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Committed to Children

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Thursday, August 27, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

One of our main goals at RES is to instill a love of reading within our students. We know that those concepts and skills assist us in virtually every other area of life. In recognizing this, we have dedicated time to a special emphasis of reading on the last Friday of each month called **SQUIRT!** For the first 2 class periods of that designated day, the entire RES team, including students, faculty and staff, will experience **Super Quiet Un-Interrupted Reading Time** along with other activities related to reading.

Students will have the opportunity to read a variety of materials both AR and non-AR related. They will also have the occasion to complete projects in which they may earn points that will count toward the goals for the AR celebration at the conclusion of each nine week period. On the back of this letter is a list of those projects. A student may choose to develop a project in lieu of taking an AR test or create a project on non-AR materials, such as a magazine or favorite comic book. All project points must be completed by the deadline for AR points which is the last day of the nine week period.

It is our hope that this initiative will increase reading proficiency, improve student motivation to read, and facilitate overall language development.

As always, we greatly appreciate your partnership as we seek to support our students at Roopville Elementary School. Should you have any questions related to this school improvement focus, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Best Regards,

Anna Clifton

SQUIRT Projects for Reading Materials

The following are projects that may be completed for all reading materials (AR and/or non-AR) in order to earn points. Quality is used to determine if all, partial, or no-points are to be awarded.

½ Point Project

- Any **graphic organizer** that is completely filled out. No questions should remain about what happened in the story.

2 Point Projects

- Draw a **picture** of the most important part of the book. Write 2 paragraphs explaining why that part of the book was so important.
- Write a 1 page **diary entry** from the point of view of the main character. Make sure you describe what went on in his or her life and how they felt
- Create a new **book jacket**. The front should have a picture from the book and the back should have a new summary written about the story by you.
- Create a **brochure** that could be used to "sell" the book to someone else. Make it look colorful and interesting so that someone else might want to read the same book. Be careful though--Don't give away any mysteries or surprises!
- Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a **letter** to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. You may only use books which have not already been made into movies.

3-5 Point Projects

- Create a **new ending** for the story. This should be at least 1 page hand written or ½ page typed. Put a twist in the story and make the story end in a different way.
- Create a **diorama** (a 3-D model) of one scene in the book. With the diorama you need to write a ½ page to describe the scene.
- **Summarize** the story. For chapter books this should be at least 1 page long. Tell the main events and any important details. Remember, a summary should tell all the "ideas" of the book and not one event/detail.
- Create 10-15 **trivia cards** with questions about the story. Put the answers on the back or create **character cards** (like baseball cards) with a picture of the character on one side and a description on the back of how they affected the story.
- Write a 10-15 question **quiz** about the story. Make it like an AR test. Be sure to create the answer key.
- Create a **Power Point** that contains at least three slides that gives a good summary of the story. The plot should be explained and all other story elements should be included (characters, climax, setting, problem/solution, etc.).
- Create a **sculpture** of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
- **Interview** a character from your book. Write at least ten questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. However you choose to present your interview is up to you.
- If you are reading the same piece as others are reading, **dramatize** a scene from the book. Write a script and have several rehearsals before presenting it to the class.
- Prepare an **oral report** of 5 minutes. Give a brief summary of the plot and describe the personality of one of the main characters. Be prepared for questions from the class.

- Give a **sales talk**, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push this book. A visual to advertise the book must be included.
- Describe the setting of scene and then share it in **pantomime**.
- Construct **puppets** and present a **show** of one or more interesting parts of the book.
- Dress as one of the characters and act out a **characterization**.
- Read the same book as one of your friends. The two of you make a **video** or do a **live performance** of *Masterpiece Book Review*, a program which reviews books and interviews authors. (You can even have audience participation).
- If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a **travel brochure** using pictures you have found or drawn.
- Write a full (physical, emotional, relational) description of three of the characters in the book. Draw a **portrait** to accompany each description.

Other projects may be submitted to your teacher for approval.