

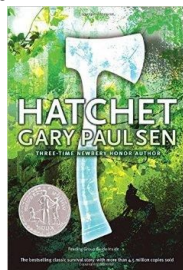


Summer Reading for 5th Grade

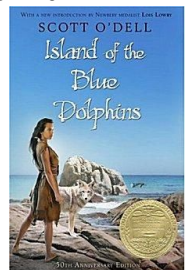
Required Reading

Students entering the 5th grade are required to choose one of the following books to read over the summer:

Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen
(Book cover illustrations may vary)



Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Dell
(Book cover illustrations may vary)



Upon returning to school in August, the class will engage in a “Book Celebration” in which students will apply what they have learned from their summer reading book through an assessment, discussion and/or engaging activities. Your child’s teacher will share detailed information with students once school begins in August.

Pleasure Reading

We encourage students to spend time over the summer reading books for pleasure. In elementary school, each child is developing as a reader. To develop strength in this area, children need lots of time to read many different books which interest them. Not only does this allow your child to practice their reading skills, but regular reading also affects a child’s vocabulary development and success in school.

Why is Summer Reading Important?

Research has proven that the impact of summer reading loss can be significant. Studies also show that access to books during the summer prevents a drastic loss in reading skill.

- If your child is among the top 25 percent of readers for their age, they will probably continue to make some progress during the summer.
- If your child is an average reader for their age, they will likely remain steady or fall slightly during the summer.
- If your child is among the students who have made slower reading achievement during the school year, they are at risk of suffering from a significant reading loss over the summer.
- Research has shown that the best predictor of reading achievement is the amount of time spent reading. The more time a child spends reading, the better reader they become. So the best thing you can do for your child is reading to them, reading with them, and giving them opportunities for more reading.

Ideas for Summer Reading



- Provide many reading options. Help your child select books that feel “friendly/familiar” to other books they have enjoyed. Check out series books. Not only is it fun to follow familiar characters through new adventures and experiences, but reading through a book series can help readers grow!
- Visit the library. Not only can the library help your child find quality, interesting books, many local libraries also have great summer reading programs.
- Don’t view reading as a chore. Create a positive environment for reading so that children look forward to it. You don’t HAVE to read. You GET to read.
- Motivation is key. For those reluctant readers, an incentive or goal to work toward may provide motivation for reading. For example, the child could earn a designated amount of money for every finished book, or a special privilege after a designated number of pages or books have been read.
- Make reading time a prerequisite to “technology” or “TV” time.
- Reading doesn’t have to only be books. Get a magazine about your child’s favorite hobby. Turn on the captions and turn down the volume when watching television. Look for information on the web together.
- Your day-to-day routines can provide reading experiences—cooking, reading instructions for a new game, reading maps or brochures for your vacation spots. All of these are authentic reading experiences.
- Read during transition times. Get some more reading time in during the drive to Grandma’s house or while waiting for the dentist.
- Read to your child—yes, even upper elementary children. You get quality time together, you are a great reading model, and it provides opportunities for great parent-child talks.
- Keep reading your child’s favorites. Reading books that are a little easy or are even memorized builds confidence and fluency.
- Talk about books. Ask your child open-ended questions such as, “What do you think about this story?” and “What would you have done if you were that character?”
- Support your child’s writing. There is no better letter/sound practice than writing. Provide supplies and opportunities for your child to write—letters, lists, messages, vacation journal, scrapbook, etc. Don’t worry about spelling or mechanics—just praise your child’s efforts.