Reading challenge 2027 for kids: a year of books, a kind a month

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A free reading challenge for kids for all of 2027: 52, 30 or 20 books by age, a kind of book to try each month, a shelf that fills, a chart and a certificate.

Peabody's reading challenge for 2027 runs from 1 January to 31 December, and the finish line depends on the reader's age: 52 books for ages 5 to 7 (a book a week, and read-alouds count), 30 books for ages 8 to 10, and 20 longer books from 11 up. Every book puts a spine on the year's shelf on the screen, the chart prints for the fridge, and each month has a kind of book to try. It is free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026, and nothing a child logs leaves the device.

Start Reading 2027 now; logging opens on New Year's Day.

Why these numbers

A year-long goal has to survive a busy March and a holiday August. Fifty-two books for a five-year-old sounds like a lot, but most of them are short picture books, a read-aloud counts, and a favourite read again on another day counts again: one bedtime story a week is the whole challenge. Thirty books for an eight-to-ten-year-old is a chapter book every week and a half. Twenty longer books from eleven up is about one every two and a half weeks, leaving room for the one that takes a month.

- Age: 5 to 7 · Books in 2027: 52 · About: one a week, read-alouds count
- Age: 8 to 10 · Books in 2027: 30 · About: one every week and a half
- Age: 11 and up · Books in 2027: 20 · About: one every two and a half weeks

A reader who finishes early keeps going: every book after the finish still lands on their own bookshelf, and 100 Books has no end at all.

A kind of book to try each month

Each month suggests a kind of book, and every suggestion has at least three free stories in the library behind it, so a reader without a library trip can still try it. It's a suggestion, never a rule: any book counts in any month.

- January: snow, rain or wind.
- February: a book about friends.
- March: a true book, for reading month.
- April: a funny book.
- May: a book about animals.

- June: an adventure.
- July: water: a sea, a river or a pond.
- August: a story at night.
- September: a book about school.
- October: a monster or a giant.
- November: a myth or a legend.
- December: a book read aloud to someone.

How it works

Each reader picks an animal face, never a name; brothers and sisters each pick their own on one device. Log a book opens a shelf of choices: one of Peabody's free stories at the reader's level, a book from a kids' list or a series, or, after a grown-up's two-second hold, a book from anywhere. A grown-up can type the title or find it from the barcode. The book lands on the year's shelf and on the reader's own bookshelf, where they can tap what they thought of it.

The chart prints any time, a log of the year's books prints for a teacher or a homeschool record, and the certificate prints at the finish line and not before.

For a class or a club

A teacher can run Reading 2027 with the whole class, or make a challenge of their own with different numbers and dates. The class wall chart counts the class on paper, and the class tally counts it on the board with numbers instead of names.

Questions families ask

Can we start in February?

Yes. Start whenever you find it: every book from that day on counts toward the finish. The family reading log can fill in the books read before then, for the record.

What if we don't finish?

Nothing happens, and nothing is said about it. The chart shows every book you did read, and the certificate waits for the finish line. A reader who stops in June can pick up again in September.

Does Peabody see what my child reads?

No. Peabody counts that a book was logged in Reading 2027, and nothing about the book or the reader.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/reading-challenge-2027-for-kids