



2026 SUMMER READING

For students who are entering
THIRD GRADE

Summer Reading: Keep the Adventure Alive!

Reading can be one of the many fun activities your child explores this summer. Research shows it is also much more! Children who maintain a steady reading routine over the summer are far less likely to experience summer learning loss. Keeping your child's reading skills sharp is vital, and they should have daily opportunities to read or hear high-quality literature and non-fiction—both for pleasure and to learn new things. Reading aloud to your child is also a wonderful way to show them how much you value books.

Expand Their Horizons: Reading Across Genres and Formats

Summer is the perfect time to let your child's interests guide their reading journey! We encourage parents to help their rising fourth graders explore a vibrant mix of genres—from thrilling mysteries and historical fiction to fascinating non-fiction, biographies, and whimsical poetry. Don't limit the adventure to traditional chapter books, either; all forms of print offer valuable learning opportunities. Graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, e-books, and even comic books are fantastic ways to build vocabulary, improve comprehension, and keep the joy of reading alive. By embracing a wide variety of formats and topics, you can help your child discover new passions while keeping their literacy skills sharp for the upcoming school year.

Lastly, here are a few wonderful summer reading programs to explore:

Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program

There are a number of fantastic summer reading programs available. We've attached one from Barnes & Noble that we think your child will love. The concept is simple:

1. Your child reads **eight books** of their choice.
2. They record the titles on the attached reading log.
3. They bring the completed log to their local Barnes & Noble to **claim a free book!**

[Click Here for the Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Journal](#)

Local Library Summer Challenges

Be sure to check your local library's website for more summer fun. Here are the links to the Westport and Fairfield library challenges for this year:

- [Westport Library: "Plant a Seed, Read" Summer Reading Program 2026](#)
- [Fairfield Library: "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading Program 2026](#)

Borrowing E-Books

E-books are another fantastic, free option. Most libraries use apps like **OverDrive and Libby**. As long as you have an active library card, you can download e-books directly to your device (such as an iPad, Kindle or Amazon Fire tablet).

Book Selections

CLASSICS

- Charlotte's Web – E.B. White
- Magic Tree House series – Mary Pope Osborne
- James and the Giant Peach – Roald Dahl
- The Boxcar Children – Gertrude Chandler Warner
- The Mouse and the Motorcycle – Beverly Cleary
- Fantastic Mr. Fox – Roald Dahl

FUN & Graphic Novels

- Junie B. Jones series – Barbara Park
- Dog Man series – Dav Pilkey

ANIMAL & HEART WARMING STORIES

- The One and Only Ivan – Katherine Applegate
- The Wild Robot – Peter Brown
- Henry and Mudge – Cynthia Rylant

ADVENTURE & IMAGINATION

- Amari and the Night Brothers – B.B. Alston
- Dragon Rider – Cornelia Funke
- The Chronicles of Narnia – C.S. Lewis
- City Spies – James Ponti

CONFIDENCE BUILDERS

- Ivy and Bean – Annie Barrows
- Geronimo Stilton series
- Notebook of Doom – Troy Cummings
- Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot – Dav Pilkey

TIPS FOR SUMMER READING

Let kids choose what interests them (very important!)

Mix easy + slightly challenging books

Graphic novels count—they build confidence and enjoyment

Aim for 15–20 minutes a day