



# A practical guide for the PRC in your school

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is a 10 week reading programme for all students from Prep to Grade 6.

By encouraging children to read, the Challenge aims to:

- Inspire children and young people to love books and reading
- Raise parent and community awareness about how important reading is as a life skill
- Encourage families and parents to read with their children every day

It's not a competition, but a challenge to each child to read, to read more and to read more widely, regardless of their current reading level.

The PRC rules are flexible enough to balance both the integrity of the Challenge and individual student needs.

It is designed so that all students can:

- Participate in reading at their own level
- Be challenged by what they read
- See themselves as someone who is 'a reader'
- Be rewarded and recognised for their reading efforts
- Succeed as a reader

## In your school

- The PRC complements other reading programs, such as:
  - guided / levelled reading
  - reading recovery
  - home readers
  - reading buddies
  - shared reading
  - MS Readathon
- The Challenge provides opportunities for:
  - recognising students' reading efforts
  - engaging students who may not be enthusiastic about reading

- motivating students to read outside of school time
  - communicating with parents about the importance of reading
  - encouraging parents to read regularly with their child
  - parents to volunteer to listen to students read at school
  - students to read more than they otherwise would
- During the Challenge, your school may like to:
    - keep a record of how many books the whole school reads, week-by-week, during the Challenge
    - invite a Tasmanian author or illustrator to visit to talk or run workshops
    - offer in-school prizes for completion or good effort, such as e-certificates (from the PRC website) or small prizes of stationary, stickers, etc.
    - organise “lucky dip” prizes for each class each week – class teachers pull a reading log out of a hat
    - make a display of class or school “great reads”
    - create some quizzes or fun activities about books read for the Challenge
    - publish student book reviews in the newsletter
    - arrange a class trip, experience, or recognition for the class with the highest proportion of students who have completed the Challenge
    - run a school house challenge, with an award for the school house that has the highest completion rate
    - have weekly or periodic opportunities for recognition of the class/school house/group that has read the most books in that week/period e.g. twenty minutes extra play time
    - seek sponsorship for prizes from local businesses

## **In your classroom**

- As a classroom teacher you can decide how to implement the PRC in your classroom and how to use it alongside your existing reading program
- With regular rewards available for students to collect during the Challenge, the PRC provides another way for you to engage reluctant readers
- Organise a class visit to your local LINC or library ([www.linc.tas.gov.au/findus](http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/findus))
- Ask students to write a book review as a reading activity and then submit it online
- Have a ‘PRC reader of the week’ and award an e-certificate to acknowledge your students’ efforts
- Get students to design a class poster or display using grid paper to record how many books your class reads during the Challenge
- Create a special PRC book display – ask students to choose the books for it and change them regularly during the Challenge

- Ask students to bring a favourite book from home to share with the class – for older student this could even be a favourite book from when they were younger
- Invite parents to your classroom for one-to-one reading with students
- Have regular class discussions about books your students are reading, with emphasis on the characters and storylines
- Write and illustrate a class book
- Introduce books to the whole class lessons and units of work so students can experience success.
- Ask students to present a book they have read for the Challenge to the class

### ***Providing a challenge appropriate to individual abilities***

- The PRC may encourage students in your class to:
  - take part in existing reading programs
  - help them move past levelled /guided readers to “real” books
  - develop confidence in their reading ability
- Students in your class who don’t find reading one book a week a challenge can:
  - widen their reading by choosing books which are different than what they would usually read. For example:
    - science-fiction instead of mystery
    - non-fiction instead of fiction
  - be encouraged to extend their reading beyond their current abilities. For example:
    - choose books that are slightly harder to read
    - reading about a topic they don’t know anything about
    - reading longer books
  - set their own personal challenge by choosing to read more than one book a week - you could provide some reward or recognition for achieving their goal
- Students with significant reading or physical issues can be given a challenge that is both meaningful and achievable for them, such as:
  - reading assisted computer books
  - reading e-books
  - listening to audio books
  - having books read to them by an adult, classmate or reading buddy

Braille books, books with larger text, audio books or texts accessed through alternative means are all acceptable for students who would otherwise not be able to complete the Challenge.

- Find an alternative that fits your student’s needs while still providing an appropriate challenge and the chance to improve their literacy skills. For example:
  - ESL students can listen to an audio version of a book while reading it

### **Further tips for teachers**

The NSW *Premier’s Reading Challenge* website has a very useful section called “Tips and Teaching Notes”. The information has been compiled from teacher comments and experience of the NSW PRC over a number of years.

Visit: <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/teacherNotes.html>

### **In your school library**

Highlight the PRC using these ideas for book displays:

- A different class each week can choose their favourite books for display – this could be a reward for returning the most books that week or being well-behaved during a library lesson
- Books for reluctant readers (e.g. “Hot reads for cool readers”) including less demanding popular books with a particular focus on factual texts, humour, sports, etc.
- Different themes during each week of the Challenge, such as:
  - fiction genres – fantasy, mystery, science fiction, comedy, adventure, etc
  - picture books
  - books for older readers
  - easy / beginner reads
  - non-fiction topics – science, animals, cooking, biographies, sport, etc
  - author focus

Some more ideas for a PRC focus in your library:

- PRC Borrower of the week – a student who regularly returns and changes their books
- PRC library class of the week – a special certificate for the class in which most students return their books each week
- Award students a PRC e-certificate for their reading efforts during library lessons

## **In your school community**

Parent involvement and support has been a strong indicator of student success in the Challenge. Some ideas to encourage parents to become actively involved in their child's reading:

- Have a Challenge launch event at your school, e.g. during assembly
- Include regular information and updates in your school newsletter during the Challenge
- Ask parents or grandparents to volunteer to listen to students read at school – every book read can be counted and added to student reading logs
- Encourage visits to their local LINC or library to borrow books to read for the Challenge
- Making sure students always have a book to take home to read