

Rules for Reading Workshop

- 1.** You must read a book. Magazines, newspapers, and comics don't offer the extended chunks of prose you need to develop fluency. More important, they won't help you discover who you are as a reader of books.
- 2.** Don't read a book you don't like. Don't waste time with a book you don't love when there are so many great ones waiting for you—*unless* you decide to finish a bad book so you can criticize it. Do develop your own system for abandoning books.
- 3.** If you don't like your book, find another. Check out the Books-We-Love display. Check your list of Someday books. Browse our shelves. Ask me or a friend for a recommendation.
- 4.** It's more than all right to reread a book you love. This is something good readers do.
- 5.** It's okay to skim or skip parts of a book if you get bored or stuck. Good readers do this, too.
- 6.** On the form inside your reading folder, record the title of every book you finish or abandon, its genre, author, and difficulty level (Holiday, Just Right, or Challenge), the date, and your rating, 1–10. Collect data about yourself as a reader, look for patterns, and take satisfaction in your accomplishments.
- 7.** Understand that reading is thinking. Do nothing that distracts your classmates from the reading zone: don't put your words into their brains as they're trying to escape into the worlds of words that authors create. When you talk to me about your book, use as soft a voice as I use when I talk with you. *Whisper*.
- 8.** Take care of our books. Sign out every one you borrow on your card set, and then sign it back in *with me*—I'll draw a line through the title and initial the card. Return the book to its section in our library, alphabetically by the author's last name, or, if it's a book you loved, add it to the Books-We-Love collection.
- 9.** Read the whole time.
- 10.** Read as much as you can.