



LOW HANGING FRUIT

Can't Wait for Summer Reading!

by Jeannie Standal

The 2024 summer reading theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library, and it's so true. As schools set kids loose for summer adventures from traveling far and wide to camping in the backyard, they can all enjoy adventure in a great story.

The Summer Slide is no match for a summer full of reading, however sitting down with a print novel isn't every kid's (or grown-up's) idea of a good time. But who said that every summer reading adventure had to be in the form of a novel in print? Books come in many formats, we can read in many ways, and any kid (or grownup) can have a summer adventure by finding the right story in the right format for them.

- Ebooks offer fonts and character sizes that make reading easier and more fun for those with dyslexia, low vision, or other differences that make print difficult. They also offer dictionary functions for those developing vocabulary, or who are curious about a new word.
- Audiobooks are a wonderful choice for families on the go. Whether listening together in the car or through earbuds on a plane, audio is the best way to enjoy a good story and battle motion sickness. Audio is also a great choice for kids learning English, or for those who are still learning to decode. Yes, they are real reading.
- Graphic novels are hugely popular with readers of all ages and abilities, and they provide an access point for reluctant readers and for those learning English. Also real reading.
- Hi/Lo books are written at a lower reading level but are of high interest. They are a fantastic way for kids who thought they didn't like to read to discover great stories!

Don't forget that summer reading is meant to be fun, so maybe reconsider assigning reading levels over the break and let the kids read what they want. Cool activities and programming await them at the local public library over the summer, where they can discover the adventures that can be had in a good book.

“Come with me,” Mom says. “To the library. Books and summertime go together.”

- Lisa Schroeder



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LINKS TO MORE
LEARNING



Summers: Some Are Reading, Some Are Not! It Matters

By Anne McGill-Franzen, Natalia Ward, Maria Cahill

Does reading over the summer really combat the Summer Slide? Yes! Especially for our students from families living in poverty.

From Reading Rockets:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/summer-reading/articles/summers-some-are-reading-some-are-not-it-matters>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Find your Local Public Library on the [Idaho Library Directory](#) from ICfL. Use the filter tool to search for libraries in your city or county. Note the address, and visit the website to learn about Summer Reading Programming for your students.

DIGITAL TOOLS



Novelist Plus: Novelist Plus is a great reader's advisory tool, but did you know you can browse by appeal, as well? Once you're logged in to Novelist Plus, click the Browse By button on the orange ribbon at the top of the screen, then select Appeal. Want something funny? Select "Tone" and "Amusing," and Novelist will find funny options for summer giggles. Happy Reading!



"Low Hanging Fruit" is available through school libraries and made possible with support from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. For previous editions, go to: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/lowhangingfruit>.

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