



Summer Reading Challenge, 2008

Gadsden District Schools in Partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.





Educators consider summer reading as a very important strategy in developing life-long reading habits, in maintaining literacy skills and in promoting reading for pleasure. Studies have repeatedly shown that children who continue to read during the summer months perform better when school resumes in the fall. But, when summer vacation starts, many children want to put away their books. They want to be outside, riding bikes, playing softball, or cooling-off in the neighborhood pool. Committing them to reading, even just a little each day, is a struggle especially when outdoor activities and the modern distractions of television, video games, and the Internet may seem more exciting.

Research has also shown that when parents are actively involved in learning at home, their children become more successful in and out of school. To insure that students improve or maintain their reading skills during the summer, this joint effort strives to promote literacy, enhance reading skills and assist with educational development. Parents want to know how to select books that interest children and how to create an atmosphere that encourages reading. Here are six ways to be sure that students become great summer readers:

1. Read every day.
2. Take turns reading out loud with someone.
3. Read books and magazines you enjoy.
4. Take a book everywhere you go.
5. Talk or write about what you've read.
6. Keep track of what you read with a reading log.

The Superintendent, the Gadsden School District and its partners invites each student to make reading a part of their summertime fun. Keep your children's reading skills honed, keep their minds fresh, and introduce them to some great literature this summer. Weekly trips to the library can be very rewarding to families as they select books from the summer reading list.

Every student entering grades K-12 is encouraged to participate in the summer reading challenge by reading the recommended number of books for their grade level. The books on the summer reading lists are available from your child's school media center, the Gadsden County Public Library, the bookmobile and/or bookstores.

-  **Kindergarten – 2nd grade students are asked to read at least 8 books**
-  **3rd - 5th grade students are asked to read at least 7 books**
-  **6th – 8th grade students are asked to read at least 6 books**
-  **9th – 12th grade students are asked to read at least 4 books.**

A **grand prize of \$150, a 2nd place prize of \$100 and a 3rd place prize of \$50** will be given to the students that have read the most books during the summer reading program. Students are to keep a reading log indicating the books read. To ensure that students have actually read the books on the reading log, they are required to complete a book report for books read during the summer reading program. The summer reading logs and book reports are to be returned to the students' homeroom teacher during the first week of school. The reading logs and book reports will be collected by the school media specialist and forwarded to the district media specialist to determine the prize winners.

Keep your kids occupied with a great book—or a few! Our suggested reading lists should keep them busy all summer long. These titles will encourage your kids to love reading, while improving their language arts skills.

Gadsden District Schools
Mr. Reginald C. James
Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Sonja Bridges, Ed.D.
Asst. Superintendent for Academic Services

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Mrs. Vicki Muse Johnson
Chapter President



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Grades 6-12 Book Report Form

Name _____

Date _____

- Title of Book _____
- Author _____
- Illustrator _____

Setting

Main Characters: Give a brief description of each character.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Summary: Write a summary about the story.

How did the story end? (Conclusion)

Did you like the book? Why or Why not?



Gadsden District School's High School Summer Reading List

Title

Author

Beast, The	Walter Dean Myers
Behind You	Jacqueline Woodson
Blue Star Rapture	James Bennett
Children of the River	Linda Crew
Contender, The	Robert Lipsyte
Copper Sun	Sharon Draper
Darkness Before Dawn	Sharon Draper
Don't look Behind You	Lois Duncan
Ear, the Eye and the Arm, The	Nancy Farmer
Ellen Foster	Kaye Gibbons
Ender's Game	Orson Card
Fantastic Voyage	Isaac Asimov
First Part Last, The	Angela Johnson
Friday Night Lights: A Town and a Dream	H. G. Bissinger
Glory Field, The	Walter Dean Myers
Habibi	Naomi Shihab Nye
Heaven	Angela Johnson
Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams
Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkien
Hoopster	Alan L. Sitomer
Hope was Here	Joan Bauer
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents	Julia Alvarez
If You Come Softly	Jacqueline Woodson
Killer Angels, The	Michael Shaara
Kindred	Octavia Butler
Maximum Ride	James Patterson
Moves Make the Man	Bruce Brooks
Night Hoops	Carl Deuker
November Blues	Sharon Draper
Outsiders, The	S. E. Hinson
Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida	Victor Martinez
Peaches	Jodi Lynn Anderson
Return of the King	J. R. R. Tolkien
River, Cross My Heart	Brenna Clarke
Shadow of the Red Moon	Walter Dean Myers
Slam	Walter Dean Myers
Someone to Love Me	Anne Schraff
Stargirl	Jerry Spinelli
Sula	Toni Morrison
Summer of the Monkeys	Wilson Rawls
Swallowing Stones	Joyce McDonald
Tears of a Tiger	Sharon Draper
The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream	Sampson Davis
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe
True Believer	Virginia Wolff
Uglies	Scott Westerfield
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls
Year Without Michael, The	Susan Beth Pfeffer
Young Landlords, The	Walter Dean Myers