Masked Readers...Unite!

Our RHS Read-a-thon starts March 1st!

February is national "I Love to Read" month, but who's to say March isn't a great month for reading, too? Let's unite as readers with our annual Read-a-thon sponsored by the Randolph Heights PTA. Last year's event showed tremendous growth, and we want even more students to participate this year whether in-person or virtual.

Each student is encouraged to set and reach a personal reading goal. Students can also help raise money to purchase new classroom reading materials.

★ Every reader will receive up to 4 custom bookmarks!
★ Every student who raises at least $20 will earn additional prizes!
★ Students who raise at least $250 will receive a special collectible prize!
★ All students can help earn School Spirit days!

Here's how it works:

1.) **Set a Daily Reading Goal:** Each student sets a goal for how many minutes they will read at home each day during the month of March. (Time spent listening to an adult read also counts!) Students are encouraged to read 10 to 30 minutes per day (while not in school) depending on grade level.

2.) **Track Daily Reading on the Calendar:** Keep track of the minutes read at home each day using the Read-a-thon Calendar sheet. Your calendar will be emailed (printable!) and in your take-home folder. On Sunday, parents will receive an email with a link to the Google Form to enter your weekly minutes. The email will come from Randolph Heights School. (The paper version of the Calendar will stay at home until the Read-a-thon is over.)

3.) **Get Supporters and Collect Pledges:** Each student is encouraged to find donors - parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, etc. - who will show support of the student's reading goals by making a pledge, which can be based on minutes read or be a one-time donation (see "Read-a-thon Pledge Sheet" for examples). Pledge money will be collected by Tuesday, April 13 along with the Read-a-thon Calendar and Pledge sheets.

Why a Read-a-thon?
The Randolph Heights Read-a-thon is a fundraiser for the Randolph Heights PTA. We have held an annual read-a-thon since 2015.The Read-a-thon has many benefits over traditional school fundraisers:
- It encourages good reading habits and helps support the school's emphasis on reading skill development.
- It gives the students opportunities to challenge themselves to meet a goal.
- It allows interested friends and family to contribute to the school without buying items they don't really want/need.
- Nearly all the money contributed (minus a small percentage -- less than 5% of donations -- for expenses to run the Read-a-thon) goes directly to the PTA and will purchase new classroom reading materials among other amenities that support reading in school.

Why do we track minutes and not the number of books read?
The Read-a-thon is based on minutes read, not how many books are read. This allows students with different reading speeds to compete on a level playing field for recognition and for prizes. It also encourages students to select books at or above their reading level.

What do I say to ask for a pledge?
"My school is having a Read-a-thon in March to raise money for our school. The money we raise will be used to buy new materials for our classrooms. We are raising money by reading books and asking people to sponsor us for the amount of time we read. I plan to read a total of _____ minutes. Will you please sponsor me?"

How much should I ask people to pledge?
The Read-a-thon's success as a fundraiser depends on students seeking and collecting pledges from family, friends and neighbors. To figure out how much to ask people to pledge, take your Daily Reading Goal (the number of minutes you plan to reach each day at home) multiplied by the 31 days of the Read-a-thon. Then multiply that number by the amount of money per minute your sponsor wants to pledge to calculate the estimated amount due. To calculate the actual total due, use the final number on the Calendar Tally Sheet. Some people may prefer to make a straight donation (e.g., $5, $10, $20) rather than a pledge per minute. That's just fine! Donations can be cash, card or check payments. Checks should be made out to Randolph Heights PTA. All pledges are tax deductible.

Here's how to use the formula:

_____	X	31 Days	=	_____	X	$ _____	=	$ _____
Daily Minutes				Total Minutes		Pledge per minute		Total Pledge

Example calculation:

30	X	31 Days	=	930	X	$ 0.05	=	$ 46.50
Daily Minutes				*Total Minutes*		*Pledge per minute*		*Total Pledge*

What prizes can I win?
Prizes will be awarded based on money raised.

Participation Prizes:
  - Students who participate by turning in their weekly minutes through the Google Form will receive a bookmark.

Fundraising Prizes:
  - First pick from "Disguise Prize" $100 or more

  - Second pick from "Incognito Prize" $50.00 -$99.00

  - Third pick from "Mysterious Prize" $20.00 - $49.99

Grand Prize:
Students who raise at least $250 will receive a special collectible prize.

What's the best way to thank my sponsors?
Don't forget to thank those who sponsored you. After the Read-a-thon is complete, write a thank you note, send an email or call each sponsor to say "thanks" and let them know how many minutes you read and the entire school read.

Our goal is to read 100,000 minutes. If we reach this goal, a special celebration will be held in each classroom.

Mark your calendar and make a plan to read, read, READ!

