

Tips for Hosting a Reading Olympics in Your School or Classroom

TIP #1:

The right way to run the program is whatever you decide! Set goals for a classroom, a group of classes, the whole school. Make it a semester long, month long, two-week long event. Whatever works to motivate and celebrate reading!

TIP #2:

Select a goal. Some different types of goals include:

- Number of books read
- Number of pages read
- Number of words read (this is best accomplished if you are using reading management software that tracks word count for you)
- Number of chapters read

Tip #3:

Remember, if you are using individual goals, not all students have to have the same goal. Adjust as appropriate for each reader.

TIP #4:

Add in a little math! Let each reader track his/her own progress on their "Torch Progress Chart." Figure out how the student's goal translates to percentages on the chart.

TIP #5:

Incorporate the theme into various lessons throughout the day. Ideas include:

- **Sight-World Slalom.** In a timed trail see how many of the sight words on your word wall students can find in a given passage. Can also be done with spelling or vocabulary lists.
- **Mark the Map.** Agree what events you want to follow in the upcoming games. Mark a world map with pins representing the home countries of the medal winners.
- **Compare-O-Graphs.** Would a character in a book you are reading make a good Olympian? Make a chart that compares the qualities of an Olympian and a favorite character---or even you!
- **Create posters that celebrate different types of Reading Olympians:** the Mystery Olympian, the Nonfiction Olympian, The Humor-Book Olympian, The Best Read-Aloud Olympian and more!

TIP #6:

Celebrate success! Ideas include:

- **Monitoring progress/announcing successes** during school announcements (even if it is just your class. Think about how proud they'll be to have the school rooting for them)
- A "Gold Medal Reader" medal ceremony featuring the Gold Medal Reader Certificates
- **Dress Like an Olympian Day.** Whether it is sneakers and sweatpants, a sports team jersey, or a ski hat and goggles, encourage them to look like what they are, Reading Champions!

capstone