

Hello,

As you may know, one of our main focuses in 7th grade is to help promote fun-filled independent reading throughout the year for all kids. We do this through independent reading time every day, practicing full choice in books all year, establishing joy-filled reading communities, and providing access to books for all kids. Now that summer is upon us, we wanted to offer up a few ideas to hopefully help your learner continue to read over the summer even when school is out.

Why is summer reading important?

From the [Dept of Education](#), "Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system."

If a child reads just 6 books over the summer, or several longer ones, they can prevent the decline in reading comprehension skills.

Every year, about a third of our students report not reading a single book over the summer while another third report reading just one. We see this then play out in their reading abilities and relationships as they come ready for 8th grade and beyond. Simply put, when children don't read over the summer we see a decline in their reading skills which means that they start the next year at a deficit.

How can we help?

We want your learner to have awesome reading experiences this summer and we want to make it easy for them, this is why we have worked on adding as many book titles as we can find to our to-be-read list and will have a visit with the Oregon Public library this week.

We will also send home your learner's to-be-read list via email if they have one. This is the list we have worked on all year and it should hold many title ideas for your child as they try to find their next great read.

How can you help?

While we know many of you already promote summer reading - thank you! - here are a few more ideas from Pernille's blog on how adults can help kids make great summer reading plans:

Have a to-be-read list. All year we have cultivated ours, trying to add as many titles as possible so that when the students leave our classrooms they have something to help guide them when they are either at the library or at the bookstore. We have been creating ours together in school and your learner will be sending it home via

email, however, you can also create one that is more summer-specific focusing on high-interest reading in all of its forms.

Visit places where books are present. Sign up for the public library's reading challenge or make it a routine every week to go and get new books. Bookstores are great too.

Make it social. We love reading a great book and then talking to others about the book or even better passing the book on to them. Make reading a social aspect of your summer; have reading "parties" where kids can discuss books safely, create a book swap with other families, scour garage sales for long-lost favorites. Offer up yourself to read with your learner or get more than one copy of a book (if you have access to them) so that others may join in the reading. Offer yourself up as a reading partner or get a friend of your child to be a reading partner.

Read aloud. Many home adults assume that their older kids do not want to be read aloud to, and yet, our students tell us repeatedly how much they miss it. So why not find a great book and take some time to experience the book together?

Use audiobooks. We love that we can borrow audiobooks from our library, and students still have access to our English Audible account here - just email Mrs. Ripp for the login information. When your children are in the car, put on an audiobook. Have a copy of the book ready if anyone wants to keep reading and you have reached your destination.

Find great books. Get connected online to communities like #Titledtalk, #BookADay, #WeNeedDiverseBooks, or Nerdy Book Club to get ideas of what to read next. Use professionals like librarians, booksellers, and teachers for recommendations. Also, ask other adults what their kids are reading, use social media such as Instagram, Tik Tok, or other sites to get recommendations, anything to find out what great books are available. Also, if you are wondering what 7th graders often recommend, [check out these lists of favorite books on Mrs. Ripp's blog](#). You can also follow the hashtag #Pernillerecommends on Twitter and Instagram to see what she is reading and recommending, there are thousands of book on there.

Create a routine. We read every night and sometimes even in the morning (as well as throughout the day but then again we may be slightly book-obsessed). Helping your child create and maintain a routine where reading is a natural part of the day means that they will create ownership over the habit, thus (hopefully) inspiring further reading. We encourage our students to read first thing in the morning before they get up or as the last

thing they do before falling asleep. Whatever the routine may be, sit down and read yourself, it is vital for all of our children to see their home adults as readers.

Support real choice, summer is a great time for guilt-free reading. Where we reach for those books we cannot wait to read because they will suck us right in, where we fill up our reserves so we can perhaps finally tackle that really challenging book that we have been wanting to read. Don't worry about whether the book seems too easy or too hard, just read great books.

If possible, surround your learner with books, again, this depends on how many books you have access to, but leave books wherever your kids go. We have books in the car, in their rooms, in the kitchen, living room, etc. That way the books seem to fall into their hands at random times; stopped in traffic, quiet time before lunch, a sneak read before falling asleep.

Allow and embrace abandoning books, but ask questions. When a child abandons a book, this is a great thing. They are learning that this book is not for them and they can use their energy for a book that will be for them. But ask questions so that they may think about what type of book they might like. Make sure that there are other books they want to read as well so that they can keep trying to find great books.

Explore new books together. Summer can be a great time to try to push your own habits of reading, as long as it doesn't feel like a chore. Set a reading challenge, compete against each other if you want, challenge each other to read each other's favorite books, and revel in the shared experience.

Be invested and interested. This does not mean that you ask your child to write reports about what they read, in fact, we would be very careful as to what type of work goes along with reading over the summer besides reading, but do ask questions. Ask whether they enjoy the book or not. What they plan on reading next. Read along with them or beside them. Make reading a part of your life so it can become a part of theirs.

Keep it fun. Too often, especially if our child is not a well-developed reader, we can get rather nervous as parents and think that we must keep them on a regimented reading program at all costs. That we must have them write about reading or track it somehow. Have them read, yes, but keep it light and fun. The last thing we want to do is to make reading a worse experience for them or adding more stress to your family.

We hope that summer is a time of relaxation and joy for you. Thank you for an incredible year of learning, we are excited to spend our last few weeks together with the kids.

If you have a moment, will you please look for any books that need to be brought back to school? We are missing many paperbacks and graphic novels from our classroom libraries and would love to get them back.

As always, feel free to reach out with anything you may need.

Best,

Pernille and Chris