

“What matters is that students stretch themselves as readers and increase their competence, confidence, and reading motivation through their daily participation in our reading community. The 40 Book Challenge works for my students and me and for the many teachers successfully implementing it because of these core beliefs:

1. *Everybody reads here. Let’s get started...*
2. *Strong readers have lots of reading experiences...*
3. *There’s the right book for you out there somewhere. Let’s find it...*
4. *Whether you read or not isn’t a choice, but what you read is YOUR choice...*
5. *Your reading life matters...*

It doesn’t matter what they scored on the reading test. It doesn’t matter how many books they read if they stop reading when they leave our classrooms” (Donalyn Miller, <https://bookwhisperer.com/2014/08/12/the-40-book-challenge-revisited/>, September 5, 2019).

# The 40 Book Challenge



The above quote from Mrs. Miller’s website reflects my heart and intentions with the 40 Book Challenge (BC). Students will not be tested or hounded on this aspect of middle school English curriculum. I will meet with them, check with them, and discuss with them the books they are reading. This is what it says... a challenge.

1. Students will need to read on or above their grade level, but they may receive approval for books that are under their grade level beforehand. Please make me aware of any struggles or special circumstances;
2. Students may abandon a book they started, but they will not receive credit for that book on their log, and they will need to journal why they are abandoning the book so that I am able to suggest alternative books;
3. Students have asked about audiobooks. I believe that while this exposes students to literature, it does not expose them to the practice of reading; however, exceptions will be decided on a case-by-case basis, so please contact me if you would like to use an audiobook;
4. Students will receive grades for participation quarterly based on their effort and completion of journals. A journal grade (graded on content and format) will be received weekly, and the overall challenge will be averaged into the final exam. The expectation is that students will complete one book in each genre (ten books) and turn in a journal every week to earn a 100 on the final exam 40 BC portion;
5. 20 chapters in the Bible count as one book, but only 50% of the total of logged books will be accepted for the total count (i.e. 40 books read with no more than 20 of those being Bible reading). Books count for more than one book if they exceed 300 or more pages. Please see the diagram below;
6. Up to 10 books will be accepted from summer reading (only 5 from the Bible—the equivalent of 100 Bible chapters);
7. We will have a quarterly Book Café (book talk) for a participation grade. If students miss this, they will have to do a one-page book report for make-up work; and,
8. When in doubt, just ask.

Up to 299 = 1 Book	300-449 = 2 Books	450-599 = 3 Books
600-749 = 4 Books	750-899 = 5 Books	900 and up = 6 Books