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Tayler Drake wins CSU 50 Book Challenge

Tayler Drake loves to read. No — we mean she REALLY loves to read.

This precocious 8-year-old **plowed through 700 books (!)** to become the undisputed champion of Cleveland State University's **50 Book Challenge**. In conjunction with CSU's 50th anniversary, local students in grades 3 and under were invited to read at least 50 books between September 2014 and May 2015.

All told, more than 75,000 books were read by nearly 1,500 students who participated in the contest, organized by CSU's **Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education**. The top readers received a backpack full of prizes. Click [here](#) for a complete list of winners.

Tayler, who recently completed second grade at **Glendale Primary School** in Bedford, Ohio, won tickets to Kalahari Waterpark for earning top honors in the 50 Book Challenge. She got her nose out of a book long enough to grant ENGAGED an exclusive interview:

Of the 700 books that you read, which one was your favorite?

I liked all of them equally.

Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction?

Fiction. I like the Barbie books that I get from the library.

Do you have a favorite author?

Daisy Meadows. She writes the *Rainbow Magic* books.

How did it feel to win the 50 Book Challenge?

It made me feel really happy. My friends were excited for me.

Now that the contest is over, do you still read a lot?

Yes.

When do you do all this reading?

I like to read throughout the day.

What's your favorite subject in school?

Reading.

That makes sense. When you're not reading, what else do you enjoy doing?
I'm a cheerleader with the Bedford Little Bearcats.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
I want to be a teacher.

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