

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Now that school is getting underway, I wanted to drop you a note to explain the homework requirements for your child so that there aren't any misunderstandings. Every night, Monday through Thursday, and once over the weekend, your child is required to read a book of his or her choice for at least thirty minutes. I will make sure that all children have a book in their possession before they leave my classroom every day to ensure they have something to read. After reading for the required thirty minutes, I expect students to write in their reading response logs for fifteen minutes about what they have read. It is very important for your child to be able to discuss the readings and make connections to the books he or she has selected. Every morning, students will share their reading response logs with a student partner, and once a week I will collect and respond to them.

The responses students write in their logs should focus on what happened in the story for 25 percent of the page, and what they thought about what happened for the other 75 percent. We call this the retelling (25 percent) and reacting (75 percent) sections. Both of these types of responses are important for your child to be successful. I hope you will be able to provide the space and time each evening for your child to complete the required reading and responses. If there are any problems, please feel free to drop a note and I will get in touch to resolve any challenges you may have with this assignment. Please feel free to help your child with these homework requirements as you feel necessary. It is my belief that homework should not dominate your home life each evening, and that it is something students can accomplish with minimal parental involvement.

It should not take students more than an hour each night to complete these assignments if they keep up with the work. It is my hope that you get a chance to read along with your child as he or she reads some nights. There is no stronger influence on your child's reading behaviors than you demonstrating your love of a good book. I am available most mornings before school if students have any questions about their homework. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Serafini