"Why Can't I Skip My Twenty Minutes of Reading Tonight?" Let's figure it out — mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights a week.
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night…or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.
Student A reads 20 min. x 5 times a week = 100 min./week.
Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.
Student A reads 400 minutes a month.
Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year.
Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year.
Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.

- **Student A** practices reading the equivalent of ten school days a year.
- **Student B** practices reading the equivalent of two school days a year.

If **Student A** and **Student B** continue these same reading habits, by the end of 6th grade, **Student A** will have read the equivalent of 60 school days **Student B** will have read the equivalent of 12 school days.

One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, certainly, will school performance. How do you think **Student B** will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school….and in life?

[Source: U.S. Dept. of Education]