



May 11, 2017

Tips and tools from your school library

LOW HANGING FRUIT

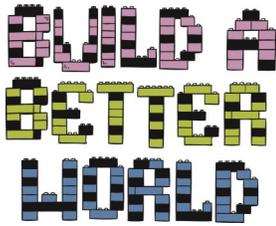
Annual Summer Reading Issue

By Jeannie Standal

Welcome to the Summer Reading Issue! For those who have been reading Low Hanging Fruit for a while, the May topic is not a surprise, and it might already be stirring in the back of your minds. Well, way in the back, behind testing, finals, grade submissions, last minute pleas for extra credit, end of the year parties,... but soon summer reading will be front and center. It already is at the public library!

In addition to being super fun, summer reading programs provide a host of benefits including¹:

- slowing or eliminating summer learning loss, which saves weeks of review time in the fall;
- encouraging kids to make reading a lifelong habit, which necessarily improves reading and comprehension skills;
- attracting reluctant readers with fun activities, which means they may find the book that turns them on to reading for fun.



The 2017 Summer Reading Theme is Build a Better World! Libraries all over the country are planning summer activities with everything from building stuff with Legos to activities that encourage caring for one's communities.

Some students, for various reasons, will not have access to the public library this summer. Here are a few options to consider for them:

- If a student is coming back to the same school in the fall, check out a supply of books for summer reading from the school library. Even better, open the school library for a few hours every week to exchange books.
- Include a student book exchange as part of the end of year classroom party. Students can exchange books they've finished and don't want to keep. Everyone goes home with a fresh supply of reading materials.
- Summer Reading Bingo is always fun! Make bingo cards with book categories like: a ghost story; a book with a verb in the title; a book with an ugly cover; or a book published before you were born. One book category per week of break is a great goal.

Whatever the summer reading plan, be sure to be seen reading!

¹American Library Association Summer Reading LibGuide at <http://libguides.ala.org/summer-reading/benefits>

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



Extreme Book Nerd for Kids

Idaho Falls Public Library runs this year-long program for their lucky patrons. It can be easily adapted to a shorter summer reading format. Anyone can use the lists and the format, but not the logo.

<http://www.ifpl.org/extreme-book-nerd-kids/>

Summer Learning Loss and Library Summer Reading Programs

Learn more about Idaho Students and Summer Reading!

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/>

[SummerLearningLossHandout2016-2017.pdf](#)

Grown Up Summer Reading!

Don't forget your own summer reading! Set a goal and keep track on Goodreads!

idaho.libraries.org

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



More activities that enrich summer learning!

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies has collected *101 Things to do Outside*. The list includes many summer favorites like "running through the sprinkler" and "make a mud pie," and some that are less common like "set up a birdbath" and "learn to pan for gold." Of course, our favorite is "read a book on the lawn or under a tree." Most are free, all are fun!

<http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/101thingstodooutside-flyer.pdf>

DIGITAL TOOLS



Idaho Library Directory

Get students to the public library for summer reading. Find a library near you using the online library directory at <http://directory.lili.org>.

TumbleBooks

The public library has access to this collection of animated picture books. Students can access at the public library or from home.

LearningExpress Library

Use LearningExpress for math and grammar practice exercises over the summer to keep summer learning loss at bay. Access at <http://lili.org>.