Questions? Contact our teacher-led planning team:
Amie Nelson: amie.nelson@spps.org
Lisa Dochniak: lisa.dochniak@spps.org
Beth Tierney: beth.tierney@spps.org

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Teacher:** _____ **Daily Reading Goal:** _____ minutes

March 2021 Read-a-thon Calendar

Directions:
1. Write the number of minutes you read (or are read to) at HOME each day on that day's square.
2. At the end of the week, add up your minutes read for the entire week.
3. Each week, go to the Google Form sent via email on Sunday to enter your minutes. The form can also be found on the RHS website and Randolph Heights Facebook page.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Minutes for the Week	Parent/Guardian Signature
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31						
						Write Your TOTAL Minutes for the Entire Month Here:		

2021 RHS Read-a-thon Pledge Sheet

My goal is to read _____ minutes per day, for an estimated total of _____ minutes between March 1-31, 2021.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Sponsor's Name	Pledge Per Minute in Cents	Total Due (Total minutes X pledge; or one-time donation amount)	Total Collected
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
Please make checks payable to Randolph Heights PTA		TOTAL COLLECTED:	$

Money should be collected and turned in by Tuesday, April 13.

Example Pledge Per Minute	Max 30 Minutes Read Per Day Times 31 Days	Example Total Due
$0.01	930 minutes	$9.30
$0.05	930 minutes	$46.50
$0.10	930 minutes	$93.00

Prize Level Reached

Mark the line that indicates how much money you have COLLECTED. Prize choices will be awarded after all money is collected.

_____ $100 or more   First pick from "Disguise Prize"

_____ $50.00 - $99.99   Second pick from "Incognito Prize"

_____ $20.00 - $49.99   Third pick from "Mysterious Prize"

Put your artistic talents to good use and help create this year's Read-a-Thon bookmarks. We are looking for upcoming artists who can take the ideas listed below and create a picture that will be used for our 7th annual read-a-thon. All entries will be considered, and few will be chosen. Artwork will become property of read-a-thon committee.
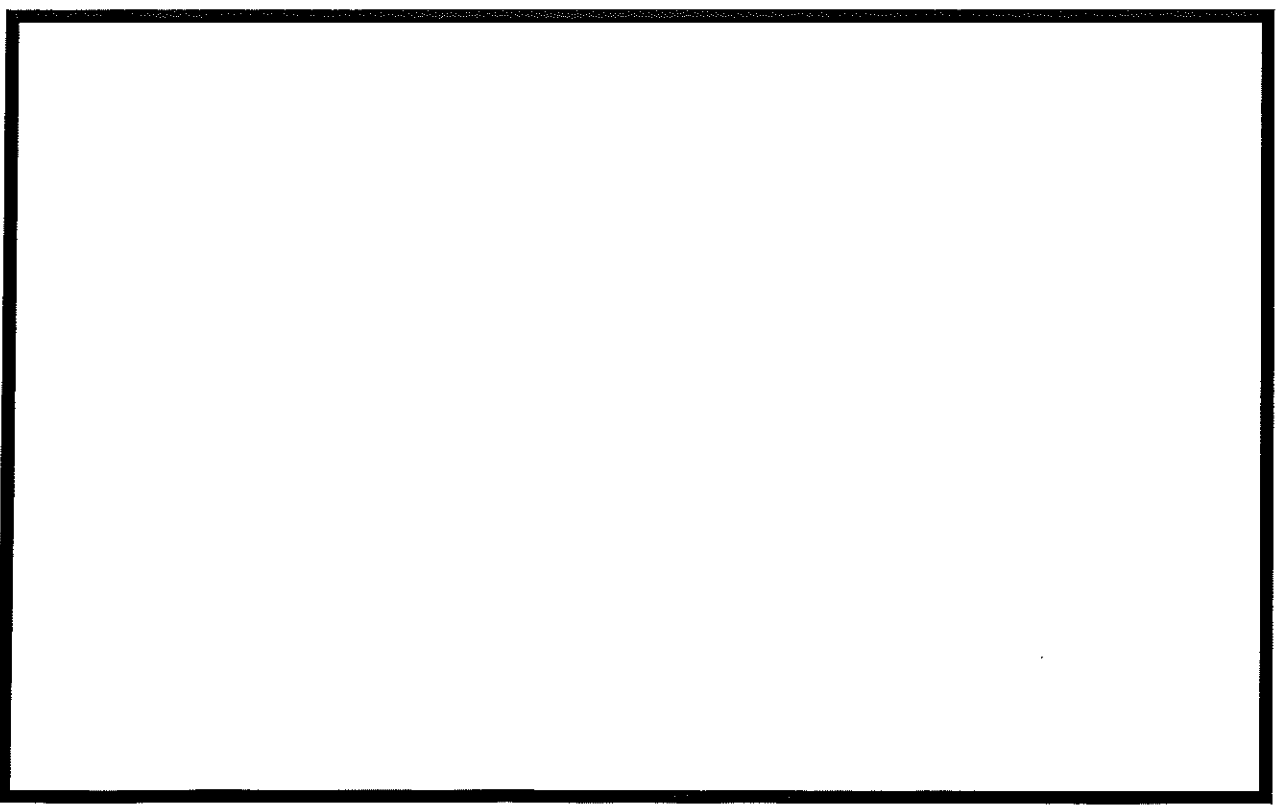
Invention Theme:

Masked Reader- Unite!

Judging Criteria:
*Black and White (No color this year.)
*Student created and drawn by hand
*No words
*Stays within borders given
*Image reflects theme
*Originality

Deadline: Thursday, February 25.
Return to your teacher.

Name _____

Grade _____