

REDEEMED READER

READING CHALLENGE



FOR KIDS AND TEENS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2025 Reading Challenge for Kids and Teens! This is our **10th Annual Reading Challenge for Kids and Teens!**

Our first challenge was a child- and teen-friendly version of Tim Challies's original (and excellent) annual challenge for grown-ups. We've continued to tweak ours since that first year to make it easier to find books as well as to offer different levels for different types of readers.

The Redeemed Reader Annual Reading Challenge is designed to **encourage you to be more intentional** with your reading life. Most readers need some nudges to diversify their reading, and our reading challenges are designed with that in mind (as opposed to merely checking off a box).

At Redeemed Reader, we know Christian parents and educators struggle to find quality new books. We're reading ahead for you, so that you can confidently choose books for your children and teens.

We encourage you to take advantage of the resources on our website, both browsing our book reviews as well as perusing our many book lists.

However, you can also do this challenge without our recommendations (other than a few specific categories).

We'd love to know what books become your favorites! Share your progress on social media and tag us (@redeemedreader on Facebook or @redeemed_reader on Instagram). If you're a Fellowship member at Redeemed Reader, definitely share your progress on our new Reading Challenge forum! It's also a great place to ask for book suggestions and share which books are your favorites.












Not a member? [Find out more here.](#)

ANNUAL READING CHALLENGE OVERVIEW:

There are 10 mini-challenges plus a challenge YOU can design. You can complete the same challenge over and over, try a mix-and-match approach, or simply choose one and see where the year takes you!

DIRECTIONS:

Ask your kids or students* which mini-challenge they would like to start with:

-  **GENRE CHALLENGE:** A mix of different genres for a broad reading experience.
-  **RR FAN CLUB CHALLENGE:** Dipping into the Redeemed Reader reviews and recommendations (such as a starred review or a “family read aloud”).
-  **WORDS, WORDS, WORDS CHALLENGE:** Everything from the Word (of God) to libraries, long books, and more.
-  **RAINY DAY READS CHALLENGE:** Re-read old favorites, enjoy a mystery or two, binge-read a series....
-  **MOVING PICTURES CHALLENGE:** Picture books, graphic novels, and books made into movies!
-  **HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE:** Fiction and nonfiction about people and places, past and present.
-  **SCIENCE & NATURE CHALLENGE:** Nature, space, math: this is the challenge for STEM-focused kids (or those who need to expand their humanities-focused horizons).
-  **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE:** Books with friends, books about different cultures, and realistic fiction.
-  **OLD v. NEW BOOKS CHALLENGE:** Read some old (really old!) stories AND some new (really new!) stories.
-  **IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE CHALLENGE:** Fairy tales, legends, and fantasy! (Note: it is *possible* to do this challenge with no “magic” books, but challenging; if your family/school does not read fantasy for that reason, feel free to double up on another mini-challenge if you’re trying to read 100 books this year.)
-  **YOUR CHOICE:** You get to choose which books! Make up categories if you like, or just start reading.

*It is **imperative** that a child or teen “owns” this challenge; please do not force or require children to read a certain number of books. What seems like a doable challenge level? Your kids might be interested in reading about a teen’s experience with the Grand Slam Level challenge in 2018!

ALL BOOKS COUNT: e-books, audiobooks, picture books, chapter books, novels, graphic novels, narrative nonfiction, "encyclopedia" type books, etc.

Each mini-challenge is self-contained; they do not need to be completed in any particular order. Each challenge also includes a “freebie” (“book of your choice”).




We recommend printing off only the current challenge level a child is working on; it’s less overwhelming for struggling or reluctant readers, in particular.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The Team Approach: you are more than welcome to divide and conquer: take a mini-challenge as a family or classroom and divide up the books amongst yourselves.

Note: No “double dipping!” (don’t count a book simultaneously as a "fantasy book" AND a "new book" unless you read it twice in the same year). However, if your child is reading a book for school or another reading challenge (such as a summer reading challenge), and the book fits one of the categories on this challenge, by all means count it!

Please do not jump into the main reading challenges if your children or students need to build basic reading habits first. For that, you need an ordinary habit tracker (as opposed to a “books read” tracker) and different goals, such as one of the following:

-  I'm going to read for 15 minutes a day. OR,
-  I'm going to challenge my son/daughter to read for 20 minutes every weekday.
-  Or, I'm going to rate/review/reflect on each title in a journal (or someplace like goodreads) before starting another title.

If your child is already a reader (or experienced listener), then we encourage you to see if he or she would like to participate in the reading challenge at whatever level seems a good fit. *Let it be your child's decision.*



**NEW
READING
CHALLENGES
FOR GROWNUPS!**

LEARN HOW TO BETTER EVALUATE
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE THROUGH:

- A PICTURE BOOKS CHALLENGE
- A CHAPTER BOOKS CHALLENGE


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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CHALLENGES

We have four challenges this year for grownups who want to learn more about children's literature. Think of them as self-directed master classes on what makes a great book for kids.

PICTURE BOOKS CHALLENGE

This challenge asks you to read 50 books (most of which are picture books), paying particular attention to what works and what doesn't in a given picture book. Some titles and illustrators are specified, some are awards-based (such as the Caldecott Award), and some categories are more open-ended. The original version included specific author/illustrator/title suggestions that have made definitive contributions to the field, historically. The updated version swaps these specifics out for new names, many of them more ethnically diverse, but keeps the broader categories (award winners, etc.) the same.

CHAPTER BOOKS/MIDDLE GRADES BOOKS CHALLENGE

This challenge asks you to read 24 books (most of which are children's books), paying particular attention to what works and what doesn't in a given book. Some titles and authors are specified, some are awards-based (such as the Newbery Medal), and some categories are more open-ended.

The original version included specific author/illustrator/title suggestions that have made definitive contributions to the field, historically. The updated version swaps these specifics out for new names, many of them more ethnically diverse, but keeps the broader categories (award winners, etc.) the same.

You can, of course, make the original challenges quite broad in terms of ethnic representation simply by choosing books for the broader categories that include a range of representation and experience.

Can you do these challenges with your children? Yes, with some modifications. Simply make substitutions where necessary. But asking the same evaluation questions with your children is a *fantastic* way to jumpstart their own discernment in reading and a beginning understanding of art appreciation.