

# The Bat Guide to 6th Grade Reading



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# ***CONTACT INFO:***

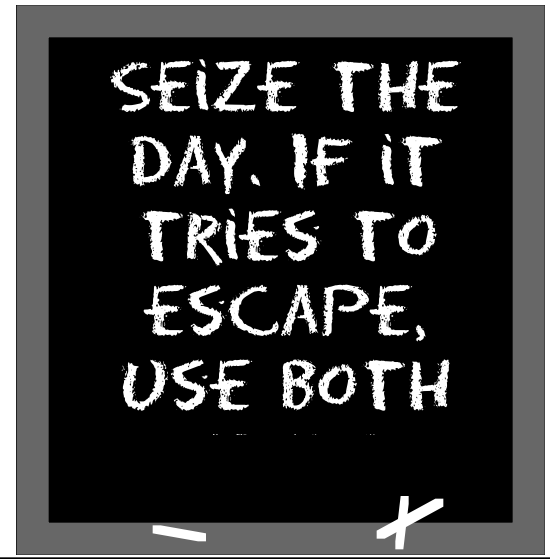
My Website; Check Here for Assignments & Due Dates:

<http://TeacherWeb.com/MD/FQMS/MrBatson/>

My eMail: [wayne\\_batson@hcpss.org](mailto:wayne_batson@hcpss.org)

Check Grades at: <http://www.teacherease.com/>

Call me between 1:30-3:00 at 410.313.1506



## 1 Composition Book



- \* Wide Ruled
- \* White Paper
- \* 100 pages

## 1 Pack of Post-It Notes



Just ONE pack, not the multipack. These will be kept in students notebook.

## 1 Four Pocket Folder



This 4 pocket folder is 3-hole punched and features 2 vertical and 2 horizontal pockets. Available in 10 different colors.

## Free Reading Book: Fiction



NOTE:  
My books are NOT required. But they are pretty good. ;-)

MUST be fiction. Something your child WANTS to read.

# Approach to Reading

Dear Parents,

Howard County Public Schools rank among the highest scoring school districts in the United States. Folly Quarter Middle ranks among the highest scoring schools in Howard County. To maintain and improve our success, Folly Quarter Middle School's Reading teachers are dedicated to helping your child become able, self-sufficient, strategic readers. Over the course of the year, through five curricular units and many related mini units, we will help your child develop better reading skills in many areas including the following:

1. **Word Study**: determining the meaning of unknown words based on context, root components and other visual cues.
2. **Explicit Comprehension**: understanding what is specifically stated in the text.
3. **Implicit Comprehension**: understanding what is implied by the text.
4. **Strategy Use**: practicing mental processes and techniques that increase comprehension of fiction and nonfiction.
5. **Fluency**: reading with precision, tone, volume, and speed.
6. **Research**: accessing multiple sources of information to answer questions and solve problems that are of importance to the researcher.
7. **Writing**: being able to compose a written response based on one or more readings.

We at Folly Quarter believe that students are far more intelligent and perceptive than the general American public would give them credit for being. To that end, we endeavour to challenge our readers to go beyond the "surface" level of reading. We expect full effort from our students. And we expect greatness.

## Snapshot: A Day in Reading

- 1. Students are seated and quiet before the bell rings.
- 2. Students copy Homework assignment from the chalkboard.
- 3. Students Pass out Journals.
- 4. Students copy Student Outcome into Journal.
- 5. Students look for Drill Sign and begin one of the following drills: Root Word Challenge, Nonsense, DEAR, or ACE.
- 6. Teacher and Students review Drill.
- 7. Check and/or collect Homework.
- 8. Introduction to Skill/Topic
- 9. Teacher models skill and guides students in practice.
- 10. Students practice the skills independently.
- 11. Review and discussion of results
- 12. Students write 5-Star Review of Lesson into Journal.
- 13. 5-Star Review of Personal Effort into Journal.
- 14. Discuss 5-Star Reviews.

