

## INTRODUCTION

**What is it?** Summer Reading is an opportunity for students to choose what they want to read and how they want to engage with their books.

**Avoid the “Summer Slide”:** Research has shown that students who do not read over the summer have the tendency to lose some of the learning growth they made during the previous school year.



## NOTE TO FAMILIES

Summer Reading is an opportunity to help your child develop a lifelong love of reading, while supporting and strengthening all of his/her hard work from the previous school year, setting him/her up for success in the fall!

**Getting Started:** Talk with your child about the importance of summer reading!

- Provide opportunities to select high-interest books
- Establish consistent reading time routines
- Log reading time
- Talk to your child about what he/she is reading!
- Support your child as he/she completes the required reading activities

**Resources:** Additional book suggestions, parent guides, video, student reading logs, and other information can be found at:

- WPS Summer Reading: <http://tinyurl.com/j8om7b2>
- Not Online? **Head to the Worcester Public Library!**

**Reading is the most important 20 MINUTES of your day!**



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## Check out these book suggestions!

**Contemporary Fiction:** Return to Slender by Alvarez; Tangerine by Bloor; Jack Henry (series) by Gantos; My Life in Pink and Green by Greenwalk; Bird by Johnson; Zootbreak by Korman; Also Known as Harper by Leal; Habibi by Nye; Keeper by Peet; Bamboo People by Perkins; Slob by Potter; Esperanza Rising by Ryan; Holes by Sachar; Gussy Read: Funny Business by Scieszka; Keeping the Night Watch by Smith; Stargirl by Spinelli; Drama by Telgemeier; Feathers by Woodson; Millicent Min, Girl Genius by Yee

**Science Fiction and Fantasy:** The Underneath by Appelt; Doll Bones by Black; Artemis Fowl (series) by Colfer; The Dark is Rising by Cooper; Books of Ember (series) DuPrau; The Forest of Hands and Teeth by Ryan; Endymion Spring by Skelton; Breadcrumbs by Ursu; Uglics (series) by Westerfeld

**Biography:** Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood by Barakat; Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science by Fleischman; Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Fleming; The Power of One: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine by Fradin; Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Helligman; Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Hoese; Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Jiang; Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali by Smith

**Legends and Myths:** The Coming of the Dragon by Barnhouse; Trickster: Native American Tales by Dembicki; Odd and the Frost Giants by Gaiman; Princess of the Midnight Ball by George; A Tale Dark and Grimm by Gidwitz; Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood by Lee; Gilgamesh the Hero by McCaughean; Treasury of Egyptian Mythology by Napoli; The Illustrated Book of Myths by Philip; Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm by Pullman; The Beautiful Stories of Life by Rylant

**Mystery:** Chasing Vermeer by Balliet; The Red Blazer Girls (series) by Bell; Zora and Me by Bond; Skeleton Man by Bruchac; The Grace Mysteries (series) by Cavendish; Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Giles; Alex Rider (series) by Horowitz; The Boy Sherlock Holmes (series) by Peacock; Liar and Spy by Stead

**Historical Fiction:** Fever 1793 by Anderson; Incantation by Hoffmann; Hero on a Bicycle by Hughes; Inside Out and Back Again by Lai; Gold Duct by Lynch; When I Crossed No-Bob by McMullan; The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Philbrick; Keeping Corner by Sheth; One Came Home by Timberlake; Climbing the Stairs by Venkatraman; Listening for Lions by Whelan; One Crazy Summer by Williams-Garcia

**Informational Texts:** Yes! We are Latinas by Ada and Campoy; Freedom Riders by Bausum; What the World Eats by S'Aluisio; Bodies by the Ice by Deem; We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March by Levinson; Saving the Ghost of the Mountain by Montgomery; The Elephant Scientist by O'Connell and Jackson; Heroes of the Environment by Rohmer; Wachale! Poetry and Prose about Growing Up Latino by Stavans; Courage Has No Color by Stone

## Search Award Winning Books!

Caldecott medal, Coretta Scott King Award, Massachusetts Children's Book Award, Newbery Medal, Notable Science Trade Books for Young Readers, Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, Pura Belpre Award, Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal

Find more suggestions on the WPS Summer Reading Website: <http://tinyurl.com/j8om7b2>



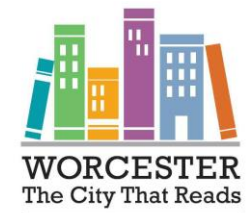
## WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# summer Reading Requirement



For Students Entering  
Grades 7 and 8

2016



[www.worcesterschools.org](http://www.worcesterschools.org)

## STEP 1: Set a GOAL!

Students entering Grades 7 and 8 will read **three** books or 800 pages over the course of the summer. Students will also complete **three** activities to showcase their reading adventure.

*This summer I will read...*

## Step 2: Choose a Book!

### Where can I find books?

Worcester Public Library  
Libby and Lily Mobile Libraries  
Borrow and take suggestions from friends!  
Summer Programs  
Bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon  
Goodwill and Salvation Army  
E-Books  
Digital Books (CD, MP3)

*See the back cover for some reading suggestions!*



### The Super 7 Effective Reading Habits

**Make Connections:** When I read I think "That reminds me of..."

**Create Images:** When I read "I picture in my mind..."

**Infer:** Even though it isn't said in the text, when I read "I know..." "I think..." or "I am guessing that..." or "I predict..."

**Monitor for Meaning:** When I get confused when I read "I can..." and "Let me review what I know..."

**Determine Importance:** When I read "I know the detail I just read is important because..."

**Synthesize:** When I read I notice things are connected and "I know this is a big idea because..." or "Aha..."

**Questioning:** When I read I ask myself questions about the book such as "I wonder why..." or "I am curious about..."

## Notice and Note

*Stop and ask yourself...*

**Contrasts & Contradictions:** When a character says or does something that is opposite (contradicts) what you expect them to do ask yourself, "Why is the character acting this way?" This could help you make a prediction or an inference about the plot and conflict.

**Again & Again:** When notice a word, phrase, object, or situation mentioned over and over again, ask yourself, "Why does this keep showing up again and again?" This will tell you about the theme and conflict, or it might foreshadow what will happen later.

**Memory Moment:** When the author interrupts the action with a flashback to the past and tells you a memory, ask yourself, "Why might this memory be important?" This will tell you about the theme, conflict, or it might foreshadow what will happen later.

**Aha Moment:** When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures something out, ask yourself, "How might this change things?" If the character solved a problem you discovered the conflict; if the character understood a life lesson, you discovered a theme.

**Words of the Wiser:** When a character takes the main character aside and gives advice, ask yourself, "What's the life lesson, and how might it affect the character?" Whatever the lesson is, you've probably found a theme for the story.

**Tough Questions:** When a character asks himself a difficult question, ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?" This will help you predict will happen later in the story.

(Adapted from Notice and Note by Kyrene Beers.)

## Step 3: Read, Read, READ!

Relax, enjoy a good book, and have fun! Achieve your goals: Where can I read? When can I read? What do I like about the story? And remember, if it is a great book, recommend it to a friend!

**Read at least 20 minutes every day!**



## Step 4: Complete an Activity!

Complete the following activities. The choice is yours, have fun sharing what you read!

### Book One: Double Entry Journal

Complete a double entry journal. You can obtain the form on the WPS Summer Reading website.

### Book Two: Illustrate

Draw a picture from a scene in your book. In writing, explain what you drew and why you drew it.

### Book Three: Free Choice! (Choose One)

- Letter to the author
- Comic strip of a favorite scene
- Rewrite the ending of the book
- Retell the story from a character's point of view
- PowerPoint Summary (at least 10 slides)
- Write a song or poem about the book
- Write a movie script or play about one chapter of the book
- Interpret a scene into a video

**Check out the WPS Summer Reading website for more options!**  
(<http://tinyurl.com/j8om7b2>)



*When reading don't forget to ask yourself...*

**Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How**

**Get Ready to CELEBRATE!**

Remember to bring your completed activities to share with your English Language Arts teacher on the first day of school!