

The Literacy Link

Connecting home to school

Clark County Schools
One Community, One
Vision
EXCELLENCE

Summer Edition

Volume 1, Issue 3

Why are reading and writing important during the summer?

Research tells us that children who don't read and write during the summer face a big loss in their literacy growth when they begin the new school year. This means the summer months offer a wonderful opportunity for families, caregivers, and out-of-school educators to help improve reading and writing.

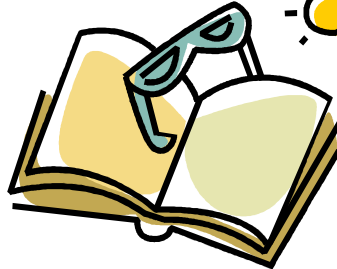
What can you do?

Reading every day improves children's ability to read and learn all year long. Here are ten weeks of activities that involve reading and related skills. There's no special order, and you don't have to do everything listed in a particular week. Just pick the ones that look interesting and fun!

10 weeks of Summer Reading Adventures for you and your children

Week 1: Celebrate Summer

- ♥ Write a list of things you want to do this summer. Make a chart to keep track of all the books you read.
- ♥ Write down on your calendar the time the sun sets today.
- ♥ Start a summer scrapbook. Include souvenirs of any trips you take, photos, ticket stubs, and projects you work on.
- ♥ List all the books by your favorite author. See how many you can read this summer.
- ♥ Swap books with a friend. Keep sharing books throughout summer.
- ♥ Take a walk. Write about or draw the things you see that show summer is here.



Week 2: Keep in touch

- ♦ Design your own stationery and write a letter to a friend.
- ♦ Start a journal with a friend or relative. Take turns writing in it all summer long.
- ♦ Write a letter to your favorite author. A librarian can help with the address.
- ♦ Draw a picture post card of an imaginary place. On the back, write a message. Mail it to a friend or relative.
- ♦ The first US postage stamps were designed in 1847. Be a philatelist. Design a stamp.
- ♦ Word game! Invent a code (A=1 B=2, for example). Send a message in code to a friend.

Week 3: Discover recipes for fun

- ♥ List all the ice cream flavors you know. Put them in ABC order.
- ♥ Invent a recipe for a cool summer drink. Write it on a recipe card. Serve it to friends.
- ♥ Go to the library and find a cookbook. Make the most interesting dish in the book.
- ♥ Read the directions on a gelatin box. Ask a parent if you can help make dessert tonight.
- ♥ Word game! How many smaller words can you find in the word *watermelon*?

Week 4: Travel the world

- ♦ If you are going on a family vacation this summer, read about your trip. Mark your travel route on a map.
- ♦ Pretend you are going to visit another city, state, or country with a friend or relative. Write to the tourist bureau for more information. Visit the library and find books about the place you want to visit, or search online for information. Plan your itinerary—and check the weather!
- ♦ Pick an important news event from another city, state, or country. Find as much information on the topic as possible—read newspapers, listen to the radio, and watch TV news. Write about what you learned.

Explore and Discover Reading and Writing Online!

Visit: <http://www.readwritethink.org/behind-the-classroom/summer>

Find engaging resources developed by teachers and other literacy experts. Everything on the site is free!

Week 5: Enjoy the great outdoors

- ♥ Plan a backyard camping trip with a friend. List all the things you will need to survive.
- ♥ Plan a family 'booknic' at your favorite spot, such as a park, or woods. Pack lunch and plenty to read.
- ♥ Collect rocks along a trail. Use a nature guide to identify them.
- ♥ Find something small enough to put in your pocket. Write or tell a story about it.
- ♥ Look for shapes and designs in the clouds. Draw them.
- ♥ Word game! Make a list of words to describe fireworks.

