



Family Participation Guide

For children ages 7 & up

Find reading tips and activities to help your reader have fun with books all summer!

www.scholastic.com/summer



reachoutandread.org



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Dear Parent,

For kids, summer can be a season full of learning opportunities...or learning losses. At Scholastic and Reach Out and Read, we know that reading every day will help lead to greater success in life. Just as baseball players need to keep practicing during the off-season, kids need to keep reading even when school is out of session. Reading requires practice, and it's important that children take time to read during the summer so they don't suffer from the "Summer Slide" – the loss of core reading and learning skills that occurs when kids don't read during the summer break from school.

Here are a few easy ways to help your children fall in love with books this summer:

- Don't underestimate the **POWER OF CHOICE**. According to the recent Kids & Family Reading Report, 91% of kids say they are likely to finish a book they have picked out themselves. Help your child find a book that matches his/her interests. Building on their interests can stimulate a love for reading, even among lower-achieving readers.
- Kids need to **READ**, but they don't need to read **HARD** books. When kids read texts that are too difficult, they read with little comprehension and do not improve their reading skills. Help your child find a book that is appropriate for his/her reading level. It's that simple. If they love to read, they will develop a passion for books and will want to read more.
- Make books **ACCESSIBLE**. Having books all around the house or while traveling in the car are great ways to encourage your kids to pick one up and read.

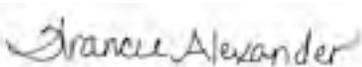
Most of all summer reading needs to be **FUN** for kids. That's why we invite you and your children to join the 2012 Scholastic Summer Challenge, a free online reading program that motivates kids to read. Between May 1 – August 31, 2012, kids can participate in weekly challenges, earn digital rewards, enter sweepstakes to win fabulous prizes, find great books to read, and more.

Here's how **YOU** can get involved and help keep your kids reading. Visit www.scholastic.com/summer and...

- Find **expert tips** to encourage your child to read more this summer
- Download summer reading **book lists** to help your child pick a book they want to read
- **Print activity sheets, reading certificates**, and more
- Receive **email alerts** on your child's weekly reading success
- Download the **NEW** and free **Scholastic Reading Timer mobile app** at <http://www.scholastic.com/apps> (available for iPhones, iPad and Droid devices) to log minutes on the go.

For more tips on raising a reader, please visit scholastic.com/parents. To learn about the importance of reading aloud to children from birth through age 5, visit www.reachoutandread.org.

Have a great summer, and happy reading!



Francie Alexander
Chief Academic Officer
Scholastic Inc.



Earl Martin Phalen
Chief Executive Officer
Reach Out and Read



Keep Kids Reading All Summer Long!

How to use Scholastic Summer Challenge at home with your kids

This summer, Scholastic and Reach Out and Read invite your children to join the Scholastic Summer Challenge (www.scholastic.com/summer), a FREE online reading program dedicated to stopping the “Summer Slide,” the loss or reading and learning skills during the summer.

Now in its sixth year, the Summer Challenge invites kids to log the minutes they spend reading as they *Read for the World Record*. The record set in 2011 was 64,231,141 minutes, and with the help of your readers, we hope to set a new record for summer 2012. The 20 schools with the most minutes logged will receive recognition in the *2013 Scholastic Book of World Records*. So cheer on your children as they read on behalf of their school.

All summer kids can come back to the website to participate in the weekly reading challenges, log their minutes and earn digital rewards and enter sweepstakes to win fun prizes.

You can get involved too:

- Encourage your child to sign-up at www.scholastic.com/summer
- Access the parent section for free articles, and activities around reading – plus watch a “How To” video
- Download the NEW Scholastic Reading Timer app on your phone to log your child’s reading minutes, track their reading progress and access tips, articles and summer book lists
- Print out the summer reading activity sheets in this guide

To learn more, visit www.scholastic.com/summer.

Which kids' chapter books are perfect for your child?

As your child transitions from a beginning reader who needs to sound out each simple word to a more advanced reader who is starting to decode faster and follow longer and more complicated stories, kids' chapter books become the reading material of choice. But kids' chapter books come in lots of different styles with various kinds of content — how do you know which are just-right for your young reader? Use this guide to match your child with the perfect book.

What exactly are kids' chapter books?

Early readers focus on very short books that are light on text and heavy on pictures and illustrations. As they become more confident, children can transition to kids' chapter books — stories that are long enough to be divided into chapters, but not as long or complicated as a novel. Chapter books still feature illustrations, but fewer than early readers' picture books. Generally speaking, children become ready to transition to kids' chapter books at around age 7 or 8.

