

Independent Reading (IR)

(Formerly Known As AR)

Why do we require reading?

Reading is a super power. Rooting your existence in text gives you access to the entirety of our species' collective efforts, wisdoms, and experiences. Proper reading invokes a stream of impulses and inspirations which rips us free of the limited scope of our one small life and its experiences to embody whole swaths of humanity.

Some of us love reading. For some of us, it's not our favorite pass-time. For all of us, reading will be boring sometimes, just like everything in life. But, we have to process text, and that takes practice! Furthermore, reading improves our writing. And persevering through anything, even things we hate or that are hard for us, gives us practice in perseverance! The skill transfers to other areas of life. We become more RESILIENT!

By reading, we all, at some point, find ourselves changed with a keen sense of the world, of places we've never been, and the complexities of people and issues. Text becomes a part of us. Characters and other lenses give birth to new strengths and a deeper sense of understanding. We walk through the world more than we were prior to the encounter.

This year instead of the Accelerated Reader (AR) program used in the past, the Camelot English department is launching an Independent Reading program (IR). We have four main goals. We want students to:

1. Read daily
2. Create an academic habit
3. Use what they are reading in their navigation of the everyday world
4. Hunt for that rare moment when a book becomes more than a text in the context of life.

Basic requirements:

1. **Read 30 minutes a day.** This reading can include audio books or podcasts if you follow along with the text with your eyes. It can include text any teacher assigns. It can include a newspaper or a magazine. It can include a graphic novel. It can include Academic Fair research. Please note that you must choose and read 2 books (approved by your teacher) over the course of the year. Reading these count for your daily reading total too.
2. **Record what you read.** We have an online log for you to complete each day (or every other day) OR you can write what you read in your planner and take pictures once per week. We recognize that logging can feel onerous, but research shows that tracking creates habits! Please be sure not to get behind or you will forget what you read.

NOTE: If you miss a day, you can make it up sometime in the next 2 days. Similarly, please do not count reading that you do more than 2 days ahead. Reading needs to become a habit, so while binge-reading is awesome and encouraged, you still need to keep reading almost every day!

3. Journal on your reading once per week. This journaling requires 3 things:

- a. Fill 1 page of provided online journal or 1 page of a composition book with thoughts on at least one of the things you read during the week. You can use the General Journal Prompts, or come up with your own prompts or thoughts.
- b. Put 3 new vocabulary words you encountered in your reading in the vocabulary section along with their definitions
- c. Copy one or more quote from something you read and explain briefly why you chose this and what it means to you/why it jumped out at you

4. Complete 2 projects on your 2 books over the course of the year:

- a. Presentation of a book - due Feb. 1
- b. Book Project - due April 5 - counts as your final exam for English

Requirements for these will be presented in class.

Your logs and IR journal will be spot-checked, meaning you will not know when we will check them. If they are not up-to-date, you and your parents will receive an **IR Notice** by email and you will need to stay in afternoon study hall until you catch up and are cleared. You are responsible for REPLYING ALL to your emailed IR Notice when everything is updated. You need to do this by 5pm the day BEFORE you want to be released from Study Hall. In other words, if you do not want to attend study hall on Thursday, you must finish and email your teacher by Wednesday at 5pm. You are not released until your teacher REPLIES TO THAT EMAIL indicating that you are now up-to-date. They teachers need time to review your log! So if you email at 9pm Wednesday, you still have to plan to serve study hall on Thursday.