

# Independent reading is the time students spend reading self-selected texts.

**To  
grow as  
independent  
readers, students:**

- **Need time to read**
- **Must choose what they read**
- **Require explicit instruction about what, why, and how readers read**
- **Have to read a large number of books as well as a variety of text types**
- **Must have access to a rich variety of texts**
- **Benefit from teacher support, assessment, and monitoring.**
- **Need to talk about what they read**

## How to Improve Student Success during Independent Reading

- Teach explicit lessons on how to select books at appropriate levels.
- Model reading strategies that are used during silent reading.
- Provide feedback to students.
- Conduct reading conferences
  - maintain running records, have book discussions, set goals
- Build in student accountability through post-reading activities
- Have whole class and small group discussions about the material read