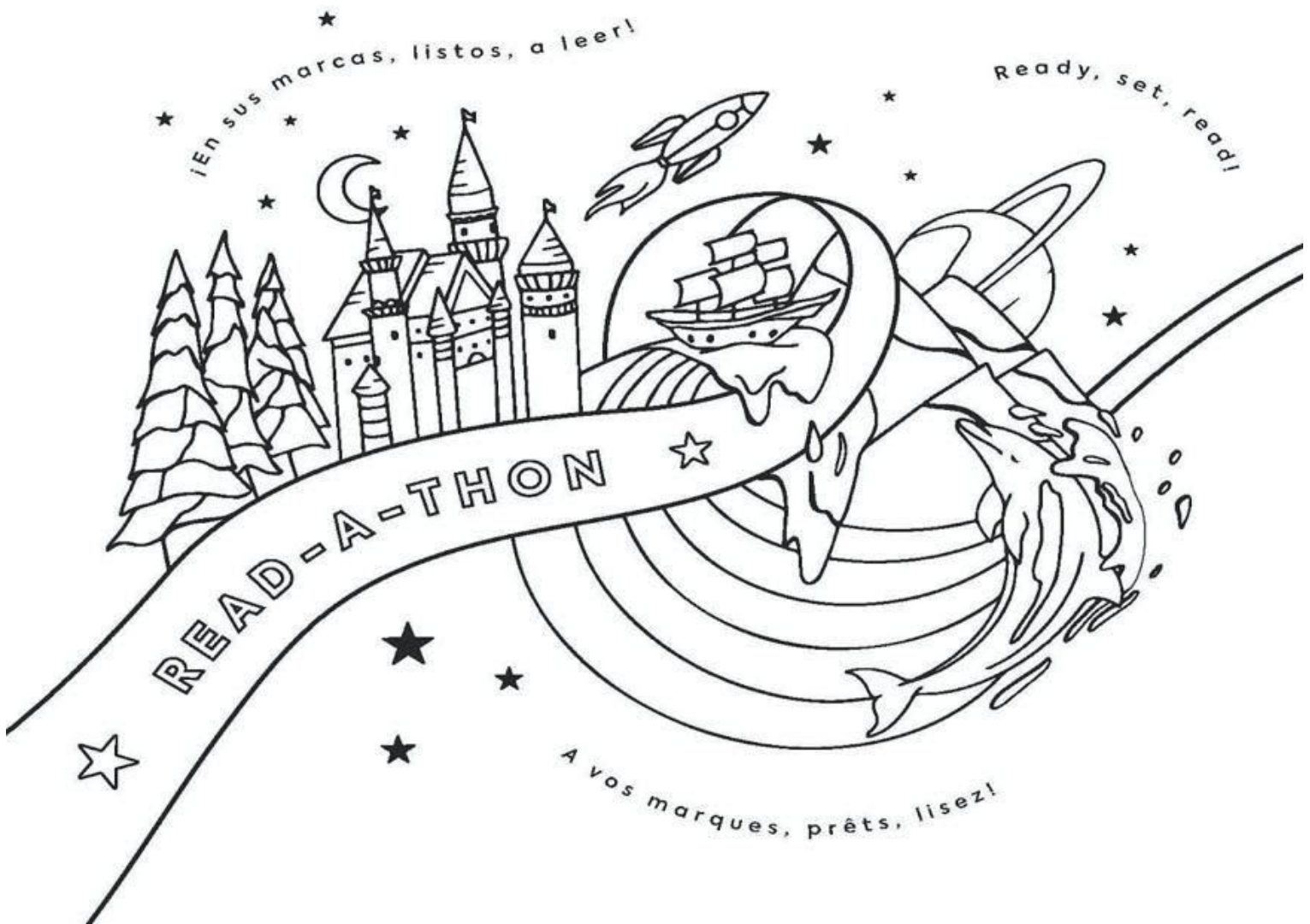


Student: _____

Teacher: _____



**Sarah Smith Elementary
16th Annual Read-a-Thon
February 11-23, 2021
“The Yellow RAT Booklet”**

Read-A-Thon Participation Agreement

Parents: Please read this Participation Agreement with your child.

