



LOW HANGING FRUIT

Will there be a Summer Reading program this year?

By Jeannie Standal

While Summer Reading is important every year, with the de facto extension of summer break, it seems especially important in 2020. Summer Reading programs at the public library will likely look a little different this year, and school libraries have been closed since spring break. The shortage of print materials becomes especially problematic when there is no computer, device, or internet connection that lets kids access digital reading materials. There some options, though, to get print materials into kids' hands. Here are a few:

1. Little Free Libraries and similar projects are popping up all over towns, neighborhoods, and even in rural areas. [This map \(https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/\)](https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/) can help families locate a Little Free Library near them. If there isn't a Little Free Library nearby, perhaps a neighborhood summer project could be setting one up.
2. If the school librarian doesn't host one already, ask about setting up an honor collection to be kept in a bin in an area accessible to students all summer, like under an awning in front of the school. These books could be those that are donated, weeded from the collection, or be more of a "take one, leave one" arrangement. Many school offer some sort of access to books in the summer—ask the school librarian and principal about the possibilities for your school.
3. Many public libraries are providing curb-side pick up, so check with your local public library to learn about their plans to provide service.

Please remind families of the importance of handling used (and new) books with caution. They should wear gloves and quarantine the books for at least 72 hours before reading. It's so hard to wait!

When students do have access to an internet connection and a device, there are quite a few more options for finding reading material including. Here are a few:

4. Your local public library's digital collection of eBooks and audiobooks are always available. Contact your local library to see if they offer special summer cards, even to families who live outside their service area.
5. [OpenLibrary.org](https://openlibrary.org), an initiative of the Internet Archive (the folks who bring us the WayBack Machine) allows kids to choose from thousands of titles, and there are millions more titles for adults.

The first step in planning for Summer Reading is to check in with your Public Library to learn about their Summer Reading plans. Idaho's librarians are creative, resourceful, and working to make books available for all of us this summer!

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



Get Ready for Summer!

This Reading Rockets roundup provides a comprehensive list of ideas for active summer learning, online activities for families, and materials to print and share with parents and students.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>

Summer Reading

These resources, compiled by Read Across America, offer reading recommendations and ideas, and links to research about the importance of summer reading.

<https://www.readacrossamerica.org/kids-summer-reading-list/>

More Great Titles:

For the elementary and middle school sets, Idaho Battle of the Books selections for 2020-2021 can be found at idahobattleofthebooks.org and [Young Readers Choice 2021 Nominations](https://www.youngreaderschoice.com) are ready for reading, too!

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Laying the Groundwork for Summer Reading Starts Now

This School Library Journal article offers practical ideas for how educators can set up students for summer reading success, including ways to increase home access to books during summer, provide resources and support for caregivers, and celebrate students' reading accomplishments in an inclusive manner:

<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=laying-the-groundwork-for-summer-reading-starts-now>

DIGITAL TOOLS



NoveList K-8 Plus

Looking for summer reading inspiration? Use this fun readers' advisory database geared toward the K-8 crowd. Search by ready-made appeal mixes, or make your own! Find great read-alikes by title, author, and series. It's also searchable by age group and reading level. Find NoveList Plus K-8 and other great tools for educators at: https://lili.org/full-resource-index/?wpy_post_search=novelist+k-8&topics=0&user_groups=0



