

St. Lucy School Library – Summer 2011
Fun Summer Book Titles and Authors for people ages 6-16
Why Reading is Important

Fun Summer Book Titles and Authors

- Alex and the Ironic Gentleman - Kress
- Alexander Fox and the Amazing Mind Reader – Clayton
- Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things - Look
- Artemis Fowl Series - Colfer
- Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring - Greenberg
- Beezus and Ramona Stories – Cleary
- Countdown - Wiles
- Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam - Curtis
- Danitra Brown, Class Clown - Grimes
- The Delicious Chocolate Donut - Weakland
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series - Kinney
- The Dreamer – Ryan
- Elijah of Buxton - Curtis
- Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat - Jonnell
- The Franny K. Stein books - Benton
- A Friendship for Today - McKissack
- Frindle, and any books by – Clements
- Greetings from Planet Earth - Kerley
- The Guardians of Ga'Hoole Series – Lasky
- Igraine the Brave - Funke
- Joe Sherlock Kid Detective Series – Keane
- Magic By the Lake - Eager
- The Magician's Nephew (Chronicles of Narnia) - Lewis
- Matt Christopher Sports Books - Christopher
- The Mysterious Benedict Society - Stewart
- The Name of This Book Is Secret - Bosch
- Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series - Riordan
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes - Coerr
- The Secrets of Droon Series - Abbott
- A Series of Unfortunate Events - Snicket
- The Sisters Grimm Series – Buckley
- Skulduggery Pleasant: Scepter of the Ancients – Landy
- The Small Adventures of Popeye and Elvis – O'Connor
- The Strange Case of Origami Yoda - Angleberger
- Turtle in Paradise – Holm
- Violet Raines Almost Got Struck by Lightning - Haworth
- The Way Things Work - Macaulay
- The Way We Work - Macaulay
- The Wolves in the Walls - Gaiman
- Zorgamazoo - Weston

Why Reading to Children Is Important

What's the most important trait you'd like to develop in your child? If you're like most parents, intelligence is probably at the top of your list. We all want bright, smart children, which is why we spend so much time choosing the right schools and making sure teachers are exceeding expectations. But remember: as a parent, you have the power to boost your children's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives.

Check out: http://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/summer_reading

We all know reading to our kids is a good thing—but are you familiar with the specific advantages your child can receive by being exposed to the merits of reading? Below are some benefits that highlight the importance of reading to your child.

- **A stronger relationship with you.** As your child grows older, he'll be on the move—playing, running, and constantly exploring his environment. Snuggling up with a book lets the two of you slow down and recaptures that sweet, cuddly time you enjoyed when he was younger. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together.

- **Academic excellence.** One of the primary benefits of reading to your child is a higher aptitude for learning in general. Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education. After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the math, science, and social concepts he'll be presented with when he is in elementary school?

- **Basic speech skills.** By listening to you read your child is learning critical language and enunciation skills. You are reinforcing the basic sounds that form language.

- **The basics of how to read a book.** Children aren't born with an innate knowledge that text is read from left to right, or that the words on a page are separate from the images. Essential pre-reading skills like these are among the major benefits of early reading.

- **Better communication skills.** When you spend time reading to your child, they'll be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way. By witnessing the interactions between the characters in the books you read, as well as the contact with you, your child is gaining valuable communication skills.

- **Mastery of languages.** Early reading for children has been linked to a better grasp of the fundamentals of language as they approach school.

- **More logical thinking skills.** Another illustration of the importance of reading to children is their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic in various scenarios, recognize cause and effect, and utilize good judgment. As your child begins to relate the scenarios in books to what's happening in his own world, he'll become more excited about the stories you share.

- **Acclimation to new experiences.** As your child approaches a major developmental milestone or a potentially stressful experience, sharing a relevant story is a great way to help ease the transition. Reading a story dealing with challenging topics shows her that her anxiety is normal.

- **Enhanced concentration and discipline.** Your child may initially squirm and become distracted during story time, but eventually they'll learn to stay put for the duration of the book. Along with reading comprehension comes a stronger self-discipline, longer attention span, and better memory retention, all of which will serve your child well in school.

- **The knowledge that reading is fun!** Reading helps a child view books as an indulgence, not a chore. Kids who are exposed to reading are much more likely to choose books over video games, television, and other forms of entertainment as they grow older.

Books have the power to benefit students in a myriad of ways. As a parent, reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do to prepare him with a foundation for academic excellence.