



# WMS Parents' Survivor Guide for Summer Reading

Here are some tips to help make this year's summer reading fun and successful!

## 1. HELP YOUR CHILD FIND A "JUST RIGHT" BOOK.

- What does "just right" mean? An easy way to find an appropriate book is to have your child open a book to a random page and read. For each word he or she doesn't know, have him or her put one finger up. If he or she has five fingers up by the end of the page, the book is most likely too difficult.
- Find an interesting topic that will be interesting or another book from an author he or she has enjoyed before

## 2. VISIT THE LIBRARY TOGETHER.

- This is a great way to spend quality time together and check out the resources at the library. They always are ready to give book recommendations and have age-appropriate lists with genres/topics, etc.
- Use the Overdrive App or WMS's MackvinVIA and Brytewave K-12 for books and audiobooks right on the iPad or other device.



## 3. MAKE TIME FOR READING AS A FAMILY.

- Set time aside each day to read together as a family. It could be reading the newspaper or article, book, etc. over breakfast or before bed. Modeling reading as an adult shows that reading is a life-long habit!
- Listen to audiobooks together. This could be on car drive during a road trip to summer camps. Find a novel that will appeal to your family, listen, and discuss. You can download audiobooks from the library (apps listed above), iTunes, Amazon.com, or Audible.com

## 4. FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS YOUR CHILD'S READING OR BOOK YOU ARE READING TOGETHER.

- Asking questions and fostering a safe place to talk about the book. This is a great way to show that you value reading and what your child is doing. This will help your child dive deeper into the book and go beyond "surface" reading.
- Here are some great guiding questions:
  - What happened in your book today? What was the most interesting part?
  - What is the character like? Could you be friends with him/her? Why?
  - What is one thing you would change about your book?
  - If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?
  - What is the author trying to tell us as readers?
  - What do you think will happen next? Make a prediction ☺
  - What are some connections to your self?
  - Does this book make you think of another book, TV show, movie or other events in the world?
  - Did you have any questions while you read?
  - What was a challenging part of what you read today? What made it challenging?
  - What did you picture in your mind as you read?



## 5. CREATE AN ENGAGING READING SPACE.

- Help your child find a quiet, well-lit, and comfortable space to read.

# a few recommended recent BOOK titles

## **Realistic Fiction**

*Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead  
*As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds  
*Seventh-Grade Life in Tights* by Brooks Benjamin  
*The Key to Extraordinary* by Natalie Lloyd  
*The Last Great Adventure of the PB&J Society*  
by Janet Summer Johnson  
*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

## **Adventure:**

*Shadows of Sherwood* by Kekla Magoon (series)  
*The Conspiracy of Us* by Maggie Hall (series)

## **Historical Fiction**

*The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz  
*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys  
(contains graphic content from WWII)  
*Passenger* by Alexandra  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* (series)  
by Jacqueline Kelly  
*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth E. Wein  
*Under the Painted Sky* by Stacey Lee

## **Biographies / Autobiographies**

*The Trouble In Me* by Jack Gantos  
*Nellie Bly* by Deborah Noyes  
*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*El Deafo* by Cece Bell (also graphic novel)

## **Mystery**

*The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge  
(with elements of historical fiction)  
*The Steep and Thorny Way* by Cat Winters

## **Science-Fiction**

*Passenger* by Alexandra Bracken (going to be a series)  
*The Square Root of Summer* by Harriet Hapgood  
*The Selection Series* by Kiera Cass  
*A Thousand Pieces of You (Firebird Series)*  
by Claudia Grey  
*Starflight* by Melissa Landers  
*Beyond the Red* by Ava Jae  
*Dark Energy* by Robison Wells  
*Consider* by Kristy Acevedo

## **Fantasy**

*Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan (elements of historical Fiction)  
*The Red Queen (Series)* by Victoria Aveyard  
*The Shadow Hunters (City of Angels) Series*  
by Cassandra Clare  
*Throne of Glass Series* by Sarah J. Maas  
*The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave Series* by Rick Yancey (+Sci-Fi)  
*The Lunar Series* (Cinder is #1) by Marissa Meyers  
*The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer  
*Shadowshaper* by Daniel Jose Older

## **Poetry**

*Booked* by Kwame Alexander  
*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai  
*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse

## **Graphic Novels**

*Smile (series)* by Raina Telgemeier  
*Amulet Series (Stone Keeper is #1)* by Kazu Kibuishi  
*Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson  
*The Dumbest Idea Ever!* by Jimmy Gownley  
*Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova  
*Ms. Marvel* by G. Willow Wilson (Vol 1: No Normal)

## **MORE GREAT RESOURCES FOR RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND lists:**

- <http://nerdybookclub.com> (Blog created by teacher-authors such as Donalyn Miller)
- <http://library.arlingtonva.us/> (Arlington Library Teen Section)
- <http://www.nypl.org/voices/blogs/blog-channels/sta> (Blog highlighting best books)
- <http://www.capitolchoices.org/>  
(Capitol Choices -> A local group of professionals who create book lists and updated blog)
- <http://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists/young-adults-choices-reading-list>  
(International Literacy Association's book lists and resources)
- <http://www.hbook.com/2016/05/choosing-books/recommended-books/2016-summer-reading-list/>  
(The Horn Book 2016 Summer Reading List at [www.hbook.com](http://www.hbook.com))

\*\*CommonSenseMedia.com -> for checking appropriateness and has a "what parents need to know" section