# Official Policies:

## GRADING POLICY

Reading Grades for Interims and Report Cards will be based on the following:

Homework----->10%

Classwork, Daily Participation, and Conduct----->20%

Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Reading Quest, Notebooks----->70% and Reading Round Table

NOTE: Students who are illegally absent will receive ZERO credit for any assignments/tests completed during their absence.

## Homework Policy

- Students must record nightly HW assignments in their agenda books.
- Homework will be assigned EVERY NIGHT in Reading. You should never see the word NONE written in the agenda.
- During the 1st Marking Period, late HW will be accepted the very next class for 50% Credit. After 1st Marking Period, no credit will be given for late work.
- I will stamp agenda books when an assignment is missed.
- Absent students have the number of days missed to make up assignments.

### About Agenda Planners:

Parents, please check agenda planners each night. Reading students should have their Reading homework written there every day.

Also, if a student misses an assignment, I will stamp it with the “Stamp of Doom.”



THURSDAY

15

DAY

LANGUAGE/READING

# How to Study



We teachers are fond of telling students to study for tests and quizzes, but we rarely explain how to study. Each subject and each topic will require a different approach to studying.

If a student performs poorly on a test or quiz in Reading, it may not be that they didn't study long enough. It might be that they didn't study the best way. Read the suggestions below so that you can "study smarter."

## Recall Quizzes:

In my class, Root Word Quizzes, Vocabulary Quizzes, and a few others are recall quizzes. To study for a recall-type quiz, students need to --**BEGIN**-- by memorizing the content. If the quiz is on 25 root words, you need to know them cold. However, this is not "rote memory" or "memorize and forget" study.

Students must be able to apply their understanding of the content. For vocabulary words, that might mean students need to write them into meaningful sentences. For root words it might mean breaking down an unfamiliar word by its root parts. See the example below:

•**Genealogy**: This word has the root "gen" which means "beginning" and the suffix "ology" which means "the study of." So a student can define this word as "the study of beginnings."

## Performance Quizzes:

In my class, Strategy Quizzes, ACE Quizzes, Nonsense Quizzes, as well as a few others are performance quizzes. To study for a performance type quiz, students need to know how to use a skill correctly.

For Strategy Quizzes, students need to verbalize to their parents how the strategy works and then demonstrate it with "think alouds" while they read. For ACE quizzes, students need to be able to answer a question fully, with relevant details from the text they read. For Nonsense quizzes, students need to practice being able to define a word from the clues in a sentence. See the example below:

The **benevolent** queen forgave the knight's mistake and encouraged him by giving him a new mission. What does "benevolent" mean? How do you know?

# Due Dates:

In Mr. Batson's reading class, homework is usually NOT the "take-home-the-ditto-bring-it-back-the-next-day" kind. Most of my assignments are long range. Students will need to work on Quests, Reading Round Table, and Projects a little at a time. Time management is key. **Students: Do NOT wait until the last minute.**

**REMEMBER THE BUG!!**

**THIS IS HOW YOU WILL FEEL IF YOU WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!!!**



NOTE: That does not mean that students don't have anything to do for Reading. Students should practice reading strategies nightly. The only way to do that...is to read.

See below for critical due dates:

Reading Quest 1:

A-Block: 11/4  
B-Block: 11/5  
C-Block: 11/5  
D-Block: 11/4  
E-Block: 11/4

1st Root Word Quiz (words 1-25)

A-Block: 11/10  
B-Block: 11/10  
C-Block: 11/11  
D-Block: 11/9  
E-Block: 11/9

Reading Quest 2:

Due the Week of: Jan. 11th

2nd Root Word Quiz (words 1-50)

...will occur the week of: 1/19

Reading Quest 3:

Due the Week of: March 22nd

3rd Root Word Quiz (words 1-75)

...will occur the week of: March 29th

Reading Quest 4:

Due the Week of: May 24th

4th Root Word Quiz (words 1-100)

...will occur the week of: May 31st

Strategy Quizzes, Nonsense Quizzes, and ACE Quizzes are UNANNOUNCED. These are performance quizzes. Students are expected to practice these skills on a regular basis and will do so in class as well as (*hopefully*) at home.

