



Mrs. Thomas'
Summer Reading Fun Newsletter
A Newsletter for Parents



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is a fact that over the summer months, if your child does not read, they will lose some of the skills they have gained during the school year. Swimming, camping, biking, traveling, and playing with friends are all part of summertime fun, but don't forget reading. In addition to Camp Read A Lot and our Reader's Theatre Camp, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some fun ideas with you and your child to help support what we have done in the classroom that you can do over the summer months. I have also included a leveled book list for you as a guide for books at your child's reading level on my website (see below).

I hope that your summer reading journey will be interesting and will be lots of fun. I plan to do quite a bit of reading myself. So relax have fun and keep connected to your skills. Remember to move ahead and be productive while enjoying all that summer has to give.

I will be updating my website periodically with tons of resources for you and your child. Please visit my site anytime: <http://www.wssd.org/m.thomas>

Thanks a bunch for another great year. I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas

Reading Search

Search out books and projects that involve your summer activities. If you like baseball, get a book to read on baseball. If you like swimming, read stories about famous swimmers or a kid's swimming adventure. You can find books on any topic at the bookstore or at Kate Furness Library. Take your time and pick a book that is really interesting to you. Take a look at the first page and see if it is the right

reading level for you. Use the "5 Finger Rule" - If you make more than 5 mistakes reading the first 100 words, the book is too hard to read alone. You may have to read this book with an adult. If it feels easy to read, read it. This will give you more practice and confidence with reading fluency.

Relax with reading

Create a special place to read. Maybe it could be in your room, under a big tree in the yard, in your treehouse, on the porch in a comfy chair or in your family room. Take a bag of books to the beach, to the pool, or to the park. Reading can be so stress free. Invite your parents or guardians to relax and read with you also.

Magazine Hunt

Sometimes kids like to change it up and read a magazine. They have shorter articles, interesting pictures and some have arts and crafts activities or projects. There are many kids magazines from which to choose. Do you like getting things in the mail? Ask your parent or guardian if you could order a magazine that comes through the mail. It is always fun to anticipate receiving your new issue.

Library Treasures

Your local library, Kate Furness on Providence Road, has a summer reading program. Call the library to find out the dates, times and programs that are offered for children of all ages. Here is the number: (610)566-9331. Ask for Miss Lori, the children's librarian. There is also the library in Media, call 610-566-1918. And the Swarthmore library, call 610-543-3171.

Also, sometimes it's just fun to go to the library with a friend and read there. You can choose books together and have some fun. It is quiet and can be a different place to "hang out".

Explore Reading with an Adult

Grab your mom, dad, older sister, brother, aunt, uncle, grandparents, or your babysitter by the arm and say, "Let's read." Ask them to partner read a book with you. Stop every once in a while to talk about what you have read. Remember, your comprehension is very important. Be an active thinker while reading.

Sometimes you may be interested in a book that is too hard for you to read by yourself. Your adult reader can read to you. An adult reading to you provides a good model for reading expression, fluency, and also helps to strengthen your listening skills. Again, always stop and discuss what you think about the story. How does it connect to your life experience?

The TV Connection

Watching television can be fun, enjoyable and relaxing, but too much tube time can leave your mind less stimulated. Read the TV listings to find out what appropriate TV programs or movies will be coming up during the week. Try to find a book that reflects the theme of the show or movie. Watch the show and then read a book with some friends. Have a movie and book discussion group. It is fun to hear what others think. Just try to get a balance between TV viewing and reading.

Activity Adventures

When was the last time you cooked from a recipe, followed directions on cleaning products, followed instructions on using a household appliance, learned to sew using a pattern, make a model airplane by following the instructions, went food shopping and read the list and food labels, or looked up a phone number in the phonebook for your parent or guardian? That's a long list of activities, but all of these require reading and sometimes reading that is very detailed. These "pumping iron" mind activities keep you actively thinking and will provide you with opportunities to help out at home. Your parents or guardians will appreciate that.

Reading Voyages Real or Imaginary

Are you and your family taking a traveling vacation? Read the brochures. Try to find books about

your destination. Say you are going to Niagara Falls in New York State. There is a lot of interesting information on the falls. Reading about it beforehand will enhance your visit because you will already know some background and be able to make more connections when you actually visit. Look in the library for a possible story on the falls. As a reader you can share and connect with the character's experience.

Ventures for Authors

With all of your summertime activities, you have tons of opportunities to use your writing skills. When on a trip, take a few moments to pick out postcards, write a quick message and send them to family members and friends. Keep a journal of your summer trips. Write a real-life or imaginary story about a trip. Reading and writing skills are closely linked. If you read more, writing improves. If you write more, your reading will improve. Good deal, huh??

Apply Reading Strategies

Remember when you are reading keep your mind actively thinking.

Before reading: Read the title and the back cover. What information does the title give to me? What do I already know about this topic? What do the pictures suggest? Did I ever read another book on this topic or see a movie that reminds me about the topic? Did I ever have a life experience suggested by this title?? Now make a prediction before you start reading.

During reading: Ask yourself the 5 W's: who, what, when, where, why. As I read is my prediction changing? Am I picturing in my mind's eye what is going on in the story? What is the main idea, the setting, the problem, the solution?? (This is where you do lots of thinking, picturing and reevaluating.)

After reading: What did I read? If you have trouble recalling the information, keep a journal of the events that occur and the characters you meet. Summarize each chapter or section.

~Look for more info on my website~

<http://www.wssd.org/m.thomas>