Week 6: Visit fun places

- ♦ An animal has escaped from the zoo! Make up a story about it. Tell it to a friend or family member—or write it down. Add pictures too.
- ♦ Make a list of zoo animals. Sort them by different categories, such as type of animal (mammals, fish, etc.) or coloring (green, brown, striped, etc.).
- ♦ Visit the nearest zoo with friends or relatives and find the animals on your list.
- ♦ Visit a museum or historical building in Clark County. Write a list of things you see that you didn't expect.
- ♦ Word game! Think of the softest animal or the oldest thing you've ever touched. Write a poem about it, but don't use the word *soft* or *old*.

Week 7: Become a publisher

- ♥ Make your own joke book. Collect jokes and riddles from family and friends.
- ♥ Cut out pictures from an old magazine or catalog. Write a story about them.
- ♥ Create a rebus story (a story that uses pictures to represent words). Write a short story, and then substitute pictures (that you draw or cut out) for some of the words.
- ♥ Start a round-robin story. Write the beginning, then ask friends to add to it until it has an ending.

Week 8: Watch the skies

- ♦ Learn what birds live in your area. Wake up early to go bird watching; list the birds you see.
- ♦ Look at the sky using a star guide to help you find the constellations at night.
- ♦ People have been looking at the skies for generations. Ask a grandparent or a much older friend to tell you a story about his or her childhood.
- ♦ The first UFO was reported in 1947. Read a science fiction book in honor of it.
- ♦ Word game! Baseballs also fly through the sky. Find a list of baseball teams in the sports section of the newspaper and put them in ABC order.

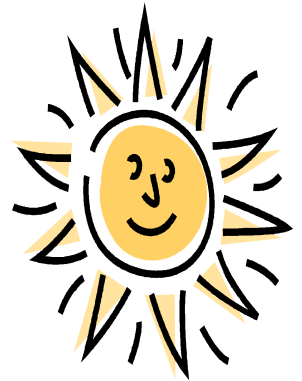


Week 9: Design something big

- ♥ Invent a tool to help you do chores more easily. Draw a picture of it or make it from some old junk.
- ♥ Read aloud the names of some cars in the classified section of the paper. Design a new car and name it.
- ♥ Design your own board game and write the rules.
- ♥ Look at the houses where you live. Design a house that would best suit your lifestyle.
- ♥ Everything we use was designed by someone. Start a collection of things you like, or add to a collection you already have. Use a guide to learn the value of your collection.

Week 10: Honor summer's end

- ♦ Pick new books to read
- ♦ Notice what time the sun sets today. Compare with week one.
- ♦ Make a list of school supplies. Start shopping.
- ♦ Plan an end-of-summer celebration. Write a list of the 10 best things you did this summer. Design a menu of your favorite summer treats.
- ♦ Word game! Summer days are the longest days of the year. List the longest words you know.



From Reading Rockets: "Summertime Reading Adventures: A Guide for Parents," **Reading Is Fundamental**, 2001

"In the elementary grades, a summer loss of 3 months accumulates to become a gap of 18 months by the end of 6th grade. By middle school, summer reading loss produces a cumulative lag of two or more years in reading achievement, even when effective instruction during the school year is available."

McGill-Franzen, Anne and Richard Allington. "Lost Summers: For Some Children, Few Books and Few Opportunities to Read." *Classroom Leadership* August 2001. The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University.

Summer Reading Preschool, Primary and Elementary

Emergent Readers - Child is learning about print and is becoming aware that print tells a story or gives information. Child uses pictures to retell what is in a book.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Bill Martin
Count and See, Tana Hoban
Each Peach Pear Plum, Janet and Alan Ahlberg
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Eileen Christelow
Go Away, Big Green Monster, Ed Emberley
"More, More, More" Said the Baby, Vera B. Williams
My First Book of Songs, Jane L. Manning
My Aunt Came Back, Pat Cummings
No, No, Jo!, Kate H. McMullan
On Mother's Lap, Ann Herbert Scott
Rosie's Walk, Pat Hutchins
Sweet Baby Coming, Eloise Greenfield
Who Sank the Boat?, Pamela Allen

Early Readers - Child begins to use knowledge of letter/sound relationships and is developing a sight vocabulary of high frequency words (a, and, the, etc.). Child uses print and pictures to read a story and begins to point to actual words being read.

Bony Legs, Joanna Cole
The Carrot Seed, Ruth Krauss
Daddy Play with Me, Sigeo Watanabe
Fox in Love, Jim Marshall
Go, Dog. Go!, Philip D. Eastman
I Like Books, Anthony Browne
It Looks Like Spilt Milk, Charles Shaw
Just Grandma and Me, Mercer Mayer
Mama, Do You Love Me?, Barbara M. Joose
Messy Bessy, Patricia McKissack

Noisy Nora, Rosemary Wells
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, Simms Taback
The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale, John Steptoe
New Cat, Yangsook Choi
On Mother's Lap, Ann Herbert Scott
Que Sorpresa de Cumpleaños!, Loretta Lopez
Stinky Cheese Man, Jon Scieszka
Strega Nona, Tomie de Paola
Swimmy, Leo Lionni
The Trees of Dancing Goats, Patricia Polacco
The Turkey Girl: A Zuni Cinderella, Penny Pollock
Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak

Fluent Readers - Child is able to read independently and reads fluently for meaning. Sentence structure is varied and child need not rely on repetition or patterned sentences.

Amelia Bedelia, Peggy Parrish
Borrequita and the Coyote, Verna Aardema
Clifford the Big Red Dog, Norman Bridwell
The Drinking Gourd, F. N. Monjo
Finding the Titanic, Robert Ballard
Frog and Toad Are Friends, Arnold Lobel
Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea, Cynthia Rylant
The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear, Don and Audrey Wood
Nate the Great, Marjorie, Weinman Sharmat
A Picture Book of Rosa Parks, Davis Adler
Stories Julian Tells, Ann Cameron
Too Many Tamales, Gary Soto
Whales, Seymour Simon

Recommended by National Council of Teachers of English

Children need to keep reading through the summer so they don't have to catch up on their reading skills when they return to school in the fall. When children read throughout the summer, they become better readers and better learners. I urge families to participate in summer reading adventures with their children and to take advantage of the free reading program offered this summer at our public library.

Dr. Ed Musgrove, Superintendent

6th grade Clark Middle

The Secret Garden, Frances H. Burnett
The Pinballs, Betsy Byars
Frindle, Andrew Clements
Bud, Not Buddy, Christopher Curtis
The Westing Game, Beth Guess
Cousins, Virginia Hamilton
The Second Mrs. Gioconda, E. L. Konigsburg
A View From Saturday, E. L. Konigsburg
A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH, Robert C. O'Brien
Woodson, Gary Paulsen
The Best School Year Ever, Barbara Robinson
Esperanza Rising, Pam Ryan
The Van Gogh Café, Cynthia Rylant
Millicent Min, Girl Genius, Lisa Yee

6th grade Conkwright

Defiance, Valerie Hobbs
Not Exactly Normal, Devon Brown
The Higher Power of Lucky, Susan Patron
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J.K. Rowling
The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963, Christopher Paul Curtis
Fly by Night, Frances Hardinge
Magyk, Angie Sage
Firegirl, Tony Abbott
Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs, Betty G. Birney
Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, Kate DiCamillo
Archer's Quest, Linda Sue Park

For more information about Clark Middle's summer reading program, visit:

<http://ilearn.clarkschools.net/sites/dcondley/>

7th grade Clark Middle

The Tale of Despereaux; The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, Kate DiCamillo

A Long Way from Chicago, A Year Down Yonder, Here Lies the Librarian, A Teacher's Funeral, Richard Peck

King of Shadows, The Dark is Rising, The Boggart, Susan Cooper

Hard Drive Short, Undercover Tailback, Tough to Tackle, Matt Christopher

Any book from the **Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, The Horse and His Boy, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of the Dawn Trader, The Silver Chair, The Last Battle**, C.S. Lewis

