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Tips and tools from your school library

LOW HANGING FRUIT

Why let the kids have all the fun? Summer Reading for Grown-Ups!

By Jeannie Standal

It's the annual Summer Reading issue of LHF! Over the school year, LHF has shared the importance of reading for kids of all ages, how access to books is key in advancing literacy skills, how Free Voluntary Reading builds vocabulary and the love of reading, and all the rest. We could continue on that track, and it would be worthwhile; summer reading is probably the most important factor in preventing the Summer Slide, after all. But, no. This issue is about summer reading for the rest of us. For the grown-ups who look forward to a few months to read what we want. Some of our reading is in preparation for the school year ahead, sure, but summer reading is really about reading purely for pleasure.

Lots of public libraries have summer reading programs for adults. A few offerings in Idaho include:

- * Music programs that fit this year's summer reading theme, "Libraries Rock!" at Community Library Network in North Idaho;
- * Garden City's Adult Summer Reading program offers chances to win a grand prize by reading; and
- * Idaho Falls Public Library awards prizes for adult summer reading, along with their year-long and wildly popular Extreme Book Nerd reading challenge.



Check with your local public library about Adult Summer Reading in your community, or make your own summer reading program by joining any of the plentiful online reading challenges.

Prefer a more social experience? Perhaps teachers would like to form a summer-only book club. Some of us enjoy the satisfaction of tacking up a good reading list, and getting down to business. No social, competitive, or prize-winning element needed to check those titles off the list.

Whatever your preferred model, the point is that continuing to read is important for all of us, students and educators alike. Reading keeps us informed, can help us stay abreast of what our students are reading, [plays a role in brain health and disease prevention](#), makes us better writers, helps manage stress, and makes us more interesting conversationalists. When in doubt, "What are you reading?" can almost always get the conversation moving again.

So, this summer, read something fun, or read something good for you, or whatever you like. Just follow the advice you offer to students: keep reading.

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



NPR's Book Concierge

The Book Concierge helps narrow down choices to the stuff you are in the mood to read.

<https://apps.npr.org/best-books-2017/#/>

2019 YRCA Nominees

Looking for juvenile and young adult titles? The 2019 Young Readers Choice Award Nominees are available!

<https://sites.google.com/site/yrcomontana/>

19 Books that Will Keep You Up All Night Reading

More into short stories and essays? This list has a bit of both, mixed in with some nonfiction and fiction.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/19-summer-books-will-keep-night-reading>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



If you spend more time on the go than on the beach during the summer, give audio books a try!

Most of Idaho's public libraries provide access to audio books via digital download. They are available even without a stop at the library! Visit the library's website, download the app for their digital service, transfer the book to your portable device, and start listening! When the book is due, it returns itself.

DIGITAL TOOLS



LiLI Tools for Schools:

Looking for your next great read, or to help someone find theirs? NoveList Plus and NoveList Plus K-8 have you covered! With appeal-mixers (and the option to make your own!), read-alikes, and the ability to search by Lexile scores, NoveList is a great one-stop shop for your summer reading needs.



