Raz-Kids

Care to try something new? Raz-Kids is an online library of leveled and unleveled books including fiction and non-fiction texts. Raz-Kids was designed to help students improve their reading skills as they listen to modeled fluency, read independently for practice, record and listen to their oral reading, and check their comprehension with quizzes. This program is now available for you and your child!

I have enabled the program so each child can access texts within a range of his or her *independent* reading level. In the classroom, under guided instruction, your child is reading higher level texts, at his or her *instructional* level. In an effort to foster children's love of reading, I do not discuss book levels in the classroom. I do not wish for children to identify themselves as leveled readers, but rather grow their identity as readers by finding genres that interest them! Please promote this sentiment at home by saying things such as, "Is this book just right for you?" rather than "What level are you reading?" I appreciate your support in this matter!

To begin, go to the website shown below and enter the teacher username to find our class list.

website: www.kidsa-z.com
teacher username: csscougars01

When you get to the virtual classroom, click on your child's name and enter the picture password by selecting the two images shown on the log-in card I provided. Next, click on the spaceship that says "Reading Room". This will bring you to a selection of books sorted by genre. Your child can search for books they are interested in!

Below each book there are 3 options. The **headphones** symbol means the story will be read to your child. The **book** symbol means your child will read the story to him or herself. The **question mark** symbol is the quiz, which can be taken after reading. I would not suggest taking the quiz after every book read. I wish to prevent the idea that the purpose of reading is to be tested afterward. I encourage book discussions with family members at home or with a partner in class to share thinking about a story once finished reading.

With each reading activity completed, your child will receive star points. After reading a few books, your child can then go to the Star Zone to access the Avatar Builder or Raz Rocket. Children can browse the Raz Rocket Catalog (by clicking on the blue TV screen with the star) where they can use earned stars to buy items to personalize their rocket. Items for purchase include aliens, robots, furniture, plants, and more! They can also go to the Avatar Builder to customize their own robot. Some items require lots of stars. The more they read, the more they will be able to go shopping!

I am able to monitor your child's progress and listen to their recorded reading. Be on the lookout for messages from me to your child. I also have the ability to issue more stars! You may follow your child's progress using the parent access area. Simply sign in as your child, select the green "Parents" link in the upper, right corner, register, and then follow the log-in instructions emailed to you. Your child may also monitor his or her own progress by going to "My Stats". You and your child can access Raz Kids from the iPad, Android, and Kindle Fire tablets, as well as iPhones, iPod Touch and Android handheld devices. I hope you and your child enjoy reading with Raz-Kids!