

Eva Ann Jacobs – Midvale Middle School
MIDVALE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S GIANT SCHOOLWIDE BOOK CLUB

BOOK CHALLENGE

WHAT IS BOOK CHALLENGE?

We are in our 6th year of Book Challenge. The idea was conceived in '02 by a wonderful library aide, Nonie Boyle, as a way to promote good and uplifting literature to the students of Midvale Middle School. It is very successful at our school and our 30 books are read on average over 1000 times each year.

HOW DOES BOOK CHALLENGE WORK?

The librarian selects 33 books each year. I try to choose from various genres so that there will be a wide variety. The list is kept secret and is revealed on the 1st day of second term when Book Challenge begins. This gives students 30 weeks to read 30 books. There are various prizes and incentives along the way, such as laminated bookmarks, candy bars, pizza, etc. For those students who read 30 books by the end of the year, we have a nice party with food, activities, and a \$10. bookstore gift card presented by our principal.

HOW MUCH EXTRA WORK IS INVOLVED?

I read a lot of books and write 10 questions about each book. Then I choose 34 so that if a student really starts a book they do not like at all, they have some flexibility. I make sure that I have 30 new, exciting bookmarks and laminate them as incentives. I use 2 bulletin boards to feature the book titles and incentives. As the students read the books, they fill out a simple evaluation form and I ask them a random question about the book. We keep a file on each student so that we can tell them how many books and which titles they have read if they lose track. It is expensive because you should have 3 or 4 copies of each of the books. (Our PTSA helped us with a \$500. gift.)