As a Read-A-Thon Participant, I pledge:

1. To try to obtain at least one sponsor.
2. To keep a log of the books and minutes that I have read and to be honest.
3. To have my parent or guardian verify my reading minutes.
4. To turn in my collected money on time, by Monday, March 1.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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Important Dates

Friday, February 5 - Wednesday, February 10	Teachers will present Read-A-Thon (RAT) to students.
By Wednesday, February 10	<p>Parents should receive an email from the Class Rep to describe RAT.</p> <p>Parents, please discuss RAT with your child and make plans for earning minutes and obtaining sponsors. Encourage your child to obtain sponsors as soon as possible and remember to find out if your company matches charitable donations.</p>
Thursday, February 11	Read-A-Thon starts at 2:30 pm TODAY!
Friday, February 12	<p>Pajama Day! Reading activities during the school day!</p> <p>Parents and students, please remember to bring a sheet to track your minutes so that they can be counted (tracking sheets available at the end of this document).</p>
Tuesday, February 23	<p>Read-A-Thon ends TODAY!</p> <p>Parents must submit final minutes and dollars raised to the Class Rep by 10:00 pm.</p> <p>For dollars raised, please use page 6 to track and calculate. <i>If a sponsor chooses to donate by minutes read, you will need to add the number of minutes read by your student plus classroom minutes, which will be provided by the Class Rep.</i></p>
Friday, February 26	<p>Read-A-Thon classroom and grade winners announced.</p> <p>(Certain raffles will have a delayed announcement. Winners for sponsorship dollars raised will be based on <i>dollars collected</i>.)</p>
Monday, March 1	<p>Pledge Money due today!</p> <p>Please pay via PTO Hub (link included on page 6).</p>

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Welcome to the 16th Annual Sarah Smith Elementary Read-A-Thon!

The Sarah Smith Read-A-Thon (RAT) is the PTO's largest fundraiser of the year. During RAT, our children are encouraged to read as much as they can over a week and a half period while raising money for our school. RAT is simple: students obtain sponsors and then immerse themselves in reading. The more they read, the better for them and for our school!

We are counting on *your* support to make our RAT a success! Every dollar we raise will make a difference to our school and our kids. These funds help cover the cost of the PTO's many ongoing programs and initiatives. In 2021, our goal is to raise between \$80,000 and \$90,000 in funds that will go directly towards much needed capital expenditures including plans for outdoor classrooms.

All you need to know about the Read-A-Thon is right here in this "Yellow RAT Booklet"

- ☆ RAT officially begins on **Thursday, February 11 at 2:30 pm** and ends on **Tuesday, February 23 at 10:00 pm**.
- ☆ Encourage your children to read, *read*, **read** during this period and make RAT fun for the whole family! Visit Amazon Smile to stock up on books that interest your child. Students should read books appropriate to their grade and AR level and have fun! **Remember minutes count both when we read aloud to our children AND when our children read to themselves or their siblings.** Take turns and enjoy the reading time.
- ☆ Keep track of the minutes read by using the log in this book, starting on page 8.
- ☆ Encourage your child to **find sponsors for their RAT**. Parents, family members and/or friends may sponsor your child at whatever level or amounts desired. Refer to the Sponsor Sheet on page 5 for more information on sponsorship/pledge options. While sponsors and pledges can be obtained throughout RAT, we ask that your child get as many pledges as possible during the first weekend of RAT. *Remember, only students with at least one sponsor and individual reading minutes are eligible for prize drawings and Top Reader awards.* Every dollar counts, and no donation is too small. Parents, please see if your company offers a **charitable donation matching program** so that every dollar your child raises can be matched by your company.
- ☆ **Final reading minutes and sponsorship dollars raised must be emailed to Classroom Reps by Tuesday, February 23 at 10:00 pm.**

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Fundraising Tips and Strategies

Encourage your child to ask family and friends to sign on as sponsors. ***They can sponsor a flat dollar amount or sponsor a pledge per minute. Pledges of pennies per minute can really add up!*** Don't forget that many companies offer charitable donation matching programs--which is a great way to raise even more dollars for Sarah Smith! Remember to check whether your company will match the donations your child raises. Please help your child reach out to family and friends to obtain as many donations as possible. All donations paid through the PTO Hub are tax deductible as they are going straight to the Sarah Smith PTO (Tax ID# 30-1168327).

Here is a breakdown of a few sample pledges based on reaching a RAT award level:

	Super Star	Shooting Star	Rising Star
Minutes Read	1500 minutes	750 minutes	500 minutes
Pledge of \$.02 per minute	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$7.50
Pledge of \$.05 per minute	\$70.00	\$37.50	\$25.00
Pledge of \$.10 per minute	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$50.00
Pledge of \$.15 per minute	\$225.00	\$112.50	\$75.00
Pledge of \$.25 per minute	\$375.00	\$187.50	\$125.00

Keep in mind that students will likely be earning minutes for reading in their classroom every day, too – so their minutes can really add up far beyond 1,500 minutes.

A Note about Company Match:

If your company matches donations, only the *parent portion* of the pledge is due on Monday, March 1. The company match portion should be submitted to the PTO as soon as possible.

Helpful Links

- ☆ NEW Sarah Smith homepage where you can link to all of the RAT information – <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/57083>
- ☆ Not sure if a book is an appropriate AR level for your child? Go to – www.arbookfind.com
- ☆ PTO Hub https://sarahsmithpto.membershiptoolkit.com/open_forms

Thank you for your support and participation in the 16th annual Read-A-Thon!

Happy reading,

The 2021 Read-A-Thon Committee | SRSreadathon@gmail.com |

Rebecca Blanchette	Antonella Giuressi
Tiffany Calloway	Andrea McGrath
Carmen Chartrand	Karen Mishkin
Aekta Gandhi	

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Sponsor Sheet

During Read-A-Thon, students read (or are read to) as many minutes as possible over a week and a half period.

There are 3 options for each sponsor:

1. **A one-time fixed donation amount** (ex: \$50 or \$100 or more) – With this option, no matter how many minutes the student reads, the sponsor will owe the amount pledged at the end of RAT. Remember every dollar counts!
2. **A pledge per minute** – With this option, a sponsor may pledge a small amount for each minute read. For example, if you sponsor a student for \$.10 per minute, and the student reads 500 minutes, you owe \$50; if the student reads 1500 minutes, you owe \$150. *(Note that students are encouraged to read as much as possible and many students read well over that amount between reading on their own and reading in their classroom.)*
3. **A combined approach** – With this option, a sponsor may combine the two approaches by making a flat donation (say \$25) along with a pledge per minute (say \$.05).

****Remember to ask if your company will match each donation. Corporate matches really make a difference****

Sponsor's Name	One Time Donation (Y/N & Amt)	Company Matching (Yes/No) (If yes, percent)	Pledge Per Minute (Circle one)	Total Minutes	Total Amount Due
Ex. Grandma Jane	Yes - \$75	Yes - 100%	.02 .05 <u>.10</u> .15 .25	1,000	\$75 + \$100
Ex. Grandpa Joe	No	No	.02 .05 .10 <u>.15</u> .25	1,000	\$150
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		
			.02 .05 .10 .15 .25		

Student's Name: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____

Please use this form to calculate the total amount due by each sponsor. Sponsors should make payments on the PTO Hub at https://sarahsmithpto.membershiptoolkit.com/open_forms.

All sponsorship dollars are due by Monday, March 1.

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Read-A-Thon Prizes

We are going to be recognizing our readers in many ways. We hope that *every* child will participate by: **1.** Getting at least one sponsor (Page 6) and **2.** Being an enthusiastic reader. Students will be recognized individually, but there are also ways to shine as a class!

Class Prizes

- ☆ Number of Minutes Read – The top class in each grade will receive donuts.
- ☆ Amount of Money Raised – The top class in each grade will receive Menchie's gift certificates.

Individual Prizes

****Students must have both INDIVIDUAL reading minutes and at least 1 SPONSOR to be eligible for Top Reader Awards****

Individual Award Levels	Total Minutes	Prizes
Super Star (About 125 min/day)	1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Super Star Certificate Award ☆ Entered into a drawing to win a Kindle Fire (1 winner per grade) ☆ Learning Express Gift Certificate ☆ Willy's Coupon
Shooting Star (About 63 min/day)	750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Shooting Star Certificate ☆ Willy's Coupon
Rising Star (About 42 min/day)	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Rising Star Certificate

Top Reader Awards	Prizes
Top IC and PC Readers	☆ \$25 Gift Card to purchase SRS Spirit Wear
Top Grade Reader	☆ \$25 Amazon Gift Card
Runner-Up Grade Reader	☆ \$15 Amazon Gift Card
3rd Place Grade Reader	☆ \$10 Amazon Gift Card
Top Class Reader	☆ Medal

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Student Reading Log

Parents, please remember to initial each entry to verify minutes read.

Note: Only initialed entries count towards individual reading minutes.

[illegible]

★ READ-A-THON ★

Student Reading Log

[illegible]

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**Read-A-Thon is a great opportunity to stock up
on books for you and your family. It's also a great time to shop!**

Amazon Smile has everything you need!

Did you know Sarah Smith Education Foundation has a partnership with Amazon Smile?
For every Amazon Smile purchase, Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Foundation.
When you shop at Amazon Smile during the Read-A-Thon, a percentage of your purchase will go
towards the Sarah Smith Elementary PTO to support PTO activities.

Shopping on Amazon Smile is easy.

Steps when going to the site online:	Steps to use the AmazonSmile app:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to http://smile.amazon.com2. Sign in, if needed.3. Type in "Sarah Smith Education Foundation" in the field asking for charity.4. Whenever you shop on Amazon, start at http://smile.amazon.com!	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Open a browser window and go to http://smile.amazon.com2. Sign in, if needed.3. Click on the share button (square with the arrow in it), like sending the page via text or email4. Scroll down to see the 'Add to Home Screen' option.5. It will save the link to your home screen and it will look like an app.6. Type in "Sarah Smith Education Foundation" in the field asking for charity.7. Whenever you shop on Amazon, use this app!



Sarah Smith PTO



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