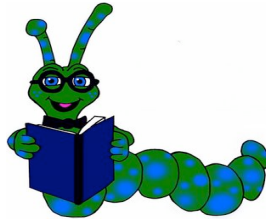


READING OLYMPICS

2009



2010

Reading Olympics is a program that encourages students to increase the quality and quantity of books they read for enjoyment. The Reading Olympics Program is based upon the belief that good reading habits form the foundation for a productive and successful life. This national program is currently active in schools in Bucks and other counties in Pennsylvania. In Easton, the program is offered at the elementary level as the Reading Olympics and at the secondary schools as the Spring Challenge. According to Pennsylvania Language Arts Standards, each year every child is expected to read and comprehend "25 chapter books...representing a wide range of materials by a variety of authors on different subjects." This program is open to 3rd and 4th grade students.

To participate, a student must choose to read at least five books from the Reading Olympics Book List for 2009 - 2010. They may choose to read the entire list of books. As they are reading the books, the students need to devise several questions about the stories. Notes should also be taken, as this will increase recall when it is time for the competition. Forms for the questions and the notes will be available. Plain paper may also be used. The competition will be in May. The teams from all of the elementary schools will compete by answering questions about the books.

The Book List will be given to each participant. The Reading Olympics book list may also be viewed on the home page of the March Library Catalog as well as on the library website. The books will be available in the March School Library. Some of the books may also be available in classroom libraries or the Easton Area Public Library. The books may also be purchased at bookstores or online. If you would like to donate any of these books, please contact the March Library. The participants may check out an additional library book per week from the Reading Olympics book list.

Book discussions will be held periodically to further encourage students to read and to give them an opportunity to discuss their reading. Students may participate in Book Discussions by reading the books and by preparing questions. Discussion groups will be led by several of our teachers and parents.

Questions for each book read should be dropped off in the Reading Olympics box located outside the library.

Teams will be formed about 8 weeks prior to the competition. Each team will consist of 8 to 14 members. Each *team* will read the entire book list, with each *member* reading at least 5 books.

The Easton Area Reading Olympics for 3rd & 4th Graders will be held in early May. The student-generated questions will be the ones used in the competition. A student must be a member of a Reading Olympics team in order to participate.

Students who choose to participate in the Reading Olympics will:

- ★ read a minimum of 5 books from the book list
- ★ begin reading from the required list now
- ★ make notes and develop factual questions for each book
- ★ talk about the books with a discussion group or with their parents
- ★ meet with their team in Spring to review questions and practice answering them

Parents can help their child by:

- ★ encouraging them to read the minimum of 5 books from the book list
- ★ reading over their notes and questions
- ★ checking that questions are factual, that the answers can be found in the story
- ★ discussing the books with them
- ★ obtaining the books from another source if the library copies are unavailable