For independent readers

Children who took an active role in the read-alouds you shared — holding the book, flipping the pages herself, memorizing parts of the story — are likely to be enthusiastic about diving into the world of kids' chapter books. They need very little encouragement or supervision — just point them toward the books and get out of the way! Independent readers will devour pretty much anything, but you know your child's tastes. For fans of tense thrillers, recommend some Gordon Korman; kids who prefer more familiar settings, like classrooms and hallways, could try Sara Pennypacker and her Clementine series. Also see our book list Books of Interest to Independent Readers for more tips.

For reluctant readers

Even if you've been a passionate reader to your child throughout the early years, sometimes it takes a little extra to show her the joys of reading for pleasure. If trips to the library are producing groans in your 1st or 2nd grader, don't despair. It's perfectly normal for children to struggle with reading once the books become longer and harder to follow. Try introducing your reluctant reader to series, like the Junie B. Jones or Magic Tree House books. Once your child knows the basic structure and characters, it's easier to get into the story. And they tend to become addictive! Find a list of series here to get started.

Classics to share

One of the great joys of kids' chapter books is in sharing the books you loved as a child with your newly independent reader. It's impossible to forget the first time you read the Boxcar Children series or Charlotte's Web, and now you can reread it along with your child, discovering all over again what made you a book-lover. Don't be afraid to keep reading books aloud with your child! Try our Timeless Chapter Books list to jog your memory.

Making family reading time is a vital way to help your child become an expert reader. Carving out family reading time is easier than you think and a great way for families to connect and have fun at the same time.

By Anne Becker Schwartzberg

1. Nourishing the Meal Time

Have your kids read recipes aloud to you while you're cooking dinner. From ingredient lists to cooking directions, this kind of family reading will help build vocabulary, fluency... and dessert!

2. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

While your family is eating together, discuss what your favorite characters would have for dinner – Frederick (<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/lionni>) the mouse might like ARTichokes while Strega Nona could have a craving for tacos! Incorporating characters of favorite stories into your eating routine is a delicious way to promote deep thinking about character traits and motivation.

3. Story Charades

Choose a story your family knows well – like a well-read book or fairytale -- and act out the beginning, middle, and end of the story. If you have more family than characters, a few could do the acting and the others can be the audience or be the narrator. This activity helps readers reexamine and understand story lines and details.

4. Who Am I?

Choose one of your child's favorite book characters, then describe his or her personality traits, problems, and physical descriptions until she guesses the character's identity. This game is a fun way to pass time when you're stuck in traffic or at a bus stop.

5. Book Nooks

Create "book nooks" with your child. Book nooks are comfy places to sit and read. They should have good lighting and containers filled with sticky notes, colorful pens, pencils, and a small dictionary. Book nooks will

motivate your children not only to read, but to select favorite parts with sticky notes, or look up words they don't know.

6. Marking the Spot

Making book marks together is a great, simple family reading activity. Just cut bookmark-sized cardboard from cereal or shoe boxes, then get crafty! Use brightly-colored markers to write titles, authors, and favorite quotes. Younger readers can draw or cut and paste pictures from old magazines.

7. Reach Out and Read

Boost family reading by involving loved-ones who live far away. Using Skype or another video conferencing program, have your child share a book with relatives. Make sure the book is one that your reader has read a few times already; repetition is a fantastic way to enhance reading skills. Younger readers love to show-off their fluency, and oral reading builds confidence. Grandma will be pretty thrilled as well.

8. Kid Karaoke

Download songs and their lyrics (<http://www.aalyrics.com/>) for a family karaoke night. Seeing words and singing them at the same time is a fun way to develop vocabulary...and practice your Elvis impersonations!

9. Family Reading Web pages

Using simple and free online programs, create a family reading Web page (<http://www.freewebtemplates.com/>). Include sections for each family member's book reviews, favorite book lists, "authors I'd like to lunch with" lists, pictures of famous authors, links to local libraries, kid-safe fan pages, and reading games (<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/games/>).

www.scholastic.com/parents

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

(Name)

Participated in the 2012 Scholastic Summer Challenge and read
_____ minutes toward setting a summer reading world record!

(Parent or Guardian)

(Date)





I pledge to help Read for the World Record.

I'll do my part by attempting to read a total of _____ minutes, between _____ and _____
Month/Date/Year *Month/Date/Year*

I promise to log my minutes on the official Web site: www.scholastic.com/summer.

Signed,

Name Age Parent



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I pledge to help Read for the World Record.

I'll do my part by attempting to read a total of _____ minutes, between _____ and _____
Month/Date/Year *Month/Date/Year*

I promise to log my minutes on the official Web site: www.scholastic.com/summer.

Signed,

Name Age Parent



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Reading Log

Child's Name _____

Use this reading log to record your time. To make sure your minutes get counted toward the Scholastic World Record, please log them online at www.scholastic.com/summer.

