

Reading Rivalry Coaching Guide

Thank you for volunteering to coach Reading Rivalry. We appreciate your time and enthusiasm for this fun program!

The information in this “guide” is just that – a guide. You are welcome to run your group meetings any way you choose. The information below was created from suggestions gathered from previous coaches, ideas of what worked well for them. Feel free to pick and choose, as well as share any tips you’ve found helpful.

Timing & logistics:

- Reading Rivalry kicks-off Monday, November 20th. Most teachers have requested meetings don’t begin until the week of 11/27, but we are encouraging students to take books home to read over the break!
- Teams will meet weekly; 4th & 5th grade during the lunch/recess break; 3rd grade during the “power hour” (2:30 – 3 PM). If the teachers have not been in touch with you about a specific day to meet, you likely can choose the day of the week most convenient for you. Please work with the teachers as needed to arrange that. It is preferable you meet the same day each week.
- You can meet in the room between the library and office (behind Mr. Shock’s office) or in the pod area of the grade you are coaching.
- Finding books:
 - a. There are 12 sets of books in the school library for check-out. They are on a special shelf next to Mrs. Spude’s desk.
 - b. 3rd and 4th grade have an additional 3 sets of books in their pod.
 - c. Many teachers have at least some of the books in their classroom libraries.
 - d. The Washington County library has multiple copies of all 10 books.
- The competition is Friday, March 16th, in the morning. Details about the time will be shared closer to the date, but typically the order is 3rd grade, 4th, then 5th.

Housekeeping items:

- Have all students sign the “contract.” Discuss what it means for them as a team. Keep the forms; remind the students about the contract as necessary.
- Determine who is reading what book. It’s typical for each student to read 3-4 books, but that varies depending on the student. See suggestions below.
- Come up with a team name.
- 2-3 weeks before the competition, create a team poster. Posterboard will be available in the PTO workroom.
- Most teachers prefer food not be brought in as part of a reward or incentive. If you wish to do so, please talk with your students’ teachers first.

Choosing/Assigning books:

- Some of the teachers, particularly in 3rd grade, prefer to assign the books.
- Feel free to talk to the teachers if you need suggestions for what books might fit a student well, or if it seems a student is struggling with a particular book.
- Consider having 3 different students kids read each book (tie-breaker if they disagree on an answer).
- Create a spreadsheet/chart of who is reading what book; review the chart weekly to determine and discuss progress.

Running your weekly meetings:

- Suggestions for the first few meetings:
 - Play a little game to foster teamwork like “Would you rather…” or how high can you stack the shoes.
 - During the first meeting, I went over the story line of each book as I showed the book cover. This helped the kids decide what books they wanted to read.
 - Set goals on how many books each child would like to read. Let them know there will be a prize/recognition if they read all of them.
- Read the shortest, easiest book aloud while the kids eat lunch. If someone finishes eating early, have them take turns reading aloud too.
- Break them up into smaller groups and pass out the discussion question sheets. They can eat lunch and discuss the books etc. When it came close to competition time, most of the group had read a decent amount of the books. They had all had a chance to review the discussion questions, this was great because they would start to debate and discuss.
- Check in each week with how much they read, asked them to tell us what was going on in the book, and set a goal for how many pages would be read by the next meeting.
- I read the majority of the books and created a spreadsheet of questions. As the competition grew closer and more of the books were read by at least 1 child, I would randomly ask questions from my spreadsheet and they would identify which book it was from.
- Create flash cards from the study guides.
- Use the website Quizlet.com to create an online study guide that students can work on at home and track their groups’ progress.
- Ask the students to come up with 5 Reading Rivalry-style questions for each book they read; ask the rest of the team those questions.

If, at any time, your kids are having trouble focusing, feel free to talk to their teachers. Some coaches would have the kids do brief physical activities (jumping jacks) if they got a question right, etc, to give the kids a chance to get out of their chairs and move.

Resources:

- All of the information in this folder can be found on the PTO website, on the Enrichment page under Reading Rivalry.
- Study guides have been created for each of the 10 books, by teachers or parents. You’ll note differences in the styles since they were written by different people, but hopefully they will prove to be a good starting point.
- Some study guides created by the authors/publishers have also been included in this guide.
- Quiz website Quizlet.com