

FHJHS Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Program

Students at Floyd Henson Junior High School have been participating in a voluntary reading program for the fourth year. In the state of Illinois, students in grades 4-8 of participating schools and libraries are eligible to participate in the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Program.

Each year the steering committee for the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award nominates 20 outstanding books focused for grades 4-8. Participating schools are then asked to provide students with access to at least 12 of these books to read. Through the efforts of administrators, faculty members and the Flora Academic Foundation, FHJHS was able to provide students access to multiple copies of all 24 books to read. Students also contribute to the efforts of purchasing Rebecca Caudill books along with other novels for our school library through a change drive. We feel that this reading program not only promotes reading for enjoyment but also helps increase our students' comprehension skills through the ten question quizzes students must take after reading their RC books to receive credit for reading the book.

Throughout the months of August, September, October, November, December, January, and February, students eagerly read. There were multiple occasions that every Rebecca Caudill book was checked out of our school library and the teacher's personal libraries, too. We typically have about 80% of our student population read at least one nominated book.

At the end of the program in February, we have a big assembly in the gym to reward students for reading Rebecca Caudill books. Every student who has read at least one RC book will be rewarded a Jolly Rancher. The students that read 3 nominated books earn voting privileges to help choose the next Rebecca Caudill Award winning book. This also includes a voter's breakfast and a movie based on an award winning book. Eligible voters have also received two fun periods of dodge ball for their reading efforts. Students who achieve 7 RC book status will receive Dairy Queen Certificates. Those who achieve 10 RC book status will receive homework passes. If a student reads all 24 RC books and successfully passes the quizzes, they receive lunch with a teacher. Each student will also receive a certificate noting their achievement and various prizes received.

Program coordinators are thoroughly pleased and proud of student participation at FHJHS. We look forward to continuing this successful reading program year after year. We would like to especially thank the Flora Academic Foundation for help with the funding the Rebecca Caudill Young Reader's Book Award Program.

These are cumulative prizes. For example, a student who reads 7 RC books receives jolly ranchers, voting privileges, and DQ certificates.

1 RC book = Jolly rancher

3 RC books = voting privileges, extra activities, and a movie based on an award winning book

7 RC books = DQ certificates

10 RC books = homework passes

24 RC books = free lunch with a teacher