	Book Title	Minutes Read Total
Week 1	_____	_____
Week 2	_____	_____
Week 3	_____	_____
Week 4	_____	_____
Week 5	_____	_____
Week 6	_____	_____
Week 7	_____	_____
Week 8	_____	_____
Week 9	_____	_____
Week 10	_____	_____
Week 11	_____	_____
Week 12	_____	_____
Week 13	_____	_____
Week 14	_____	_____
Week 15	_____	_____
Week 16	_____	_____
Week 17	_____	_____

Total Minutes Read = _____

Make sure to log your minutes at www.scholastic.com/summer



Summer Book Selections

Congratulations! You have just landed a job as a librarian’s assistant. Your first assignment is to help find summer reading titles for four kids who don’t know what to read. Use the information that is listed below to help you pick the right book for the right person. When you’re done with that, pick out some books for yourself. For a list of books, refer to a summer reading list, or hit the library shelves.

Name: Nick
Likes fantasy and all the classics
Recommendation: _____

Name: Soo Yun
Loves realistic fiction and stories about the challenges of being a teen
Recommendation: _____

Name: Cal
Likes to read clever picture books with cool art
Recommendation: _____

Name: Julia
Enjoys mysteries, especially titles that are part of a series
Recommendation: _____

Your name: _____

Pick out four books that you want to read this summer!

