

A Reader's Bill Of Rights

Whereas, all students need access to the kinds of reading opportunities that will allow them to grow up to be successful members of their society, and Whereas, it is everyone's responsibility to offer support for providing these opportunities, and Whereas, the ultimate goal of reading education is to create Communities of Readers where each student can fulfill his or her potential and experience the joy of reading.

Therefore, be it resolved that all students have certain inalienable Reading Rights:

- 1. Success as a Reader.** Every child is capable of learning to read and enjoy reading. That expectation must be shared by all and must form the foundation of all approaches to reading education.
- 2. Access to Appropriate Books.** Appealing books for a wide variety of interests, and covering all reading levels, must be available in classrooms, homes, school and public libraries, and other locations.
- 3. Time to Read.** Reading, like any other skill, must be practiced to be perfected. Schools must provide dedicated time during the school day to read for a variety of purposes—for pleasure, information, and exploration.
- 4. Read-Aloud Experiences.** All children must have regular opportunities to hear books read aloud to them. At early ages, reading aloud introduces them to the magic of print.
- 5. Time for Book Discussions.** Schools must make time for book discussions—not only between teacher and student—but among the students themselves.
- 6. Reading Role Models.** In Communities of Readers, all adults—in school, at home, and across the community—show by example how they value reading and guide young people to make reading a priority in their lives.
- 7. Literacy-Rich Environments.** Everything in students' surroundings must show that books and reading are valuable—from books in the classroom and open access to the library—to posters, and community events.
- 8. Library Support.** Libraries must be dynamic places providing services designed to engage young people's interest in reading. Both school and public libraries must play parts in building the Community of Readers.
- 9. Family Support.** Parents, grandparents, and other family members must be encouraged to involve themselves in reading to and with their children.
- 10. Community Support.** Programs involving all adults, not just parents, must be developed to give the community meaningful ways to be involved with reading development.

To secure these Reading Rights as stated, all members of every community should pledge their support, time, and resources.

Adapted from the Indiana Middle Grades Reading Network's "Reading Bill of Rights for Indiana's Young Adolescents."