

DEAR

(Drop Everything And Read)

What is DEAR?

Drop Everything And Read time, better known as DEAR time, is a time regularly set aside in the classroom schedule **for both students and their teachers** to "drop everything and read." DEAR time conveniently accommodates a variety of student interests and ability levels, since each student selects for himself/herself the book(s) he/she wishes to read.

DEAR is **not intended to be a substitute for other language arts instruction** – DEAR supplements the regular reading program by encouraging independent reading, but it does not replace guided reading.

DEAR is an important part of the daily/weekly classroom schedule. It is scheduled for the same time each day or week, thus students recognize that DEAR time is a priority and can look forward to this special period.

When DEAR becomes a regular part of the classroom schedule, each student should bring a book from home or select a book from the library before DEAR time begins. When DEAR time arrives, every student should be prepared to immediately pull out a pre-selected book and begin to read.

Students must write recommendations for their books and post these in the DEAR binder so that other students may read the book reviews. This will help current and future students in their book selections.

Guidelines:

- All students will be required to read **one DEAR book per nine week grading period**.
- You will be given time in class to read your DEAR book; therefore, there will be no reason that you cannot finish your book in the allotted time frame.
- **You will be required to write a book review after each DEAR book you read.** I will collect your review and place it in a binder by my desk. All students will be permitted to look through the binder because it could possibly assist you when you are looking for a new DEAR book to read. I will distribute a handout at a later time that outlines the requirements for your DEAR book review.
- You will receive bonus points for reading more than one DEAR book in your allotted time frame and writing an extra DEAR book review. Remember that your bonus points can improve your grade by three percentage points – so read, read, read! ☺
- **I must approve all DEAR books.** Make sure your book is school appropriate!
- You may choose to change your DEAR book at any time. If you begin reading a book and decide that you do not like it, you are not stuck with that book.
- You may bring a book from home or sign a book out from the library if you cannot find a book to use from home. Be sure that the book you choose is one that you ENJOY! Remember, you are going to have to read it often, so it better be a book that you like to read. **You are not permitted to read magazines, newspapers, or any novels or stories that we will be reading in current or future class lessons.**
- **You will be required to bring your DEAR book on a daily basis,** as I will allot time in class for you to read. If you forget your DEAR book, you will still be required to read during DEAR reading time, and I will supply a book for you.
- If you finish reading your DEAR book, you must write your review, which I will give you time to do in class. Then, you will be required to begin reading another DEAR book. **This is not an optional activity!** You will have to read during DEAR time, or I will supply a book for you to read. If you do not participate, you will lose all of your participation points.
- DEAR time is for reading your DEAR book, not sleeping, writing or trying to make up missed homework!
- I will permit you to keep your book in my room on the bookshelf. You will not be required to do this, but it may help you so that you do not forget your book. However, if you choose to leave your book in my room, I will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen books. You must also get my permission before you leave any items in my room or to remove any items from my room!
- **Plagiarized writing is unacceptable!** Copying and pasting your review from the Internet is prohibited and will be punished per the Burgettstown High School discipline matrix.