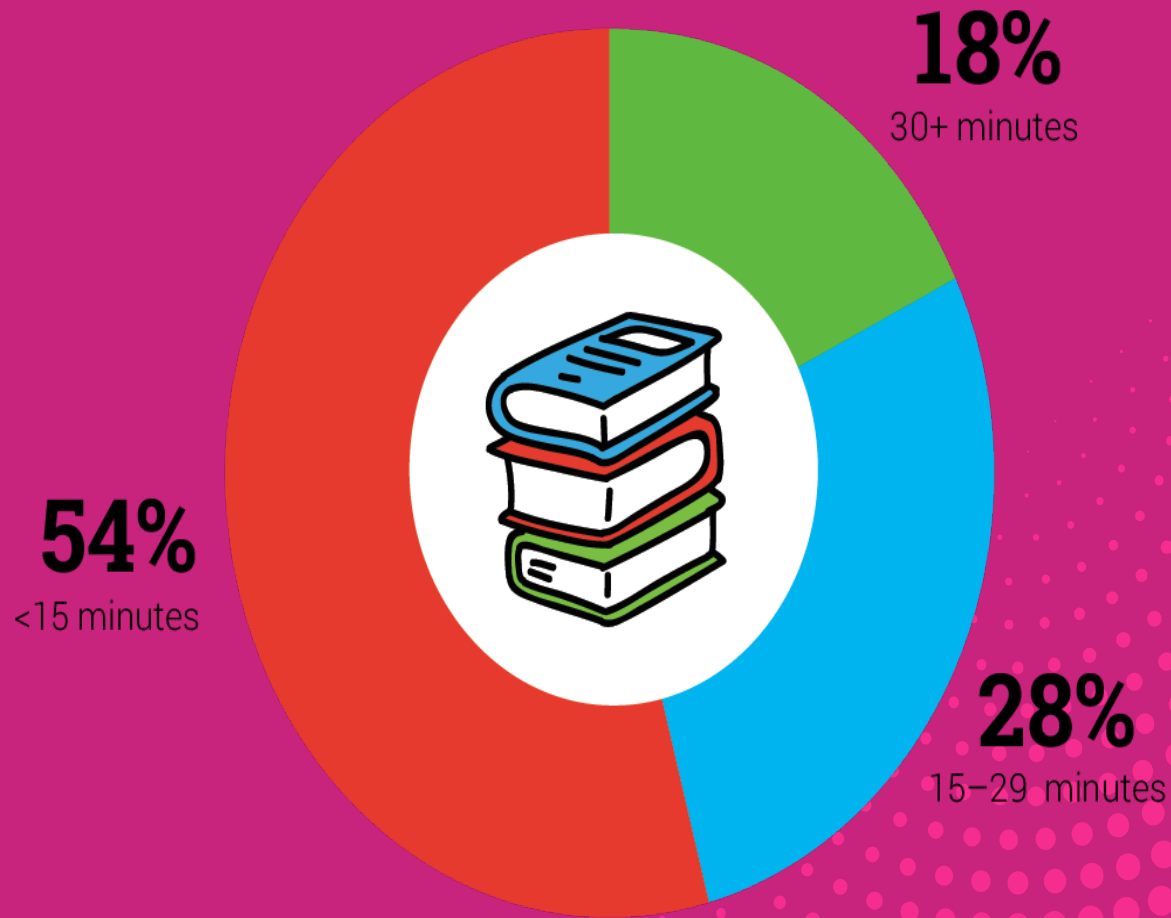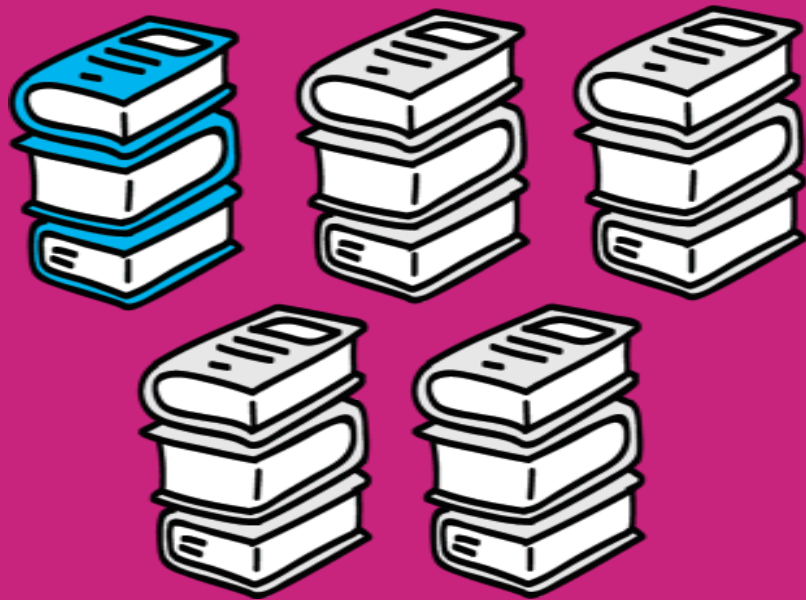I challenge you to select an independent reading book that is written by and explores a voice or perspective that we have *not yet* covered or discussed so far this year.

