

# What is READING WORKSHOP?

Reading Workshop is a powerful way to teach students strategies for reading and comprehension. Students have the opportunity for extensive, daily reading where they are able to practice reading strategies independently and with guidance. During Reading Workshop, teachers are able to differentiate and meet the needs of all of their students.

Students foster a love for reading by choosing their own books, participating in class and partner discussions and, most importantly, being successful as a reader.

## TIPS for helping your child grow as readers:

### Choose books that have:

- ❖ Book length increases to 100+ pages.
- ❖ Lots of text per page and few if any pictures.
- ❖ Smaller print size and font with narrower word and line spacing.
- ❖ Multiple characters to know and understand.
- ❖ Characters revealed by what they say, do, think, and by what others say or think about them.
- ❖ Many new vocabulary and content-specific words.
- ❖ Figurative language (idioms, simile, metaphors).
- ❖ Complex plots and time passing.
- ❖ Detailed descriptions and character development.
- ❖ Topics that often go beyond a reader's personal experiences including diverse perspectives (race, language, culture).
- ❖ Range of genres (historical fiction, mysteries, informational texts, etc.)
- ❖ Nonfiction topics as well as fiction topics.

## Authors to look for:

**\*NOTE: Many of these authors also write books for young adult readers. Caution should be taken to ensure the story line or theme is appropriate for their age and maturity level. You can help your child choose the right book by previewing it together and discussing it with them.**

- ❖ American Girl series, Judy Blume (Fudge series), Joanna Cole (Magic Schoolbus series), John Erickson (The Case of...series), Jean Fritz series, Jean Craighead George (One Day...series), James Howe (Bunnicula series), Lois Lowry (Anastasia series), Sandra Markle (Inside and Outside series), Marvin Miller (You Be the...series), Phyllis Reynolds Naylor stories, Gary Paulsen stories, Cynthia Rylant stories, Louis Sachar (Wayside School series), John Scieszka (Time Warp series), David Sobel (Encyclopedia Brown series), Jerry Spinelli stories, Todd Strasser (Help I'm Trapped...series), David Taylor (Endangered Animals series), Mike Venezia (artist biography series)

**\*Please note that these authors may write books at a variety of different levels. Use "Choose books that have" guide (above) to help identify appropriate books for your child.**

## Have your child read at least 20 minutes EVERY night.

You may have your child:

1. Read silently,
2. Read aloud to you,
3. Read with you,
4. Listen to you read, or
5. All of the above 😊

## Try these tips when reading:

- Make reading a special time. Take them to the library and help them get a library book. Give a book for a gift or create a special place for them to read at home.

- Encourage your child to take a book with them everywhere (car rides, waiting for appointments, etc.)
- Ask them what they will read next. Your child may even have a "Someday List" (a list of books they plan to read in the future).
- Stop and talk about everyday activities to build background knowledge. This will help them with their listening, reading comprehension, and connecting what your child reads with what happens in life.
- Stop and have conversations with your child. Say something like:
  - "What do you think is going to happen next and why?"
  - "Does this remind you of anything that has happened to you?"
  - "What do you think the author means by this?"
  - "What are you thinking now after you read more from the book? Have your predictions/ideas changed?"
  - "If you wrote this story, what would you have done and why?"
- Ask your child to picture the story in their mind as they read. Talk about what you see, hear, smell, etc.
- Discuss the character, the interactions between characters, and how events are shaped by characters.
- Ask your child to go back into the book and find "evidence" to support his/her thinking.
- Read books over days and have continued discussions about the book.
- Notice and discuss new vocabulary or unknown words. Work to figure out the meaning using clues in the story or other references.
- Read many different types of texts together to expose your child to lots of reading. Try different genres (poetry, nonfiction, fantasy, etc.) or different text formats (books, magazines, etc.)