

## **Sustained Silent Reading Guidelines**

### **What is Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)?**

Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) is a period of uninterrupted silent reading. It is based upon a single simple principal: Reading is a skill. Like all skills, the more you use it, the better you get at it. Conversely, the less you use it, the more difficult it is. Like swimming, once you learn it, you never forget it. However, in order to get better at either reading or swimming, you must jump into the book or the water and do it over and over.

Dr. Larry Andrews, UNL, recommends SSR as a way for all students to PRACTICE reading.

### **Student Guidelines**

1. Students may read a book, textbook, newspaper, or magazine where text is the primary component and does not compete with pictures.

Magazines should have prior approval by your 3<sup>rd</sup> period teacher. Magazines should be informative and educational. Appropriate magazines could be: Time, Newsweek, Business Week, US News and World Report, Sports Illustrated, etc. Magazines such as Seventeen, Cosmopolitan, Redbook, Maxum, etc are inappropriate due to heavy advertising and content.

Novels being read for classes and textbooks will be permitted.

Newspapers may be used, but students should not pass sections around the room. Children's books, comic books, and picture books are not permitted.

2. Students should select reading material outside of SSR time. The best books to read are novels, histories, and biographies rather than books of lists or facts.
3. Students are encouraged to read for their own pleasure and utilize the CHS library.
4. Students are expected to bring SSR material and 3<sup>rd</sup> period classroom materials.
5. If a student is unprepared for SSR, the student will obtain an extra book or newspaper the teacher has available. The student will not be allowed to go to their locker for SSR materials.
6. Students will read silently during the allotted SSR period.
7. Students will not sleep during SSR.
8. Students may read a textbook or novel during SSR but not complete written classroom work.
9. SSR is not a study hall.
10. Students will remain seated and are not allowed to leave the room before, during, or after SSR.

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11. Students should not talk or disturb others during SSR.

### **Teacher Guidelines**

1. Teachers will have a supply of reading material on hand for those who do not bring reading materials (short stories, Readers Digest, recommended newspapers, etc).
2. Third period teachers should use discretion when approving appropriate magazines. Magazines should be informative and educational. Appropriate magazines could be: Time, Newsweek, Business Week, US News and World Report, Sports Illustrated, etc. Magazines such as Seventeen, Cosmopolitan, Redbook, Maxum, etc are inappropriate due to heavy advertising and content.  
  
Third period teachers should check for appropriate reading material.
3. Students should not be allowed to use computers for SSR.
4. By reading alongside their students, teachers will demonstrate reading is a valued activity, a life-long endeavor, and important to every discipline and content area. Catching up on professional journals or personal interest books are just a few of the ways teachers can use SSR.
5. Teachers should encourage students to come prepared for SSR and 3<sup>rd</sup> period. No passing period is scheduled between SSR and 3<sup>rd</sup> period.
6. No passes will be issued (restroom, locker, nurse, guidance, etc) before, during, or after SSR. Emergencies are an exception.
7. Teachers will not use SSR time for planning purposes (grading papers, lesson plans, photocopying, etc).
8. Teachers whose conference period is 3<sup>rd</sup> will be expected to read during SSR.
9. Teachers should not begin classroom preparation or activity until SSR is completed.
10. SSR is not intended to create additional work for teachers. Grades and evaluation of students will not be a part of SSR.