Most students read
less than 15 minutes per day

18%
30+ minutes

54%
<15 minutes

28%
15–29 minutes

Fewer than **one in five students** reads an average of **30 or more minutes per day.**

15 minutes seems to be the "magic number" at which students start seeing substantial positive gains in reading achievement; students who read just over a half-hour to an hour per day see the greatest gains of all.

For the next two weeks, we will be spending 20-30 minutes reading independently <u>DURING</u> each class period.

Here are my general expectations:

- ❑ Select a grade-appropriate book that you are actually interested in reading from start to finish.
- ❑ Bring that book to class every. single. day. (or else <u>I</u> <u>will</u> dock points)
- ❑ Phones silenced, away, and out of sight for <u>the entire time</u> we are reading.
    - ❑ No headphones in. No side convos. No distracting others. No sleeping.
        - ❑ *Speak to me privately if you are planning to use an audiobook.*
    - ❑ Comfy chairs will be offered to all students in alphabetical order.
- ❑ Limited bathroom/water breaks.
    - ❑ I will ask you to leave your phone on my desk if you do need to go.
- ❑ ACTUAL READING (AKA no fake reading). Do not waste this time.
    - ❑ It takes some time to build up your reading stamina. Be patient.

As you read, you will have 7 tasks to complete that go along with your independent reading book (worth a total of 60 points):

1. FIRST IMPRESSIONS
2. CHARACTERIZATION (S.T.E.A.L)
3. PLOT STRUCTURE
4. AUTHOR'S CHOICES
5. WINDOWS & MIRRORS
6. DETERMINING THEME
7. BOOK REVIEW

You will have no additional homework throughout the entire mini-unit, except to READ and complete these tasks as you go. I recommend completing them roughly in order. Task #3 requires you to take notes throughout the entire book, but the rest of the tasks go in a specific order that build off of how much you have read.

These tasks will be turned in at the end of the mini-unit for a grade. These tasks are designed to prove *deeper understanding*. They cannot be faked, Googled, copied, or "Sparknoted". I will be able to tell if you read and understood your book through these tasks, so make sure you complete them with your full effort.

In addition, you will have two separate one-on-one conferences with me throughout the mini-unit:

CONFERENCE #1: Reading Check In.
❑ I will ask you some questions about your book so that we can discuss your reading experience together.

CONFERENCE #2: Project Approval.
❑ You will present your passion project ideas to me for teacher approval.

The 8th and final task is a <u>Project</u>: (40 points)

You will be designing your own project to reflect your understanding of your independent reading book. A passion project should be based on anything that genuinely interests you or brings you happiness. If you like to write, write. If you like to draw, draw. If you like to create, create. If you like to bake, bake. If you like to research, research. ETC. The goal is to personalize your project so it is something you actually enjoy doing. Anything goes, as long as you have a solid plan of attack, clear connection(s) back to the book, teacher approval, and a way to somehow eventually present your creation to the class. You could use any of the 7 tasks in the packet as jumping off or starting points, or you could create a totally original, unique idea. I hope you will find this process *both* challenging and rewarding.

Your passion project will be displayed. Ideally, we will all walk away with [9] some awesome future book recommendations. This is *supposed* to be an enjoyable two week unit (before we dive DEEP into Shakespeare - yes, another dead, white, male) to rediscover our love of reading (yes, I said our - I will be reading a book along with you too!) and ultimately share our passions with one another. It is also worth over 100 points with the participation points factored in, so please take it seriously.

LET'S GET OUR READ ON.

SHHH WE ARE

SHHH WE ARE