I like to read _____

Recommendations:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

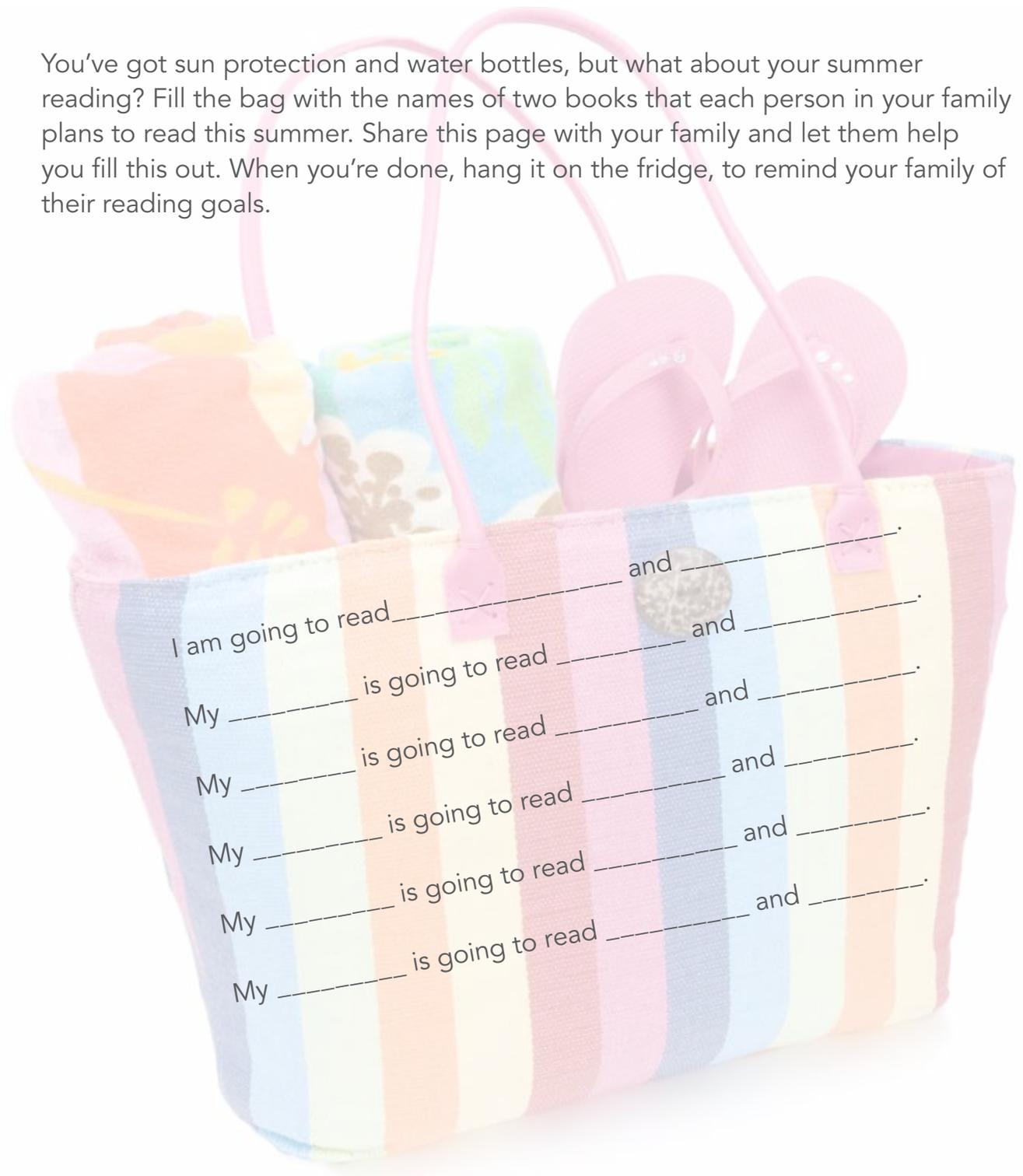


Cut this out and take it with you on your next trip to the library!



What's In Your Family's Beach Bag?

You've got sun protection and water bottles, but what about your summer reading? Fill the bag with the names of two books that each person in your family plans to read this summer. Share this page with your family and let them help you fill this out. When you're done, hang it on the fridge, to remind your family of their reading goals.



27393628 Beach Bag on a white background © Darren Brode/Shutterstock

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WORDGIRL™ DEFINITION MATCH

DIRECTIONS: Each word on the word list matches a definition below. Write the word that matches the definition on the line provided.

WORD LIST

Astound Crumple Admire Tinker Scuffle
 Famished Rogue Meteor Chuckle Magnify

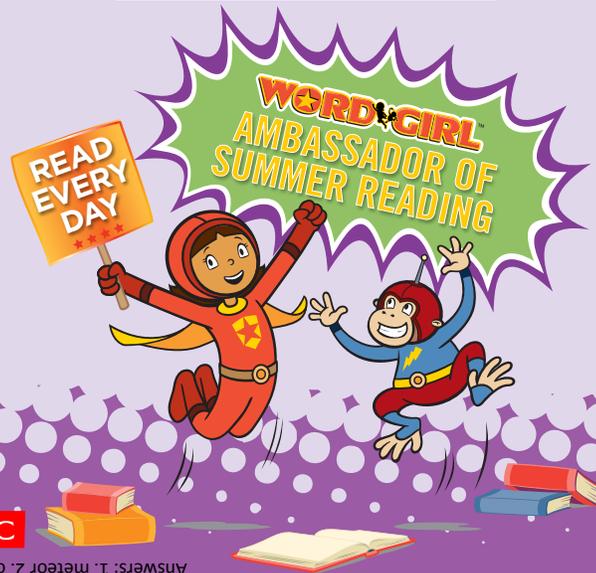
1. A fiery rock that makes a bright trail in the night sky _____
2. To crush something together and make it wrinkly _____
3. To try to fix something without exactly knowing how to _____
4. A mischievous person; a villain _____
5. To make bigger in size _____
6. To laugh quietly to yourself _____
7. To struggle or fight in a confused way _____
8. To astonish or bewilder _____
9. To appreciate or respect something _____
10. To be extremely hungry _____

BONUS:

Complete the following sentence with the correct word from the list above.

Even after Captain Huggy Face helps defeat the Butcher by eating his way through a pastrami attack he is still

_____.



Answers: 1. meteor 2. crumple 3. tinker 4. rogue 5. magnify 6. chuckle 7. scuffle 8. astound 9. admire 10. famished Bonus: famished

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WORDGIRL™ WORD SEARCH

Directions: Search for the words listed below. Words appear straight across, backward, up and down, down and up as well as diagonally.

WORD LIST

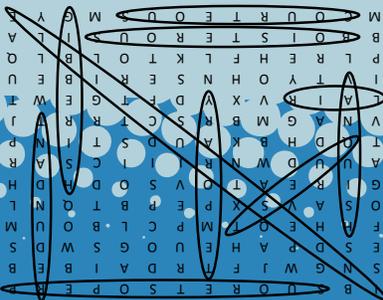
GIBBERISH QUEST TEMPORARY BOISTEROUS PREPOSTEROUS
 COURTEOUS LAIR VANQUISH REDUNDANT INDESTRUCTIBLE

I B S U O R E T S O P E R P
 S N G W J F T R D A I B E B
 E S D P A H E U O G S W D S
 F H H E Q T M P C L B O U M
 O S A V S X P E P B T Q N L
 G I R E A T O V S O D H D H
 A U U D W N R J I I C S A R
 T Q D H B K A U D S T I N P
 V N A G M B R S C T R R T J
 L A I R V X Y D F T G E W T
 I V T Y O H N S E R I B E U
 P L R E H F L K T O L B L Q
 B B O I S T E R O U S I L A
 M C O U R T E O U S M G Y E

Write a sentence using your favorite word from the list.



Answers:





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