



## Summer Elementary Reading 2023

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June 2023

Dear Students and Families:

**Reading is the most powerful tool to build literacy skills.** The more reading we do, the more our reading skills grow - and the more our writing skills and vocabulary grow ([source](#), p.9). So we encourage every child to maintain a daily reading routine over the summer and spend at least 30 minutes a day reading.

**Families play a vital role in fostering a love for reading.** Families can promote [six reading elements recommended for "every child, every day,"](#) including the suggestions that children read texts they choose, read with accuracy and comprehension, write and talk about their thinking about what they read, as well as listen to adults reading fluently. Reading aloud to your child can help them increase their own reading fluency and vocabulary, especially when they follow along with the text.

**Connecting with other people about what we read** can also grow our thinking and excitement about reading, so we encourage children to talk about their reading with friends and family. This could include reading the same books together or sharing about favorite books - in person or via technology. This [Choice Board for After Reading a Book](#) contains prompts for thinking, talking, and writing about reading.

We recommend reading printed books and periodicals if you have access to them. To access books and articles digitally, we invite you to consider these free resources:

- [Digital Books through Our Public Libraries and Libby App](#)
- [OpenLibrary.org](#)
- myON - access via Clever (see [myON Student Intro](#) & Clever Guides for [Desktops](#) & [iPads](#))
- [CommonLit Resources](#) - can create a free parent account
- [NEWSELA](#) - can create a free student or parent account - adjust text level for news & nonfiction
- Learning A-Z / [RAZ Kids](#) - access via Clever (see Clever Guides for [Desktops](#) & [iPads](#))

**Please work with your child to find texts based upon their interests and to expand their reading experiences** by reading something new, such as non-fiction or a new series. You can help your child choose "just-right" books, one that they can read independently, which is neither too difficult nor too easy. A good way to determine a *just right* book is to:

- ❖ turn to any page in the book and ask your child to read it to you;
- ❖ If the reader makes more than five errors the book is probably too difficult for independent reading but may be a good read-aloud book.

Below are assorted lists to help you find books with your child that may be available through [our public libraries](#).

We invite you to **share about your family's summer reading experiences on social media using the hashtag #ClarkstownReads**. You may also invite your child to use Clarkstown's [digital book log](#) to keep track of their reading (<https://tinyurl.com/clarkstownreads2023>) or to use one of these printable weekly reading logs ([Grades K-2 reading log](#) or [Grades 3-6 reading log](#)).

We also encourage you to **join the Clarkstown Administrators' "Campfire Stories" series via Zoom every Wednesday at 7pm** during summer break at [this Zoom link](#) (Meeting ID: 961 5553 2867; Passcode: 746036).

Also, see recent mailings from your local library for information about its summer reading initiative.

On behalf of our district, we wish you a happy and healthy summer filled with reading pleasure.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Linda Hatfield*

Director of Teaching & Learning

## Book Lists\*

- [Summer Reading Lists | Association for Library Service to Children \(ALSC\)](#) - annually updated lists by grade levels from the world's largest organization dedicated to children's library services
- [Books by Guided Reading Levels | the-best-childrens-books.org](#) - a helpful tool for identifying titles that are a good fit for the level of text a reader can comprehend independently
- Decodable texts for students to practice their phonics skills are available digitally at: [Beyond Decodables](#), [Flyleaf Publishing](#), and via [RAZ Kids](#)
- [List of Kids' Book Series Sorted by Genre](#) - when readers are excited about a series, they have a sequence of books to continue their reading through all the titles they can access in the series
- [Children's Books Dealing with Social-Emotional Skills](#) - books like these can help young people understand and navigate strong emotions and social skills

*\*Please note that the district recommends these lists for identifying books that may be well-suited for your children. Sharing these lists does not reflect an endorsement by the district of any specific title or book list publisher, and we expect and encourage families to make their own decisions about what your children read during the summer.*