bit each day, or all in one setting to meet your hour requirement. Of course, you can always read more than 1 hour! If you finish your book, add the book title and author to your "Books I Finished This Year" list in your composition book and choose a new book! Have your book with you in class each day!

Is this graded?

No, but you will be asked from time to time to discuss your books with me or to connect what you are reading to our other class novels. At some point, we may assign a project or presentation based on one of your independent reading books.

Books that Connect to Our Curriculum

You are always encouraged to choose books that connect to our curriculum. In EL, books are read slowly in order to dive deeply beneath the surface. Reading a supplementary book is a great way to move more quickly through a book and enhance your understanding of the themes in each unit. For our first unit, *A Long Walk to Water*, check out [these titles](#)