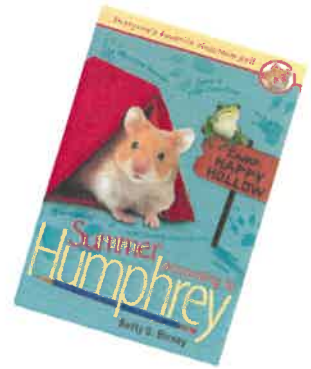




Family Summer Reading



Dear Crete Elementary Families,

We know that the last few years have been a challenge for many families. We would like for our students to take a break from technology and spend time reading together as a family. Crete Elementary will be providing a novel for each student to read with their family over the summer. Students in grades K-2 will receive *Summer according to Humphrey* and students in grades 3-5 will receive *The One and Only Ivan*. Summer presents an opportunity for families to play an active role in the benefits of summer reading. Along with our school we want parents, guardians, and other relatives caring for children to become the best reading partners for their kids. Once you have read the novel together as a family we ask that the students, along with your help, complete the attached reflection on what you've read. Students can return their reflections to school in August to receive a prize.

Happy summer reading!



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO READ OVER THE SUMMER?



Research shows that **students can maintain or improve reading skills** when they are out of school for the summer.

Access to books over the summer increases reading opportunities and enjoyment of books, and **helps students be ready for next school year.**

Students who read **at least five books** during the summer can maintain important literacy skills.

5 TIPS FOR MAKING READING PART OF THE FUN!

Lead by example.

Make reading a part of your own summer routine. One of the biggest factors that determine if a student will be a lifelong reader is seeing someone in their family set that example. Keep lots of reading material around the house and set aside 10-15 minutes a day for your child to read or you to read to them.

Make a "Summer Fun Journal."

Combine your children's favorite summer activities with writing prompts. Have children pick out or craft a summer fun journal, and when you take them to their favorite restaurant, or on a trip to Grandma's, they can write a short entry in their journal afterwards.

Read everything, everywhere.

Have your child read billboards, signs, and pamphlets. If you go on a trip to the park or pool, have children be responsible for reading park and pool signs, rules, and anything else that they see!

Take your child on regular trips to the library.

Taking a trip to the library is a fun reading centered activity that children love. Make regular visits to the library and let children spend as much or as little time as they want picking out books to take home.

When reading, ask your child lots of questions.

Reading lots of different books, silently or aloud with someone else, helps children build phonics skills and read fluently. And, talking about books, answering questions, and re-telling stories helps children develop their ability to understand language.



HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR STUDENT AT HOME?

BEFORE READING



- Read the title, author, and illustrator.
- Why did you choose this book to read?
- Flip through the pictures and make observations about what you notice and make predictions about what you think the book will be about.
- Set a purpose for reading. For example: Say, "Let's read to find out more about ____."



DURING READING

- Look for words that start with familiar letters. For example, if your child knows the letter 'c' have them find at least 3-4 words in the book that start with 'c'.
- Who are the main characters?
- What is the setting of the story?
- Describe the illustration or picture.
- What happened on this page?
- If it is a non-fiction book: What have you learned on this page? So far?



AFTER READING



- Discuss what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
- What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- If it is a non-fiction book: What important information did you learn about the topic?

How to Beat the Summer Slide

For children, summer vacation is a time full of carefree fun. At Reading Partners, however, we look at summer as a continuation of the learning and building upon the skills we've been working on all school year. [Conclusive Research](#) has proven the existence of what many educators refer to as "Summer Slide", or the unfortunate decline in a student's abilities after two-and-a-half months summer learning hiatus.



June is routinely seen as the 'end' of the school year and August as the 'start' of another. Such jargon sets families up to view summer as an educational pause. Unfortunately, in 'pausing' a child's education, regular practice of newly learned skills is often neglected, and as a result, students can return to school in August as much as 3-months behind where they left off in June.

Engaging kids in fun summer learning activities motivates them to continue their growth in reading and learning throughout the summer, and even helps students become excited about returning to school and starting the year off strong.

