

Voyager Independent Reading FAQs

What is I.R.?

I.R. stands for **Independent Reading** and it refers to any reading you do outside the school curriculum. We expect you to have an I.R. book in every class. We also expect you to read at least 30 minutes per evening at home. You are expected to set a goal of X number of pages per quarter and do everything you possibly can to meet that goal.

What books do I need to read?

I have a hard time telling students they can't read a book. I believe you should get to choose your own books for Independent Reading. That said, we recommend you choose books in your reading level. Reading books on your level challenges you become a better, stronger reader than reading books that are below your level. However, I am not going to check to be sure the book you are reading is on your level. I will leave the selection of books entirely up to you...but please don't try to turn in a Dr. Seuss book.

How do I demonstrate my understanding of the book for pages credit?

If you are reading an A.R. book:

- You must take an A.R. test. To do this, you must have your I.R. log and a copy of the book. You must conference with a teacher briefly, obtain their initials on your reading log, and proceed to the library to take the test. A.R. tests may be taken during EO Tuesday through Friday.

If you are reading a non-A.R. book:

- You must conference with me one-on-one about the book. To do this, you need to complete an IR Conference sheet. You must obtain this sheet from me and then schedule a conference on your own time (before/after school, during EO, etc.). You must have your log filled out and ready for me to sign. **YOU MUST DO THIS BEFORE THE WEEK PAGES ARE DUE!**

What is "pages credit?"

Pages credit is how we keep track of what you are reading. For example, if you set a goal of 600 pages for the quarter, your goal is to have at least 600 pages in your account by the end of the quarter. Pages are totaled throughout the year, and by the time we're done in the spring, you should have a nice, hefty number of pages in your account. The pages then convert to money for the Voyager I.R. Auction at the end of the year.

How do I turn in my books?

For AR:

- Take the AR test. The computer will deliver the scores directly to me.
- To turn in pages, you simply fill out a slip on the counter that says your name, the date, and your test score, and then place them in the purple pages basket. I will collect and total them every Friday. **PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY GET THE PAGES IF YOU TAKE THE AR TEST! YOU MUST TURN THEM IN!**

For non-AR:

- You must conference with me **by the end of the week before pages are due!** You need your **book and your I.R. log.**
- To turn pages in, you simply fill out a slip on the counter that says your name, the date, and then **I will initial the conference line.**

When are pages due?

Pages are usually due the Wednesday before the end of the quarter (with one exception this year). Here are the dates for this year:

- 1st Quarter
 - Wednesday, October 12th
- 2nd Quarter
 - Monday, December 19th
- 3rd Quarter
 - Wednesday, March 7th
- 4th Quarter
 - Wednesday, May 16th

What happens to my pages after I turn them in?

Two things:

1. **They go into your personal pages account.** They convert to money at the end of the year for you to use in the Voyager IR Auction.
2. **They go into your "team" account.** Each quarter, teams compete for various team prizes (pizza, breakfast, ice cream, etc.) The first quarter, your team will be your Reading Plus class. Second and third quarter may be boys v. girls, birthdays, old elementary schools, or it may be completely random. The fourth quarter all the pages on the team are combined and we compete with the Eclipse and All Star teams to see which team can read the most pages.

Can I read more pages than my goal?

YES PLEASE! You may complete an assessment and turn in the pages for your personal total and your team total. The students with the ten highest totals of pages read will make the Voyager Top Ten I.R. Reader's page on the Reading Plus website. The team with the highest total at the end of the quarter wins a party of some sort.

Can I count books I read over the summer?

No. I'm glad you were reading over the summer, but the books and pages you turn in must be **finished** during this quarter. Likewise, if you start a book in first quarter but finish it in second quarter, you can turn it in for second quarter.

Other questions? Ask me!