**“Why Can’t I Skip My Twenty Minutes of Reading Tonight?”**  
Let’s figure it out --- mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every 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 minutes x 5 times each week = 100 minutes/week.  
Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes/week.

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.  
Student A reads 100 minutes/week x 4 weeks = 400 minutes/month.  
Student B reads 20 minutes/week x 4 weeks = 80 minutes/month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months each school year.  
Student A reads 400 minutes/month x 9 months = 3600 minutes/school year.  
Student B reads 80 minutes/month x 9 months = 720 minutes/school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year.  
Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of 8th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits:  
Student A will have read the equivalent of 80 whole school days.  
Student B will have read the equivalent of only 16 school days.

One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably,   
and so, undoubtedly 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?