Here are 7 tips for making reading part of the fun:

- 1. Take your child on regular trips to the library.** Taking a trip to the library is a fun reading centered activity that children love. Make regular visits to the library and let your child spend as much or as little time as they want picking out books to take home.
- 2. Make reading part of the summer routine.** Now, this can be a hard sell next to television, video games, and other modern distractions. If you're having trouble, do what my mom did: thirty minutes of reading earned me one ticket, which I could then trade in for thirty minutes of "screen time."
- 3. Lead by example.** Make reading a part of your own summer routine. One of the biggest factors that determine if a student will be a lifelong reader is seeing someone in their family set that example. Keep lots of reading material around the house and focus on reading more than other distractions.
- 4. When reading, ask your child lots of questions.** Reading lots of different books, silently or aloud, with someone else helps children build phonic skills and read fluently. But, talking about books, answering questions, and re-telling stories helps a child develop their ability to understand language.
- 5. Make a "Summer Fun Journal."** Combine your child's favorite summer activities with writing prompts. Have your child pick out or craft a summer fun journal, and when you take them to their favorite restaurant, or on a trip to Grandma's, they can write a short entry in their journal afterwards.

6. Prompt your child to use academic-concepts when talking about the things they love. If your son or daughter is dying to tell you about the level s/he just beat in his game, ask him to “explain” the level, and “describe” the “main character,” or ask him/her to “retell” the story of a movie or favorite show

7. Read everything, everywhere. Have your child read billboards, signs, and pamphlets. If you go on a trip to a theme park, have your child be responsible for the map and have them read the rules and names of rides.

The key to success with summer reading is to help make the reading part of the fun; Making the Library a fun destination, turning the act of reading into a game, and combining literacy skills with the things your children already love. It's possible to keep kids academically practiced while also letting them enjoy the lightness of their youth.

Photo by Jessica Lucia via Compfight

Be a Reading Role Model

According to the Scholastic Kids and Family Reading Report, "Parents of frequent readers are more likely to be frequent readers themselves."

Simply put, if you want your child to read more, show your child that you also enjoy reading. Kids imitate what their parents do!

Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report, 7th Edition
<https://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/home.html>



READING PARTNERS

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Share your own reading interests with your child.

Do you enjoy cookbooks? Blogs? The newspaper? Talk to your child about what you like to read.



When you check-out or buy a book for your child, pick something out for yourself.

This sends the message that reading isn't just for kids. You might even have your child help you select what to read.

Bring reading materials with you wherever you go as a family.

When you head to the park or to visit a relative, pack your bag with reading materials for yourself and your child. If you travel on public transportation, that's also a great time to read together. Whenever you have downtime, use this as an opportunity to read together.



Get caught reading!

Set aside time to read in front of your child. Show your child your love of reading by reading a chapter of your favorite novel, or an article in a magazine. Share an interesting fact or your opinion on what you read and discuss it with your child.



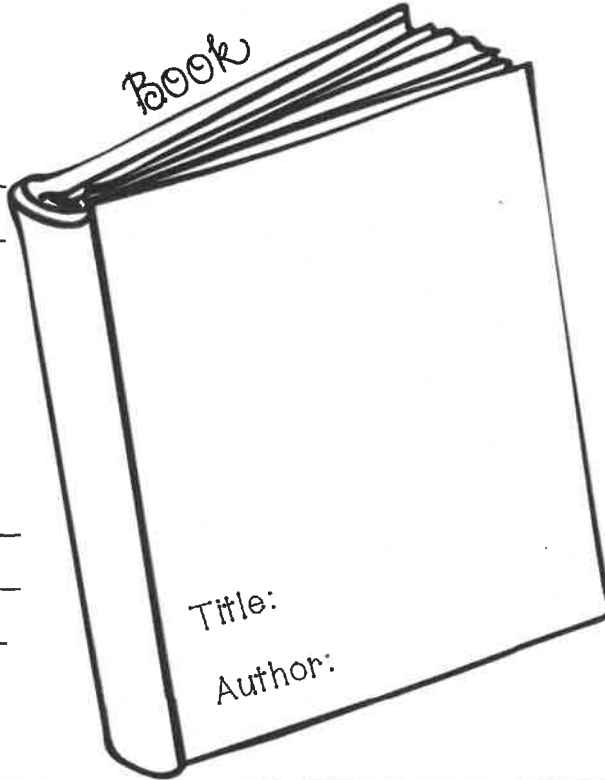
My Reading Reflection

By: _____

Main Idea: _____

Character(s):

Setting:



Problem:

Solution:

Plot

Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

Personal Response

Connection: _____

Emotion: _____

Rating: _____

