



JUST READ, FLORIDA!

2015 SUMMER LITERACY ADVENTURE

Florida's First Lady Ann Scott and the Florida Department of Education have partnered with the Florida Lottery and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to announce the 2015 **Summer Literacy Adventure**.

Literacy experts and educators agree that children of all ages need to be read to, read by themselves and talk about the books they have read during the summer. Your student's summer reading and book discussions will help maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency and provide the opportunity to learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime. According to research by Richard Allington (2007), by the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement. Researchers also conclude that two-thirds of the ninth-grade reading achievement gap can be explained by summer learning loss. Let's work together to help students in Florida stay on track and not lose valuable ground in reading.

The 2015 **Summer Literacy Adventure** is geared to help children stay on target, motivated and excited about reading and literacy. During summer vacation, it is important for students of all ages and reading levels to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis.

To make reading even more exciting, we are challenging all of our state's students to pledge to read as many books as possible throughout the summer break and I hope that you will encourage all of the teachers, students and parents in your school to participate. Each student can fill out his or her pledge on the Just Read, Florida! website at [Summer Literacy Pledge](#). Following the summer break, the department will recognize the top 10 schools with the highest percentage of participation. The school whose students read the most books will receive a surprise visit from First Lady Ann Scott.

In addition to this challenge, here are some suggestions and resources for you as the district literacy leader to share with administrators, reading coaches and teachers in every school in your community to encourage reading. Thank you for your continued efforts to provide Florida's students the resources and support they need to be successful in school and in life.

2015 SUMMER LITERACY ADVENTURE SUGGESTIONS AND RESOURCES:

- Provide tips to parents for summer reading. (See Parent Tips for Summer attachment)
- Provide Just Read, Florida! parent brochures for parents of elementary school and secondary students. (See parent brochures attached.)
- Use up any remaining Parent-Teacher Organizational funds at the school or district levels, by providing summer book-packs. Book-packs include age-appropriate books at the student's reading level with follow-up activities for students to complete during the summer break.
 - Materials that support the themes of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics);
 - Materials that foster parental involvement, reinforce learning at home and support Florida Standards; and
 - Resources that include, when possible, online engagement.
- Consider having "Open Library Nights" at your schools where children and parents can come and check out books and read at the school library. Media specialists may want to track grade-level participation and recognize these children/grades at a schoolwide **2015 Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration**.
- Consider allowing children to use classroom library books or media center books as tools to meet the **Summer Literacy Adventure** challenge. Books can be checked out during summer library hours.



PARENT TIPS FOR SUMMER READING

- Consider sending phone messages via your district's automated messaging system to all students, encouraging them to keep reading and be part of the **Summer Literacy Adventure** when they return to school. This message can come from the superintendent, principal, reading coach or classroom teacher.
- Consider using the school website to promote the **Summer Literacy Adventure**.
- When students return to school in the fall, coordinate a **Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration** for the students who participated.
- Consider having rewards or prizes for students who complete the **Summer Literacy Adventure**.
- Encourage your students to visit their local libraries during the break.
- Invite your students to use the "Find a Book" tool to identify books geared toward their interests, <https://www.lexile.com/fab/fl/>.
- Engage in "Just Take 20," which empowers families in their role as literacy developers by helping parents and adults find teachable moments and encouraging the addition of 20 minutes of real-time reading in their everyday lives. Engaging parents in family literacy is a worthwhile endeavor because it helps students form the positive habits, attitudes and dispositions that result in lifelong learning and productive citizenry. Learn more at www.justtake20.org.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT, PARENT AND TEACHER RESOURCES:

Students:

- **Just Read, Florida!** website provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
- **For Teens, By Teens** recommended reading list. <http://www.justreadflorida.com/recommend/PublicDisplay.asp>
- **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Program** is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://www.floridamedia.org/?page=ssyrahome>
- **KidsReads** offers an excellent annotated list of classic and new books arranged by age level. <http://www.kidsreads.com/>
- **Children's Book Council** website offers an alphabetical listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their websites. <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>

Parents:

- **Reading Rockets** is a great resource for parents and teachers. <http://www.readingrockets.org/guides/readingrockets>
 - Click on the following links for more information and guidance.
 - [Launching Young Readers Guides](#)
 - [Reading Rockets Parent Tip Sheets](#)
 - [A Tale of Two Schools Guides](#)
 - Parents will be thrilled with the summer travel activities <http://www.familyeducation.com/home/>. Explore games, activities and crafts for children.
 - **Summer Time Reading** a parent resource. http://www.rif.org/documents/us/summer_reading.pdf
 - **Just Read, Florida!** website provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
 - **Just Read, Families!** <http://www.justreadfamilies.org/>
 - **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Program** is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://www.floridamedia.org/?page=ssyrahome>
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- **Education World** a list of activities is provided on this site to extend your child's understanding of what he or she reads in addition to an annotated list of recommended reading for kindergarten through eighth grade. http://www.education-world.com/summer_reading
- **KidsReads** offers an excellent annotated list of classic and new books arranged by age level. <http://www.kidsreads.com/>
- **Learn More About Favorite Authors and Illustrators** after reading a book this summer, you and your child may enjoy looking at the author or illustrator's website. Most authors include information about themselves and their books as well as information about how to send them a message. Check out these sites for more links to authors' and illustrators' websites:
- **Children's Book Council** website offers an alphabetical listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their websites. <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>
- Excerpts from "Why Summers Matter in the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap" by Richard Allington & Anne McGill-Franzen (2009) <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/face/lib/funding/WhySummersMatterintheRich-PoorAchmtGapAllington.pdf>
- "Summer Reading Loss" by Maryann Mraz and Timothy V. Rasinski (2007) http://www.Ldonline.org/article/Summer_Reading_Loss?theme=print

Teachers:

- **Reading Rockets** is a great resource for parents and teachers. <http://www.readingrockets.org/guides/readingrockets>
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 - **KidsReads** offers an excellent annotated list of classic and new books arranged by age level. <http://www.kidsreads.com/>
 - **International Literacy Association** provides a unique, annotated, downloadable list of literature chosen by children and teachers each year from 1998 to 2013 arranged by reading level. <http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists.aspx>
 - **Learn More About Favorite Authors and Illustrators** after reading a book this summer, you and your child may enjoy looking at the author or illustrator's website. Most authors include information about themselves and their books as well as information about how to send them a message. Check out these sites for more links to authors' and illustrators' websites:
 - **Children's Book Council** website offers an alphabetical listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their websites. <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>
 - Excerpts from "Why Summers Matter in the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap" by Richard Allington & Anne McGill-Franzen (2009) <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/face/lib/funding/WhySummersMatterintheRich-PoorAchmtGapAllington.pdf>
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