

The Reading Corner

Hillside Elementary School
August 2017
Fourth Grade Edition



Welcome to the Reading Corner!

Greetings, Fourth Grade Families! The reading department at Hillside Elementary School is very excited to work with you and your child this school year! We wanted to introduce ourselves and provide a glimpse into what you can expect from your child in fourth grade, as well as how you can aid in your child's success!

Miss Ackerman is new to the district, but spent 12 years working at East Pennsboro School District teaching in the classroom and as a reading specialist. Mrs. Fazzolari has spent 15 years teaching first grade and 5 of those years were right here at Hillside. Both of us are excited to serve the Hillside community in our new roles!

In addition, the reading department is lucky to have two aides, Ms. Leeds and Ms. Benkovich, who will also work with students in a number of capacities.

Our job as literacy specialists is to support students, teachers, and families as we all collaborate towards helping our kiddos reach their greatest potential. At times, we will pull small groups of students to work on reading and writing skills. Other times, we will work alongside the classroom teachers to offer extra support. We hope to be a resource to YOU, too!

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's reading or writing skills, please be sure to contact us at the emails listed at the bottom of the page.

What Are the Components of a Good Reader?

Your child will be continuing to enhance his or her reading and writing skills this year in fourth grade. WSSD adopted *Benchmark Literacy* as the primary English/Language Arts program. This program is aligned with the PA Core Standards and will provide your child with opportunities to practice the 5 big ideas of reading.

1. **Phonemic Awareness:** This foundational skill is taught in the primary grades and can be described as hearing and manipulating the sounds in words. In the upper grades, it is used as students figure out the syllables in words and change words by adding prefixes and suffixes.
2. **Phonics:** Phonics is using the sounds one hears and associating it with letters. For example, this is recognizing that the long a sound can be spelled with "ay," "ai," or an "a" with a silent e at the end.
3. **Vocabulary:** Understanding and using words. As your child gets older, his or her vocabulary will expand. Your child will explore multiple meanings of words, use clues from the text to determine word meaning, and focus on prefixes and suffixes.
4. **Fluency:** Reading like we talk. This skill is modeled and practiced constantly!
5. **Comprehension:** Understanding what has been read. This is the ultimate goal of reading! Your child will use a variety of text genres to practice comprehension strategies. When asked a comprehension question, the students will need to look for evidence in the text to defend their answers.



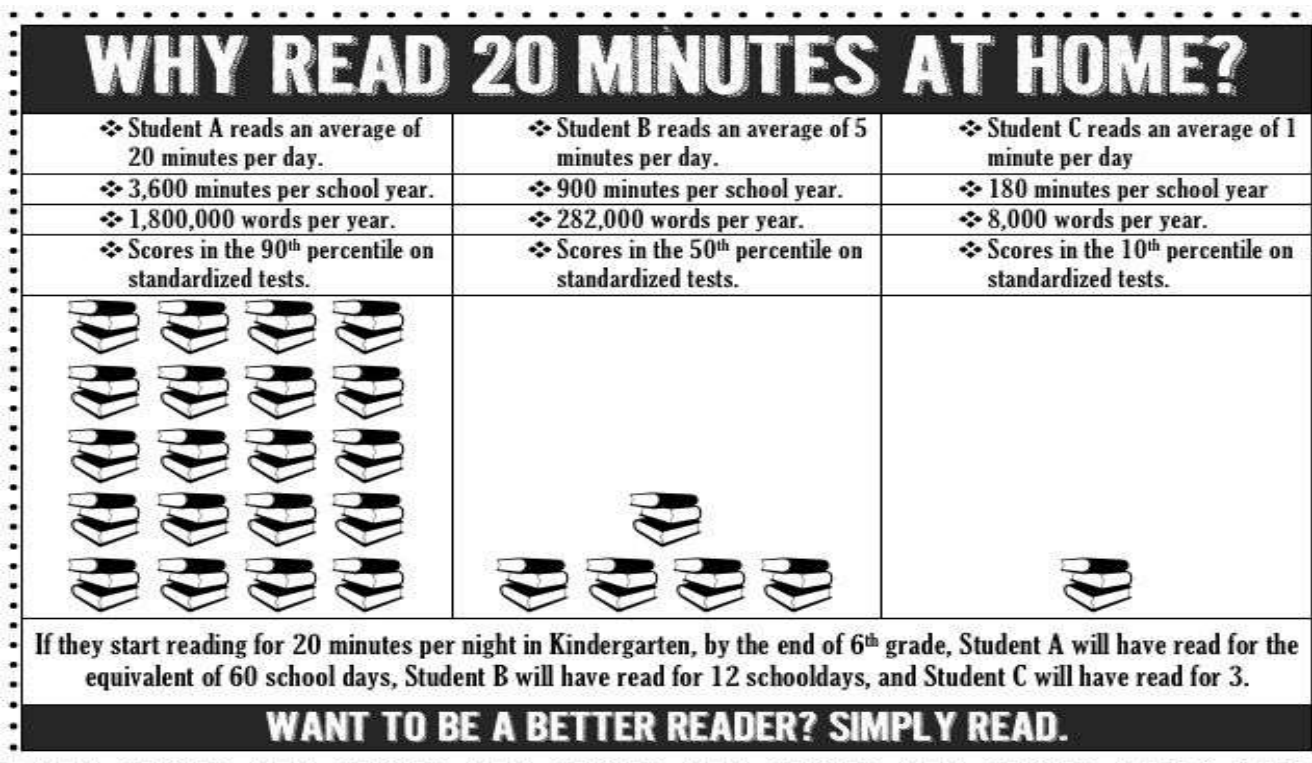
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What is the Best Thing to Do to Help My Child Become a Successful Reader?

READ! READ! READ! Reading practice is important for all children and is a very special experience! Your child should be participating in reading activities at least 20 minutes each day outside of school.

Check out these statistics!



(¹) Although it is still important for your child to see reading modeled by you at home, much of their reading is becoming more independent.

There are many ways to incorporate more reading in your child's day:

- ❖ Take a family outing to the library or book store and search for books on favorite topics.
- ❖ Use your I-Pad or Kindle to find books to read on these topics.
- ❖ Subscribe to or borrow magazines like *Highlights* or *Ranger Rick*.
- ❖ Share your favorite childhood books.
- ❖ Read jokes and riddles with your child.
- ❖ Have your child read to younger siblings, pets, or stuffed animals.
- ❖ Encourage your child to read you directions, text messages, video game directions, recipes...
- ❖ Choose a slightly more complex book to share and read aloud to your child as part of your nightly routine.

What is Title I?

Hillside Elementary School is a Title I school, meaning it gets extra federal funding to provide additional supports to students. These supports come in the form of extra reading support through qualified reading specialists, as well as other after school tutoring programs. Selection for these programs is based on student need, as evidenced through reading assessments given throughout the year. If your child is selected to participate in one of these programs, your child's teacher and a literacy specialist will contact you with detailed information.