Monster, Bad Boy, Scorpions, Walter Dean Myers

Midnight Magic, Crispin and the Cross of Lead, Captain Grey, Avi

Loser, Eggs, Jerry Spinelli

The Shakespeare Stealer, Shakespeare's Scribe, Shakespeare's Spy, Gary Blackwood

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko

Flipped, Wendelin Van Draanen

Fever, Laurie Halse Anderson

Z for Zachariah, Robert C. O'Brien

Bridge to Teribithia, Katherine Paterson

Ruby Holler, Chasing Redbird, Sharon Creech

7th grade Conkwright

The Green Glass Sea Ellen, Ellen Klages

Invention of Hugo Cabret, Brian Selznick

The Pull of the Ocean, Jean-Claude Mourlevat

Do You Know the Monkey Man?, Dori H. Butler

Small Steps, Louis Sachar

Semi-Precious, Anne D. Love

Rules, Cynthia Lord

Penny from Heaven, Jennifer L. Holm

Hattie Big Sky, Kirby Larson

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy, Jeanne Birdsall

8th grade Clark Middle

The Watsons Go to Birmingham, Unfortunate Events Series, Christopher Curtis, Lemony Snickett

Maniac McGee, Jerry Spinelli

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl

The Giver, Lois Lowry

Joey Pigza series, Jack Gantos

Goodnight Mr. Tom, Michelle Magonian

Phantom Tollbooth, Norton Juster

The Higher Power of Lucky, Susan Patron

Criss Cross, Lynn Perkins

Kira-Kira, Cynthia Kadohata

Johnny Tremain, Esther Forbes

Single Shard, Linda Park

Out of the Dust, Karen Hesse

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village, Laura Amy Schlitz

Cold River, William Judson

8th grade Conkwright

Truth and Salsa, Linda Lowery

Code Talker: a novel of the Navajo Marines of World War II, Joseph Bruchac

Avalon High, Meg Cabot

Monster, Walter Dean Myers

I Am the Messenger, Mark Zusaks

The Book Thief, Mark Zusaks

Copper Sun, Sharon Draper

Blood on the River—Jamestown 1607, Elisa Carbone

Chandra's Secret, Allan Stratton

Lucas, Kevin Brooks

A Squire's Tale Series, Gerald Morris

Redwall Series, Brian Jacques

Clark County Library Summer Reading Program

Once again the library's **Youth Services Department** is preparing for its Summer Reading Program. Their goal is to get more books into the hands of the children of Clark County. They try to make reading fun, by having a nine-week program full of activities, entertainment, reading goals, and prizes.

Their theme for Summer Reading Program 2008 is "**Catch the Reading Bug at Your Library.**" This theme gives them scope for a variety of books, as well as a variety of prizes.

The donated prizes, last year, challenged children to read; for every ten hours of reading, they put cards into a drawing for the prize of their choice. Most children entered five or six cards, and that is a lot of reading! Last year's Summer Reading Program topped all previous programs, **with over one thousand children enrolled!** - thanks to the generosity of banks, merchants, and civic groups in Clark County.

The Kick-Off Day is Saturday, May 31, from nine A.M. until Noon. These three hours are filled with crafts, contests, prizes, and games, to make signing up for SRP a memorable, fun experience for children and teens.

Each patron will receive a bag at sign-up which includes coupons for events and places around the Commonwealth, as well as coupons for local restaurants. Also, it will contain the calendar of events for the entire summer, as well as the all-important reading cards, on which patrons keep track of the time they spend reading. These cards may be traded in at the SRP store, for brand new books the patron may keep! At the store, they can also turn in the same cards for various drawings for prizes such as electronics (digital cameras, iPods, etc.) and toys.

Each child must have his or her own library card in order to sign up for SRP. Library cards are free; a child needs a parent or legal guardian to sign up for a library card.

This newsletter brought to you by:

Clark County Literacy Coaches/Title I teachers:

Fannie Bush: Rachel Adkins, Paula McDonald

Central: LuAnn Cummings

Hannah McClure: Lyngle Lawson

Pilot View/Trapp: Kim Smyth

Shearer: Jan Niblack, Mary Beth Philips, Karyn Rice

Strode Station: Mary Farris, Debbie Wheeler

District: Jennifer Bernhard

Have a wonderful summer!