



Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.
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***The Twice Upon a Time*[®] Reading Challenge**

What is it?

Twice Upon a Time is a reading challenge where children are challenged to read twice a day in two different places for two weeks. It is designed to help children and their families make reading a part of their daily lives and to accentuate the idea that reading can be done anywhere, anytime.

How does it work?

You should designate two weeks during your contract year when the challenge will take place. During that time, each child should read, or be read to, depending on the age and reading ability of the child, in two different places each day. For example, for programs in an after school setting, each child can read or be read to during once the after school time, and then again at home. Generally, younger children should spend at least 10 minutes reading each time. Older children, who have longer attention spans, can be challenged to an even longer reading period, or to a certain number of pages each day.

One of the goals of this challenge is to involve parents, other family members, and members of the community into the reading experiences of the children. Having children read aloud with family members is a great way to make it more fun and exciting. Anyone can do the reading: parents or older siblings can read to younger children, or the children can read to their younger siblings or their parents and make it a family activity. They can read anything they want: some examples are books and stories, newspaper articles, directions how to get somewhere, food labels at the grocery store, or take out menus. They can even read while they are doing other things: a child can read aloud to a parent while they are in the car, or read a recipe while they make dinner with a parent, grandparent or sibling. The important thing is that they read.

This challenge is also a great time to involve other community members in your program. Use it as an opportunity to invite local celebrities to your school to be guest readers, participate in reading activities, and just have fun. Guest readers can be anyone from the local TV weather person, a sports figure, a firefighter, a parent of a child at your school, or a high school drama student. They will have a great time, inspire the children you serve to read more often, and make your program more effective.

Homework reading doesn't count! This is supposed to be a fun activity, and homework is rarely fun. It's more of a chore. You should not require children to read specific books; the choice of what to read should be left up to the child.

Tracking

RIF does expect coordinators to track how many students are participating and how many are successful in meeting the goal of the challenge. However, competitive challenges should be avoided, so that reluctant readers are not embarrassed and further discouraged from developing strong reading skills. Instead, use a visual tracking method that shows the progress of the group as they work toward a collective goal. For example, one RIF school made a paper ring for every book read. These rings were linked together, and within a few months the chain of linked rings was long enough to reach completely around the outside of the school. Each child's name can be written on a ring for each reading period they complete. Then at the end of the challenge, you will be able to see which children actually met the challenge. At the end of your two-week challenge, complete the Challenge Report and submit it to Carole Donahue or Carole Fiorino at Beyond the Bell for inclusion in the year-end report.