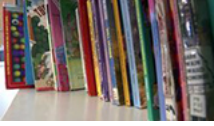


Maryville Principal Gets A Mouthful Of Worm For Reading Challenge **News**

Posted by : Randy

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MARYVILLE (AP) - A northwest Missouri school principal with a knack for getting children to read has done it again, this time with a stunt involving an earthworm.



The Maryville Daily Forum reports that Susan Martin promised her kindergarten through fourth-grade students at St. Gregory's School a reward for each 10,000 minutes they spent reading on their own time this year. The children ran up 168,000 minutes, and on Friday it was time for Martin to make good on her pledge.

With the children assembled in the gym, Martin rinsed an earthworm in a glass of water, then held the creepy crawler in her mouth for 17 seconds - one for each 10,000 minutes the children had spent reading. The kids got their reward, and they rewarded Martin with cheers and applause.