

Global Reading Challenge

IVE is partnering with the King County Library Services (KCLS) to bring the *2010 Global Reading Challenge Battle of the Books (GRC)* to our year long *Year of the Reader Celebration!* IVE readers will have a chance to be involved in GRC reading activities in the library, the classroom and at home. KCLS gave our school two sets of the GRC books. Additionally, with a few exceptions, I was able to get six to eight additional copies of each title from the Book Fair profits. So, each 4th and 5th grade class will have a copy that gets checked in and out continuously plus there should be an additional copy to two that teachers can check out to read and use for classroom sharing, discussions, read-alouds and GRC and reading promotion! (Currently, the extra copies of the GRC books are being processed.)

This year marks KCLS 10th Anniversary of providing this exciting, fun and rewarding reading program. The GRC is based on a Battle of the Books radio quiz program of the 1930's. KCLS provides the support, materials, prizes and hosts the final IVE In-School Challenge as well as their Regional King County and Grand King County Challenges. Because this is IVE's first year participating, we can only have two official IVE GRC Teams. But informally, we plan on having as many IVE teams of 4th and 5th graders (and a few interested 3rd graders!) as want to compete in IVE's Battle of the Books.

Our many teams will challenge each other to determine the top two IVE teams sometime during the last week of January. The two winning teams will then read and study their books in preparation for the KCLS-IVE GRC Final Challenge which will take place sometime during the second week of February. The winning team from this event will then have Second Winter Break and the rest of February to get ready for the KCLS-ISD Global Reading Challenge which is scheduled for March 3rd. Our IVE GRC Team will compete against the winning teams from Discovery, Grand Ridge and Maple Hills. Should our team win; it would then go to the KCLS Regional Challenge and then even possibly on to the KCLS Grand Challenge. I will let you know the dates, times and locations for specific challenges as they are determined.

How Can You Get Involved?

Stop by the library and take a look at the set of books to see if you would like to use one as a classroom read-aloud or other reading activity. By reading, highlighting and sharing one or more GRC book to your class you can help spread the excitement! You could also encourage student to be on a team, to read more than one GRC book and to pass the GRC book to another student in your classroom who is also participating on a team. You could read a GRC book to your class, use passages/pages from them in your reading blocks, encourage them to be used for assigned book reports and basically 'talk up' the GRC books and their many different genre types. Some of the books have been around for a while so sharing about the first time you read it and why you liked it will also help your students to form connections. You can also encourage your students to read GRC books independently in class and at home, encourage those team members in your class to read their GRC book during independent reading time, etc.

Global Reading Challenge Teams

Each member of the team will be responsible to read at least one of the ten GRC books so they can be their team's expert. Since the teams can have up to seven members and there are ten GRC books, some of the members will need to be an expert on two or more of the books. During library classes this week, I asked all 4th and 5th grade students to let me know if they would be interested in being on a team. The response was overwhelming! Probably about 75-80% in each class responded with a hearty 'Yes', some wanted to think about and some said "no, but reserved the right to change their mind and some just plain said "no, thanks".

I will give the 4th and 5th grade teachers a list of their students who expressed a desire to be on a GRC team and ask that they please create the teams within their classroom. Thanks to them in advance for doing this...it is not because Dan, Diane and I want to get out of creating the teams it is just that we they are best equipped to determine the makeup of the teams according to KCLS criteria which stipulates that each teams must be made up of six students plus one messenger and that there must be at least three members with lower-level

reading skills. (The messenger job can be shared among the seven team members or not.) I know that some students expressed a desire to be with so-and-so, so their teachers might also know how to include some student input in forming the teams and some special tricks to ensure that all members feel valued. Dan, Diane and thought that it would be easiest and best if teams were formed within the classes both for instructional purposes and class pride.

Right now, Dan (4th Grade), Diane (3rd Grade/Swing) and I (5th Grade) are thinking about having the teams meet once a week during their lunch recess but this may be added to or change as/if needed. Dan plans to keep us all informed via the Newscast. I plan on continued promotion and support of the programs during library classes with GRC book talks, activities and student book reports. Diane will provide support, direction and the knowledge that comes from her experience of many years worth of successful Battle of the Books! Let us know if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or want to get to lead a GRC team!

For more information about KCLS Global Reading Challenge please visit their website at <http://www.kcls.org/kids/whattoread/grc.cfm> Dan, Diane and I will be sharing more information about IVE's GRC Battle of the books as they are planned. It is our hope to keep the GRC book discussions, sharing, activities and challenges going strong through May!



Thanks for your support and help! ☺ Jennifer