• What is independent reading?

• Why is it important?

• What are the effects of independent reading on learning?
Independent reading is...

• TIME set aside to read

• OWNERSHIP to select what to read and for what purpose (information or pleasure)

• RESPONSE by others to what we have read
• Informed citizens are the best safeguard against tyranny.

• Individuals read to live life to its fullest.

• Individuals read to earn a living

• Individuals read to understand what is going on in the world.

• Individuals read to benefit from the accumulated knowledge of civilization.
The amount of independent reading students do is correlated to success in school. (Greaney, 1980; Anderson, Fielding, and Wilson, 1988)

Students who read independently score higher on achievement tests and have greater content knowledge. (Krashen, 1993; Cunningham & Stanovich, 1991; Stanovich & Cunningham, 1993)

Students in grades 3-12 learn about 3,000 new words a year and the bulk of the words are learned from reading. (Nagy, Anderson, & Herman, 1987; Read, 1986; Read & Hodges, 1982)

Light reading provides motivation for more reading. (Feitelson & Goldstein, 1986)
• Provide a quiet place where a variety of reading materials are easily available

• Set expectations, establish limits, and discourage inappropriate behavior

• Encourage independent reading with your enthusiasm and book talks