READING LINK CHALLENGE Teacher Newsletter

READING LINK CHALLENGE 2026-27

Library staff are excited to offer RLC during the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking forward to all of our favourite parts of RLC: great books, teamwork, and exciting challenges!

WHAT WILL THIS YEAR LOOK LIKE?

RLC titles are announced on November 1. Library staff are available to visit your classroom to introduce students to the books.

Your local library will donate a book set for each registered RLC team (up to six sets per school) to your school.

HOW WILL THE CHALLENGES RUN?

The RLC team will work with you to organize challenges that make sense for you and your students.

GOALS:

1. To promote a life-long love of reading.
2. To attract and maintain library customers.
3. To create and strengthen partnerships between libraries and local schools and community groups.
4. To enhance the reputation and value of libraries.



The Quizzlers

Book Bandits

2025–2026 Grand Challenge Winners

The Island of Chicken Nuggets

TIPS FOR READING LINK TEAMS

- Encourage students to read or listen to as many books as they can.
- Remind students to pay attention to details and take notes.
- Create practice questions and hold practice challenges.
- Do assignments and activities based on the books.
- Read the books aloud in class.
- Encourage family members to read RLC books with participants.

RLC MISSION: To encourage reading as a fun activity that allows grade 4 and 5 students of all reading abilities to engage in the sport of reading.

For more information visit: www.readinglinkchallenge.ca

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Do students have to read all the books?**

   No. Some teams divide the books so that each member chooses one to know really well. Most students read at least three of the books, many read all six.

2. **Who selects the books?**

   A team of library staff from participating Lower Mainland libraries and volunteers from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) Library Technician program. We look for a set of books that includes wide gender appeal, varied reading levels, positive reviews in library journals, multicultural themes, and Canadian/BC authors.

3. **Who creates the questions?**

   UFV student volunteers write the questions. Library staff members edit questions. The questions include multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, and short answer. A master list of questions is shared with participating libraries.

4. **What if I am worried that the content of a book is too challenging for my students?**

   You can assign students to teams and make sure the teams have a mix of grade 4s and 5s, reading abilities and maturity levels. You may want to assign the harder books to readers that are more confident. Most RLC books are available from the public library as audiobooks.

CHECK OUT:
Reading Link Challenge
www.readinglinkchallenge.ca

5. **What if a student with a print disability wants to participate?**

   Please encourage all students to participate! Most RLC books are available through NNELS (National Network for Equitable Library Service) and CELA (Centre for Equitable Library Access). NNELS and CELA provide free accessible formats (downloadable audiobooks, dyslexic friendly fonts, etc) to anyone with a print disability. A print disability is any learning, physical or visual disability that prevents a person from reading conventional print. These services are free and there are no wait lists. Talk to your local library for more information.

6. **What commitment is required from participating schools?**

   Teachers or teacher-librarians need to recruit students and prepare them for challenges. Many teacher-librarians and teachers hold occasional meetings during lunchtime. Some teachers register all students in their class in RLC and devote class time to reading and preparing for the challenges.

   Library staff members will work with you to arrange RLC events. These include: book talk visits, book pick ups, and challenges. Teachers need to communicate the schedule of events to students and parents.

7. **What are the costs?**

   RLC is free! Your local library donates a set of six books to every team in the program. Many libraries set a maximum of five book sets per school. Often teacher-librarians will purchase additional copies of the books for the school library. Each book set is around $45.

RLC TIMELINE

For more information contact your local library liaison.

September 2026	Reading Link information shared with schools.
October 2026	Participating schools confirmed and books ordered.
November 2026	Announcement of titles and distribution of the Challenge books.
December 2026	Check on progress and begin scheduling School Challenges.
January 2027	Team members finalized.
Feb/Mar 2027	School and Library Challenges held.
May 2027	Grand Challenge between top teams each from, Coquitlam Public Library, Fraser Valley Regional Library, New Westminster Public Library, North Vancouver City Public Library, and Surrey Libraries.