

# *MOTIVATION!*

## HOW TO MOTIVATE THE RELUCTANT READER AND TO FURTHER ENGAGE THE STRONG READER

Students who are motivated to read become proficient readers and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Five key features of reading motivation include the following:

1. Access to books
2. Choice
3. Familiarity
4. Talking about text—social interaction
5. Incentives

### Access to Books (and other reading material)

- Have lots of books available and organize them in interesting ways. Provide a wide variety of reading material, of various genres & formats, including magazines, comics, picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, etc.
- “Clean out the closet” periodically. Review your books and tap into the particular interests of your child. Replace books that are not appealing to your child with new books that are.

### Choice

- When kids choose books, they are more engaged in reading. (Doesn't that just make sense?)
- Offer a variety of texts for your child to choose from. Check out the local library, ebooks, online texts, magazine subscriptions, bookstores, etc. for many options!
- For a child that is unsure of what he/she is interested in, introduce him/her to a wide selection of texts. Ask questions about his/her enjoyable activities. The classroom teacher can also offer book suggestions.

### Familiarity

- Readers gravitate toward books they are familiar with—ones that they have heard about or read something about. Find out what the teacher has read in class! If your child shows an interest in series books, those are a great way to keep a familiar character as a part of your child's repertoire.
- When introducing your child to a new book, share just a little bit of the text to incite curiosity and increase motivation to read. Try a “book walk.” Read aloud to your child, and engage in shared reading as you go through the book together.

## Talk About Text

- What kids talk about is what they learn best and remember the longest.
- Encourage use of text language when talking about what they read... i.e. "Wow, this really makes me think about..." "This reminds me of..." "I predict..." "I think [character] must be feeling..." "I wonder..." etc.
- Suggest that your child share a book that he/she really likes with a friend. When kids share stories of texts, it piques the curiosity of other kids to read the same text. This is highly motivating.
- Text memory is an important distinction between proficient and struggling readers. Proficient readers have good text memory and can continue a text they left earlier with ease. Struggling readers have a depreciation of memory over time. By talking about what they read, struggling readers better remember what they read.
- Talking about text provides a good support system for struggling readers.

## Incentives

- People learn to value the reward. Children get conditioned to value receiving a material reward for reading, such as pizza. To motivate students to read, the best reward is related to reading.
- The closer the reward to the behavior, the higher the motivation.
- Reward good work, deep engagement, and thoughtful reflection.