

Parent Tips for Summer Reading

- Be a reader yourself. Let your child see you reading. When you spend time reading books, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.
- Set aside a consistent time each day for reading. Choose a time that is convenient for your family whether it be morning, afternoon or before bed. Don't let a day go by without some time spent for reading.
- Read aloud to your child. As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information.
- Connect read-aloud choices to daily activities. Read your child books about things your family likes to do. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.
- Allow your child to choose books for summer reading. While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his school, it is equally important for her to read about topics that interest her. Encourage your child to select and read books that interest her.
- Help your child select books at a comfortable level. Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what she read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. Teach your child to use the “rule of thumb” in selecting books: if he makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.
- Do not to limit your child's summer reading to books. Encourage your child to read newspapers, magazines, directions and other texts they find interesting.
- Read a book and watch the video together. Discuss how the book and video are similar and how they are different. Talk about the version you prefer.
- Encourage your child to write this summer, too. Whether you ask your child to make a grocery list, write a letter to a friend, keep a journal or write about a summer experience, keep your child writing during the summer. Writing can even be a family experience where each member of the family tells about an experience from their own individual point of view.

Adapted from PBS Parents

Meridian Public School District

Summer Reading Lists 2012



Kindergarten through Grade 8

Teachers and literacy experts agree that children of all ages need to be read to or to read by themselves and to talk about books over the summer. Your school-aged child's summer reading and book discussions will help him maintain his reading skills, improve his reading fluency, and learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime.

The Meridian Public School District has selected the following books for students to read during the summer. Each child should select two books from the appropriate grade level list to read during the summer break. Students will take an Accelerated Reading (AR) test for each book they have read when they return to school in the fall. If your child has read and taken AR tests over all of the books in their grade category, they may substitute a book of their choice.

Please check with your local bookstore or librarian to make sure the book your child selects is an AR recommended book. (Check www.arbookfind.com.)

Kindergarten and First Grades

Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel

Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold

Starfish by Edith Thacher Hurd

Let's Find Out About Ice Cream by Mary Ebeltoft Reid

Put Me in the Zoo by Robert Lopshire

Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin by Lloyd Moss

Second and Third Grade Books

The Fire Cat by Esther Averill

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patrician MacLachlan

Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens

A Medieval Feast by Alike

Art Around the World by Heather Leonard

So You Want to Be President? by Judith St. George

Fourth and Fifth Grade Books

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

M.C. Higgins, the Great by Virginia Hamilton

The Black Stallion by Walter Farley

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis

Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms by Patricia Lauber

Toys!: Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions by Don Wulffson

Horses by Seymour Simon

Volcanoes by Seymour Simon

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

The People Could Fly by Virginia Hamilton

Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad by Rosemary Sutcliff

The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks by Katherine Paterson

Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad by Ann Petry

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep