



Reading Marathons



Overview

Reading Marathons are fun ways to motivate kids to read and to give them extended periods of time to experience the joy of a great book. Have students wear something comfortable and bring a special stuffed animal, blanket, or pillow for reading. It's also best to establish guidelines before you begin. Take a restroom break right before you start and make sure everyone has plenty of great reading material on hand.

Divide your Reading Marathon into “laps” and “checkpoints.” A lap is the actual reading time, and the checkpoint is a quick reading-related activity. To begin, let everyone spread out on the floor and find a spot to read, then set a timer for about 15 to 20 minutes for the first lap. When the timer goes off, involve students in a 5-minute reading-related activity (see ideas below). Then have them return to the same spot for the next lap. The number of laps you read is determined by the total time you have set aside for the Reading Marathon.

Suggested Guidelines

- Choose a reading location at least 3 feet from anyone else in the room. However, you must be actively reading, not sleeping, during the marathon. If you choose a spot on the floor and you aren't reading, you'll need to return to your desk.
- Stay in your spot during each lap of the Reading Marathon. You must have enough reading material for the full 15 to 20 minutes.
- Reading quietly and independently without distracting others.
- Keep the same reading location for each lap of the Reading Marathon.

Suggested Checkpoint Activities

- Work on a graphic organizer or foldable - During each 5-minute checkpoint, complete one part of the graphic organizer or foldable.
- Buddy Chat - Present a discussion topic every five minutes. Have students pair up with a buddy to respond to the question.
- Literature Circles - If a group of students is reading the same book, let them write one question, then get together and discuss their questions.