

# Reading Karate



Special  
Award  
Inside



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## About the Author



Shannon Dipple wanted to be a social worker, music major, middle school teacher ("it had to be better than primary"), political scientist... She signed up for a few elementary teacher classes and student teaching. Shannon loved it, and was hired to teach sixth grade.

Shannon has taught seventh and eight grades in Kuwait, and fifth grade in Israel, at the American schools. During this time she worked on her Masters Degree in Education, and enjoyed many opportunities in international education.

Valuable experience has been gained by attending conferences around the world, and meeting ESL students. This made her very aware of the cultural differences.

Shannon says, "Every day brings something new, my own creativity is allowed to shine and I thrive on seeing those "light-bulb" moments that happen so often in a primary classroom. Whatever "it" is, I wouldn't change what I do for the world."

Shannon is married, and has 3 rowdy, but wonderful boys.

## Teacher Information

Reading Karate is meant to be a motivational tool for students to read more books. The goal is to help students grow in their oral reading fluency and comprehension skills.

To show their ranking, I use either blank cut-outs of kids that I purchased at an educational store OR enlarge a copy of a cute child cutout from [www.eduplace.com](http://www.eduplace.com) (attached). The students decorated the cut-outs and we displayed them in the hallway. I attached a piece of velcro to the middle of each cut-out so belts could be attached and removed as needed.

For the belts I drew a general pattern and copy it onto construction paper (you may need to resize the belt template to work with your child cutout). These were cut out and attached to the “kids” when they earned one.

I allow chapter books to count as two books, since I teach second grade. Second graders still have a wide variety of reading levels and I do not wish to discourage anyone, whether it is a beginning reader or an advanced one. Sometimes a chapter book can count as three, if it is very long (such as the Harry Potter series).

You may wish to make a “book” for each student with the correct response sheets after each belt ranking. Or, you may want to hand out one sheet at a time. It is up to you.

I like to send the books for each level home with the students in their Book Buddy Bags (bags we fill together each week to read at home). This way I know what they are choosing and why, as well as if it is really at their independent reading level. However, if a student brings a book from home for me to approve, that is fine as well.



**You are about to go on an incredible journey.**

Becoming a master of Reading Karate requires patience, perseverance and practice. Learn the skills and strategies of becoming a good reader; practice all the time and soon you too will be a black belt in Reading Karate!

During your journey, you will read many books. For each belt level, you will write a short response for one book. If you are successful, you will be promoted to the next belt level.

To earn your brown belt, you will read many books and choose a short story to read out-loud to the class.

To earn your black belt, you will read many books, write a book report about one, and present it to the class.

Good luck and remember:  
**Patience, Perseverance, & Practice!**

Response Sheets For Reading Karate



1. Read two picture books

Title of Book	Adult Signature

2. Complete Favorite Part response sheet for one book. If you pass the test...

**Congratulations!**  
You have earned the right to be called a  
**Master of White Belt Reading.**

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Reading Karate Instructor