# BOOK DRIVE



There are still a few shelves in our room sadly barren of good books. There is no obligation, but if you have high-quality, age appropriate books laying around the house collecting dust, bring them in to Mr. Batson **between now and September 17th!** Each book you donate is worth 10 points of extra credit! A limit of 10 books per student.

- Books must be age appropriate, ie: no Curious George or Captain Underpants and certainly no Tom Clancy or Stephen King!
- Books must be copyrighted/printed during the year 2000 or newer.



***Beginning, Monday, September 21st: The Knighthood and Swordmaidenship Academy***

*Poor behavior is a symptom of poor character. Improve the character of the child and you will improve the student's behavior. Every choice has an impact on the kind of person you will be. If we can motivate students to make better choices--even the small choices--they will become better people. Students are on a Quest to become a Knights or Swordmaidens This status can be earned by accumulating **Marks of Virtue**: points for achievement in and out of school, making use of individual talents, and acts of service. Much more to Come on this SOON!*

# Classroom Management

*You mess with the bull, and you'll get the horns, cut out that cryin' or I'll come give you something to cry about, this is your last warning, you don't know how easy you have it, because I said so...and other phrases you'll NEVER here me say.*

## Parents,

I am very happy to have the opportunity to teach your child Reading this year. As you know, FQMS values RESPECT. In accordance with our RESPECT policy, and to assure your child of outstanding educational opportunities in a safe, structured environment, I have developed a set of "Heroic Virtues." They are as follows:

- #1 **Generosity:** Come to the aid of those in need. Give of your time, talents, and materials.
- #2 **Mercy:** When you win, be kind to those you've beaten.
- #3 **Respect:** Recognize the authority of the teacher, and give value to yourself and others.
- #4 **Power:** Do everything you can to gain as much reading skill as you can.
- #5 **Loyalty:** Come through for the people who are counting on you.
- #6 **Justice:** Value the laws of the land by upholding them and promoting them.
- #7 **Humility:** Serve and appreciate others before yourself. Stay tuned for details about a special "Knighting Ceremony" later in the year!

## Reinforcement

In order to encourage students to live up to the expectations above, positive student behavior and achievement will be reinforced in numerous ways:

- Soaring to New Heights Card**--Like a Raffle ticket but with multiple ways to win.
- X-Points:** Expectation points toward Jeopardy Time or Pizza!
- Bat Bucks:** extra credit points.
- Mystery Coupons:** worth many possible prizes.
- Libris:** for use during The Quest.
- MASH Cash:** to buy things in our Mash Mart.
- No-HW Passes:** Gives student a night off from my HW. Much more to come. Ask your child for details.

## Rebuilding

At FQMS, we believe that discipline should be positive not punitive. Consequences should lead to rebuilding, not reproach. If a student chooses not to live up to the Virtues of this Reading class, the following consequences may occur:

- Verbal Warning:** to make student aware of wrong conduct.
- C-Slip:** quick student plan to improve behavior.
- MASH Cash Fine:** Deduction of MASH Cash from a Student's account.
- Seat Change:** takes student from a problem area.
- Helpful Chore:** student sharpens pencils for others, straightens shelves, etc.
- Positive Paragraph:** student writes a reflective piece designed to encourage positive behavior.
- Take a Lap:** student walks briskly around the 1st floor square.
- Stairs:** student walks up and down stairs.
- Office Referral:** the most severe behaviors require administrative assistance.

