



Celebrate Dr. Seuss Reading Marathon



Overview

Reading Marathons are fun ways to motivate kids to read and to give them extended periods of time to experience the joy of a great book. Have students wear something comfortable and bring a special stuffed animal, blanket, or pillow for reading. It's also best to establish guidelines before you begin. Take a restroom break right before you start and make sure everyone has plenty of great reading material on hand. For the Dr. Seuss Marathon, everyone will need at least one Dr. Seuss book.

Divide your Reading Marathon into “laps” and “checkpoints.” A lap is the actual reading time, and the checkpoint is a quick reading-related activity. To begin, let everyone spread out on the floor and find a spot to read, then set a timer for about 10 minutes for the first lap. When the timer goes off, have students complete the Story Hat Map activity below. Then have them return to their same reading spot for the next lap. The number of laps you read and the length of each checkpoint is determined by the total time you have set aside for the Reading Marathon. At the end of the time, students can complete more than one section at a time if needed.

Suggested Guidelines for Students

- Choose a reading location at least 3 feet from anyone else in the room. However, you must be actively reading, not sleeping, during the marathon. If you choose a spot on the floor and you aren't reading, you'll need to return to your desk.
- Stay in your spot during each lap of the Reading Marathon. You must have enough reading material for the full 15 to 20 minutes.
- Reading quietly and independently without distracting others.
- Keep the same reading location for each lap of the Reading Marathon.

Dr. Seuss Story Hat Map Activity

- Use the Story Hat Map pattern found on www.lauracandler.com. Start by having students write the book title at the top and their name in the hat brim.
- Keep the laps fairly short (10 minutes) and have them do one section at each checkpoint. If you have longer reading laps, you can have them complete 2 sections at a time and do fewer laps.
- Students should begin at the top and work their way down the map.
- If they finish their book, they should have something else to read during the reading marathon, but they will keep working on the same book for their story map.
- You may want to let students read their book with a partner and discuss what to write or draw in each section of the map. For individual accountability, each student should complete his or her own map.

