

## Overcoming Learning Challenges Near and Far

### Independent Reading (For Families)

**Directions:** Remember to record responses to **research reading in the front** of your independent reading journal and responses to **choice reading in the back**. Try to choose a different prompt each time.

Record any new vocabulary in your vocabulary log. Remember, academic vocabulary is recorded in the front, and domain-specific vocabulary (words about the topic) is recorded in the back. Mark vocabulary found during independent reading with a symbol such as an asterisk (\*).

#### Record:

- Date
- Title and author of your reading book
- Pages you have read
- Prompt
- Response

#### Example:

**Date:** 04/08/2015

**Book Title and Author:** “*My Librarian Is a Camel*” by Margriet Ruurs

**Pages Read:** *Thailand*, pages 28–29

**Prompt:** *What is the main idea of the text you read? What are some of the key details, and how do they support the main idea?*

**Response:** The main idea is that elephants help some students in the Omkoi region of Thailand get books and learn. Some of the key details that support this main idea are that more than 20 elephants are being used to carry books, and in each trip the elephants visit seven or eight villages. The elephants carry metal slates on their backs to teach students to read and write.

**Consider using the following independent reading prompts\*:**

- What challenges are faced? How are they overcome?
- What is the main idea of the text? What are some of the key details, and how do they support the main idea?
- What do the illustrations (photographs, maps) tell you? How do they help you to understand the words?
- What questions do you now have after reading? What would you like to learn more about? Why?
- What does the text tell you about the importance of reading, books, or education?
- What are the most important facts you learned from reading?
- What is the most interesting fact you learned today? Why?
- How does what you read today connect to something you have learned in lessons?
- Choose one new word from your reading today and analyze it on a vocabulary square:

<b>Definition in your own words</b>	<b>Synonyms</b> (words that mean the same)
<b>Words with the same affix or root</b>	<b>Sketch</b>
<b>Translation in home language</b> (if appropriate):	

\*Some of the prompts will not be appropriate for the text students are reading. Invite students to choose a prompt that works for the text they have just read.

