



## Why Your Child Should Read 15 Minutes Every Day

“WHY CAN’T I SKIP MY 15 MINUTES OF READING TONIGHT?”

**LET’S FIGURE IT OUT...MATHEMATICALLY!**

Student A	Student B
Student A reads <b>15</b> minutes 4 nights of every week;	Student B reads only <b>5</b> minutes 4 nights...or not at all.
<b>Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 4 times each WEEK.</b>	
Student A reads 15 minutes x 4 times a week = <b>60 minutes/WEEK.</b>	Student B reads 5 minutes x 4 times a week = <b>20 minutes/WEEK.</b>
<b>Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each MONTH.</b>	
Student A reads <b>240</b> minutes a <b>MONTH.</b>	Student B reads <b>80</b> minutes a <b>MONTH.</b>
<b>Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/SCHOOL YEAR.</b>	
Student A reads <b>2160</b> minutes in a <b>SCHOOL YEAR.</b>	Student B reads <b>720</b> minutes in a <b>SCHOOL YEAR.</b>
<b>So what does this mean???</b>	
Student A practices reading the equivalent of <b><u>6 whole</u> school days</b> a year.	Student B gets the equivalent of <b><u>only 2</u> school days</b> of reading practice.
<b>By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, then...</b>	
Student A will have read the equivalent of <b>36</b> whole school days.	Student B will have read the equivalent of only <b>12</b> school days.

## WHY READ 30 MINUTES A DAY?

\*If *daily* reading begins in infancy, by the time the child is 5 years old, he or she has been fed roughly **900 hours** of brain food!

\*Reduce that experience to just 30 minutes a week, and the child’s hungry mind loses 770 hours of nursery rhymes, fairy tales, stories, and vocabulary development.

\*A kindergarten student who has not been read aloud to could enter school with less than 60 hours of literacy nutrition.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, America Reads Challenge. (1999) “Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader.” Washington, D.C.