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The Stalham Reading Challenge!

The Stalham reading challenge is based around two key ideas: encouraging reading a range of texts and reading with accountability.

In the children's planner is a list of the book choices and tasks associated with the challenge. Children need to choose a book that meets one of the 'Book Choice' criteria, and once they have read it, then complete a response task of their choosing. There are of course many combinations; such as reading a book that looks old then redesigning the cover, or reading a book set in the future then writing a letter to the author!

There are four levels of certificate:

- Apprentice reader – reading five new books and completing five tasks
- Champion reader - reading ten new books and completing ten tasks
- Graduate reader - reading fifteen new books and completing fifteen tasks
- Master reader - reading twenty new books and completing twenty tasks

There is no requirement for page numbers or book length, but we ask children to ensure that the books they choose are appropriate to their ability and age. Teachers often find that children gravitate towards the same authors and series repeatedly when given free choice over their reading books. By having criteria for books that count towards the challenge, this encourages children to find new and different books to their normal 'safe' choices. Of course, children are still free to select and read whatever they choose and the challenge is not compulsory. Books can be from home or the school library.

The tasks not only serves to confirm that children have indeed read the titles they say they have, but to embed a habit of discussing and reflecting upon what they have read. These tasks should be completed to a high quality and led by the child. They will be celebrated in displays around the school and in celebration assemblies.

Happy reading!