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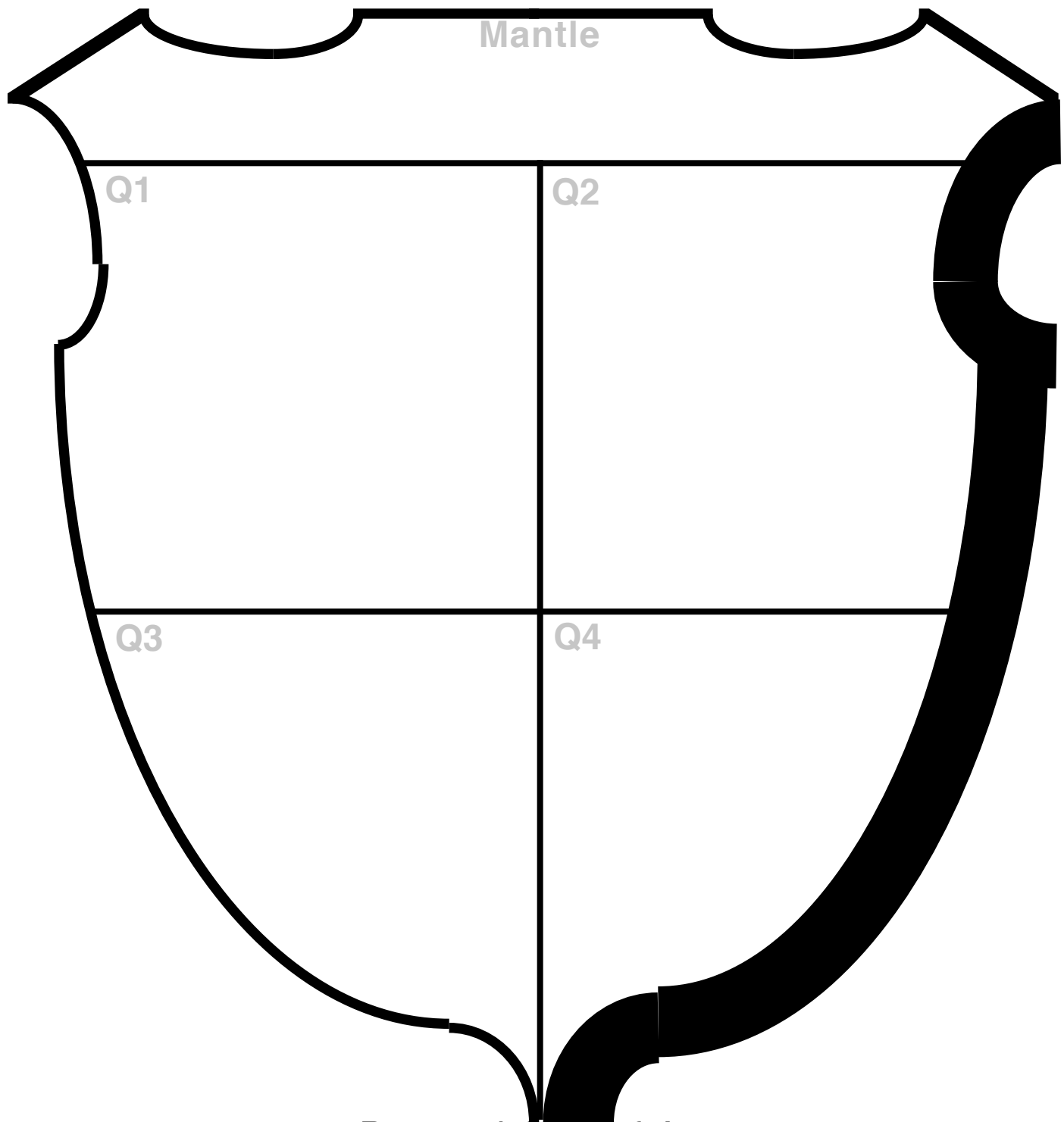
Please **complete** the form below and **return** it UNFOLDED to Mr. Batson. I will make a photo copy for my records and return the original to students.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature      Yes, I understand and support the policies as stated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reliable Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name      Student Reading Block:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reliable eMail Address



## Personal Coat of Arms

Each quadrant of your shield should contain art and or text that identifies who you are and what you stand for. The Mantle at the top of the shield should state your name in Olde English as follows: Boys--Sir \_\_\_\_\_(First Name) of \_\_\_\_\_(Last Name), Girls--Lady \_\_\_\_\_(First Name) of \_\_\_\_\_(Last Name). Q1:Family & Friends, Q2: Meaningful Things (qualities you admire, life goals, religion, etc.), Q3: Hobbies & Interests, Q4: Books you've read or would like to read and or the type of books you like (mystery, fantasy, drama, etc. Your shield must be cut out from this sheet and mounted on something sturdy like--cardboard, posterboard, etc. NOT WOOD! ;-)