

Ways School Libraries Can Support Summer Reading Programs

All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer.

(White, 1906; Heyns, 1978; Entwisle & Alexander 1992; Cooper, 1996; Downey et al, 2004)

Idaho public libraries are members of the Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP), a grassroots consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for kids ages 0 – 18. Most Idaho libraries choose to use the annual theme, slogans, and materials chosen by the CSLP (www.cslpreads.org). School libraries that partner with their public libraries may have access to special programs and/or materials through partnerships and outreach opportunities. Contact your public library for more information.

The 2011 theme is Cultures/Geography/Travel

The children's slogan is:



The teen slogan is:



[The following ideas are adapted from New York State Library: "School Library partner Manual," <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/slmanual.pdf>]

As a school librarian, you can support summer reading programs:

**Highlighted ideas are specific to the 2011 theme*

- Invite your public librarian for a school visit.
- Help arrange class visits to the local public library.
- Publicize to increase awareness of the 2011 Summer Reading Program
 - in school newspaper / parent newsletters
 - on bulletin boards / reader boards
 - on library and school web pages
- Place announcements on computer screen savers.
- Put bookmarks in books as students check out.
- Plan fall follow-up recognition for those who participated in the public library summer reading program.
- Promote the summer reading program and theme with faculty throughout the school. (In the upper grades, collaborate with the social studies, art, music, and humanities departments for activities relating to travel and cultural themes.)
- Display student art work in your public library.
- Display theme-related books: travel, multiple cultures, geography, folk tales, biographies, friendship, etc. Be sure to include fiction and non-fiction, graphic novels, and poetry.
- Form book discussion groups.
 - Offer a "book pass," where students gather to discuss the books they've read.
 - Create a Shelfari group for students and teachers to share the books they're reading over the summer.
 - Start a "formal" group where students have all read the same book and someone leads a discussion of that book.

- Create book displays, with books facing out to create interest.
 - Travel-related books
 - Stories of kids around the world
 - Books about countries and cultures
 - Maps, atlases, and globes
- Put sticky notes in books, indicating read-alikes or other books in the series.
- Decorate the school library with travel posters and far-away destinations.
- Have children write book reviews and keep them in a binder for others to peruse.
- Put ongoing summer reading promos, PSAs and reviews on morning announcements.
 - You can access 2011 promotional videos made by teens here: www.cslpreads.org
- Ask the principal and teachers to lend books from class libraries over the summer.
- Use your spring Scholastic Book Fair as an opportunity to promote summer reading, or have a book fair at the end of the school year with the help of a local bookstore.
- Distribute annotated, specialized reading lists—e.g., nonfiction, science fiction, WW II, etc., based on surveys of students' interests. Include teachers' personal recommendations for summer reading.
- Post photos of interesting sites around Idaho on a bulletin board and let others guess the location.
- Write trivia facts for Idaho: Where can you hunt for geodes? What are the largest lake, tallest mountain, and longest river? (*Elementary librarians: there are lots of great Idaho fact sheets, etc. on the 2009 Family Reading Week resource CD "Idaho is Wild About Reading."*)
- Host a story-telling festival where students, teachers, librarians, and administrators share stories from their families' cultures.
- Start a summer reading program at the school with the support of the public library. Collaborate on reading record forms and incentives.
- Encourage the principal and teachers to volunteer at the public library at least one day during the summer.
- Give books as prizes/rewards at end-of-school ceremonies.
- Make giant promotional posters for good books and post them all over the school.
- Put summer reading suggestions on the school's Web site.
- Arrange a book swap on the last day of school.
- Present book talks in all classes.
- Compile a list of good audio books for car trips and other travel.
- Create mock passports and travel itineraries with book suggestions for each country; stamp when the book has been read. Offer small prizes for stamped passports.
- Work with your public librarian to see if there is a possibility that books read in the last week or two of school can count toward summer reading goals.