Free printable reading challenge for kids (2026–27): chart, log, certificate

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Six free reading challenges for kids for 2026–27, each with a chart to colour, a log with a grown-up's signature column and a certificate at the finish.

A printable reading challenge for kids comes down to three sheets of paper: a chart that fills as books are read, a log of the titles with a column for a grown-up to sign, and a certificate for the finish line. Peabody has six challenges for 2026–27, from a sixteen-day winter break to a hundred books with no end date, and every one prints all three. They are free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026, with no account to make and nothing to buy.

Pick a challenge, or read on for what each one asks and what comes out of the printer.

The six challenges

- Challenge: Winter Break · When: 19 December 2026 to 3 January 2027 · The finish line: 10 books for ages 5 to 7, 6 for ages 8 to 10, 4 from 11 up
- Challenge: January · When: 1 to 31 January 2027 · The finish line: 20 coloured days, each a finished book or 20 minutes of reading
- Challenge: 100 Books · When: no end date · The finish line: 100 books on a 10 × 10 chart
- Challenge: Book Bingo · When: any time · The finish line: all 25 squares of a 5 × 5 card (five in a row is a Bingo on the way)
- Challenge: Series Challenge · When: any time · The finish line: one series, read to the end in order
- Challenge: Read-Aloud 20 · When: any time · The finish line: twenty books read aloud to a little one, ages 2 to 6

Most have a picture that fills as books are logged: a snowy mountain that climbs a step a book, a 31-day calendar, the hundred squares, the bingo card, a reading quilt with a patch for each read-aloud. A child can see how far they have come without counting.

What prints

Every challenge prints three things, and the first two print at any point along the way.

1. The chart. The challenge's picture with empty cells to colour by hand, a table of the books logged so far, a line such as "Read 6 books, 19 Dec – 27 Dec" for a teacher or a librarian who keeps records, and a QR code back to the challenge. The code carries no information about the child.

2. The log. The books with their titles and dates, and a column for a grown-up's signature, for the schools that ask for one.
3. The certificate. It prints only at the finish line. There is no certificate for half way.

I built it in that order on purpose. The chart is for the fridge, the log is for the teacher, and the certificate is for the child, once, at the end.

How a book gets logged

A child never types anything, and nobody types a name. The reader is an animal face (a frog, a fox, a bear), and up to six faces fit on one device, so brothers and sisters keep separate charts. Age is asked once, with three big boxes.

Log a book offers Peabody's own stories near the reader's level, books from Peabody's kids' lists, books from a series, and "a book from somewhere else": a grown-up presses and holds for two seconds and types the title, which stays on the device. There are 425 free stories in the library, on 19 reading levels, so a book read on Peabody is a single tap.

Everything a child logs stays in that browser. Peabody receives a count that a book was logged in a challenge, with the challenge's name and whether it was that reader's first book there or a later one. Never the book, the title, the face or the age.

Paper only, no device at all

If you would rather the whole challenge lived on paper, these print on their own:

- Weekly reading log: Monday to Sunday, the title, pages or minutes, a face for how it was, a column for a grown-up to sign and a total line.
- Monthly reading log: 31 squares to colour or write a title in, with days read and books finished at the bottom.
- Bingo card: the 25 kinds of books written out, with room for each title.
- 100 books chart: a hundred numbered squares, with started, finished and records lines.
- A blank certificate to fill in by hand at the end.

Picking one

For a child who is just starting, Winter Break or January has a date at each end, and that helps: the finish line is in sight from the first day. For a child who already reads every day, 100 Books or Book Bingo can run all year. A child with one series they love will do best with the Series Challenge, which counts the books they tick on a series page, and a family with a toddler has Read-Aloud 20, where every bedtime book counts. The winter break guide has more on the dates and the numbers.

Questions parents ask

Do I have to print anything?

No. Every challenge works on the screen, and printing is there for the fridge, the teacher, or a trip without a tablet. The chart and the log print at any point, and the certificate at the end.

Is there a prize?

The finish line and the certificate. There are no prizes and no leaderboards, and that is a choice: a prize pays the child who reads the shortest books fastest, and a finish line everyone can reach rewards finishing.

Can a class or a club do it together?

Yes. Each child keeps their own chart, on a home device or on paper, and the leader keeps the class reading log: thirty rows of reader, title, level and date finished. The leaders' page has a sign-up sheet and meeting plans, and the guide to running a kids' book club starts from the first meeting.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/free-printable-reading-challenge-for-kids