

THE GOOD TIDINGS READING CHALLENGE



30 Days of Making Reading Feel Like Fun

FOR ELEMENTARY READERS - AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

No tests. No perfect streaks. No pressure.

This challenge is about helping kids connect reading with curiosity, laughter, comfort, choice and everyday life. Do one prompt a day, skip around, repeat favorites, or take longer than 30 days. The goal is not to finish fastest - it is to make reading something kids want to come back to.

How to use it

- Let the child choose the book whenever possible.
- Aim for a small pocket of reading time - even 5 to 15 minutes counts.
- Check off the day's prompt when you try it. There is no need to finish a whole book.
- Talk about what was funny, weird, surprising or memorable - not just what was 'learned.'
- Miss a day? Keep going. Reading is not ruined by Tuesday.

Before you begin

Reader(s): _____

Our favorite kinds of books right now: _____

One thing that would make reading feel more fun: _____

30 DAYS OF MAKING READING FEEL LIKE FUN

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DAYS 1-10 - START WITH CURIOSITY

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DAY 1: Read somewhere unusual

Try under a table, in a blanket fort, on the porch, or stretched out on the floor.

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DAY 2: Pick by cover

Choose a book only because the cover makes you curious. No overthinking allowed.

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DAY 3: Funny-page day

Find a page, poem or scene that makes you laugh. Read your favorite part out loud.

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DAY 4: You choose

The child gets complete control of today's reading choice - even if an adult would pick something else.

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DAY 5: Read to someone

Read to a sibling, stuffed animal, pet, grandparent, classmate or very patient houseplant.

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DAY 6: Stop while it's fun

Read for just 10 minutes. If everyone wants to keep going, great. If not, stop guilt-free.

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DAY 7: Character detective

Which character would you want to meet? Which one would you definitely avoid? Why?

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DAY 8: Poetry snack

Read one short poem. Then read another only if you feel like it. Tiny reading still counts.

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DAY 9: Change the voice

Give a character a ridiculous voice, accent, whisper, squeak or superhero announcement voice.

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DAY 10: Book + snack

Pair reading with a favorite snack or cozy drink and make it feel like a treat.

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DAYS 11-20 - KEEP IT COZY, PLAYFUL & LOW-PRESSURE

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DAY 11: Reread a favorite

Choose something you've read before. Familiar books absolutely count as real reading.

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DAY 12: Read the weird part twice

Find the strangest sentence, fact, picture or moment and give it a second look.

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DAY 13: Take turns

Adult reads a page, child reads a page - or trade whenever someone feels like it.

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DAY 14: Read outside

Take a book outdoors. A bench, yard, playground blanket or shady step all work.

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DAY 15: Make a prediction

Pause somewhere interesting and guess what happens next. Wild guesses are encouraged.

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DAY 16: Book commercial

Give a 20-second 'commercial' for what you're reading. Make someone else want to try it.

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DAY 17: Skip the worksheet

After reading, draw, doodle or act out one memorable moment instead of answering questions.

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DAY 18: Choose the shortest thing

Find a short story, poem, comic, chapter or article. Finishing something small feels good.

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DAY 19: Read by flashlight

Dim the room and make reading feel a little secret and special.

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DAY 20: Find a line worth keeping

Choose one funny, clever, comforting or surprising line and write it on a scrap of paper.

30 DAYS OF MAKING READING FEEL LIKE FUN

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DAYS 21-30 - LET THE READER TAKE THE LEAD

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DAY 21: Let curiosity lead

Start with one question the child has and find something to read that helps answer it.

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DAY 22: Read the pictures

Spend time noticing illustrations. What story details can you find that the words don't say?

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DAY 23: Swap recommendations

Adult recommends one book to the child; child recommends one to the adult. Both explain why.

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DAY 24: Silly summary

Explain what you read in the silliest possible way - dramatic, exaggerated or completely over-the-top.

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DAY 25: Read in pajamas

Pajamas are today's official reading uniform. Morning pajamas also qualify.

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DAY 26: Make a new title

Rename the story, chapter or poem. Serious titles are optional; ridiculous ones are welcome.

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DAY 27: Pick a 'just because' book

Read something with no school connection, assignment or educational reason attached.

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DAY 28: One-more-page test

When reading time ends, ask: 'Would you read one more page?' Notice the answer - don't force it.

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DAY 29: Favorite moment vote

Everyone picks the best moment from today's reading and explains their vote.

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DAY 30: Reader's choice celebration

Repeat any challenge from the month that made reading feel especially good.

YOU MADE READING FEEL LIKE FUN.



Whether you completed all 30 days, skipped a bunch, repeated favorites or took two months, you did the part that matters: you gave reading room to feel enjoyable.

The challenge we liked best was...

A book, poem or character we want more of is...

Something that made reading easier was...

Something that made reading more fun was...

Next, we'd like to try...

A note for grown-ups

If a child starts asking for another story, rereads an old favorite, laughs at a poem, talks about a character at dinner, or picks up a book without being asked - count it. Those little moments are reading wins.

