

Tips for Readers

Good readers know why they are reading and actively use **strategies** to understand the text. Examples of strategies include:

- asking **questions** of the text,
- **rereading** challenging portions of the text,
- making **connections** between your life and the text, and
- using **graphic organizers** during and/or after reading.

Tips for Parents

- Schedule library/bookstore visits.
- Let your child choose what he/she wants to read.
- Help your child select books at an appropriate reading level. A general rule of thumb is that if a child struggles with more than five words on a page the text is too hard.
- When possible, connect reading to other summer activities.
- Read the same book as your child and have book chats along the way.

The Purpose of a Summer Reading List

Why read in the summer?

During the school year, students engage daily in processes that cultivate strong reading habits. Research shows that students actually lose one-three months of learning during the summer when they do not engage in academic activities. Reading is one way to keep the mind sharp during the summer months. In fact, the National Center for Education Statistics reports that fourth grade students who read for fun on their own time score higher on reading assessments than students who do not read on their own.

Mraz, M., & Rasinski, T (2007). Summer reading loss. *The Reading Teacher*. 60.8, 784-789.
National Assessment of Educational Progress. (2001). *The nation's report card: Fourth-grade reading 2000*. Retrieved on April 8, 2008, from <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pubs/main2000/2001499.asp>

Students are encouraged to read widely this summer. The summer reading list is intended to give students and parents a starting point for selecting young adult literature. Choose books from this list or other young adult titles to enjoy this summer.

The books are recommended by reading teachers, librarians, and classroom teachers. **All titles are available at your local Arlington County Public Library.**

Department of Instruction
English Language Arts

Middle School Summer Reading Book List Fall 2012



For Students Entering Grades 6, 7, & 8

Released by the English Language Arts Office and Library Services in collaboration with Arlington County Public Library

*Middle School ELA
Summer Reading List*

Grade 6
For Students Entering
Grade 6 in the Fall of 2012

The Underneath—Appelt
Colibri—Cameron *
Artemis Fowl (series)—Colfer *
Elijah of Buxton—Curtis *
London Eye Mystery—Dowd *
Mockingbird—Erskine *
Coraline—Gaiman
Book of a Thousand Days—Hale *
*Middle School is Worse than
Meatloaf*—Holm
Ghost in the Tokaido Inn—Dorothy and
Thomas Hoobler
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)—Kinney *
The Big Field—Lupica *
The Rock and the River—Magoon *
Peter Pan in Scarlet—McCaughrean
Trash—Mulligan *
One Crazy Summer—Williams-Garcia *

Grade 7
For Students Entering
Grade 7 in the Fall of 2012

Return to Sender—Alvarez *
Mare's War—Davis
Graveyard Book—Gaiman *
Scat—Hiaasen *
Crossing the Wire—Hobbs *
Stormbreaker (series)—Horowitz *
Circuit. Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child—Jimenez *
Skulduggery Pleasant (series)—Landy *
Heat—Lupica *
Dairy Queen (series)—Murdock *
Guts—Paulsen
Nation—Pratchett *
Pirates—Rees *
When You Reach Me—Stead *
So B. It—Weeks *
After Tupac and D Foster—Woodson *

Grade 8
For Students Entering
Grade 8 in the Fall of 2012

Finding Miracles—Alvarez *
Tequila Worm—Canales
Seedfolks—Fleischman *
Gone (series)—Grant
Pop—Korman *
A Mango-Shaped Space—Mass *
Shackleton's Stowaway—McKernan
Sunrise over Fallujah—Myers *
A Step From Heaven—Na *
The Other Side of Truth—Naidoo
Click—Park
True Meaning of Smekday—Rex *
Flygirl—Smith
The Thief (series)—Turner *
Leviathan (series)—Westerfield *
American Born Chinese—Yang

Titles marked with an asterisk* are available as audio books. Check with your local librarian for more information.