

**St. Lucy School Library – Summer 2011**  
**Fun Summer Book Titles for people ages 10-16**  
**Why Summer Reading is Important**  
**Literacy Advice for Families**  
**26 Advantages to Reading**

**Fun Summer Book Titles and Authors:**

Return to Sender by Alvarez  
Chains by Anderson  
Forge by Anderson  
Anything But Typical by Baskin  
All the Broken Pieces by Burg  
Graceling by Cashore  
Al Capone Does My Shirts by Choldenko  
Extra Credit by Clements  
The Hunger Games by Collins  
Revolution is Not a Dinner Party: A Novel by Compestine  
Waiting for Normal by Connor  
Out of My Mind by Draper  
Mockingbird by Erskine  
Ranger's Apprentice Series by Flannigan  
Beastly by Flinn  
If I Stay by Forman  
The Graveyard Book by Gaiman  
How to Survive Middle School by Gephart  
A Tale Dark and Grimm by Gidwitz  
Scat by Hiaasen  
The Water Seeker by Holt  
Dying to Meet You by Klise  
Swindle by Korman  
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Lin  
Every Soul a Star by Mass  
The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester by O'Connor  
Half Brother by Opper  
A Long Walk to Water by Park  
All Shook Up by Pearsall  
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Philbrick  
Heart of a Samurai by Preus  
Happy Birthday Mr. Kang by Roth  
The Dreamer by Ryan  
Okay for Now by Schmidt  
After Ever After by Sonnenblick  
Moon Over Manifest by Vanderpool  
Love, Ruby Lavender by Wiles  
Each Little Bird That Sings by Wiles  
One Crazy Summer by Williams-Garcia  
Locomotion by Woodson

Check out: [http://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/summer\\_reading](http://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/summer_reading)

**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.**

**Why should students read for pleasure?**

**Try to find things that interest you. Maybe some ideas about a career you might be interested in to explore what it would be like to be in that career. Fiction or non-fiction books can both be entertaining and fun. The important thing is to read. If you can read, you can do anything. *Those who will not read have no advantage over those who cannot read.***

## ***Literacy Advice for Families***

### **Literacy tips for early readers**

- Point out print in the child's environment: on cereal boxes, food labels, toys, restaurants, and traffic signs.
- Sing songs, say short poems or nursery rhymes, and play rhyming words games with your child.
- Tell stories to your child.
- Read aloud to your child. Point to the words on the page as you read.
- Read a short passage several times to your child until your child can read it with you. Then encourage your child to read the passage to you.
- Encourage older children to read with younger children.
- Encourage your child to read (or pretend read) to you. Make this reading enjoyable. Don't worry if your child does not read all of the words correctly but, rather, applaud your child's efforts to read.
- Go to the library together.
- Have books, magazines, and newspapers around the house. Let your child see you reading.
- Encourage your child to write messages such as grocery lists, to-do lists, postcards, or short messages to family members or friends. Don't worry about conventional spelling at this point but, rather, encourage your child's first efforts at authorship.
- When watching television, have the captioning feature enabled so that the children view the words while hearing them performed aloud.

### **Literacy tips for more advanced readers**

- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading. Ask open-ended questions such as "What do you think about that story?" "What would you have done if you were that character?"
- Make reading and writing a regular part of your daily home activities. Let your child see you using reading and writing for real purposes.
- Visit the public library. Help your child to get his or her own library card.
- Read to your child regularly, even after your child is able to read some books independently.
- Listen to your child read. Use strategies to help your child with tricky words. For example, when your child comes to an unfamiliar word, you might say, "Skip it and read to the end of the sentence. Now try again – what makes sense and looks like the word that you see?"
- Praise your child's efforts at reading.
- Play word games such as thinking of different words to describe the same things.
- Support your child's writing. Have writing materials such as paper, markers, and pencils available. Read what your child writes.
- Set reasonable limits for television viewing.

Adapted from Mraz, Padak, & Baycich (2002).

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# The 26 Major Advantages to Reading More Books and Why 3 in 4 People are Being Shut Out of Success by Brad Isaac

Associated Press poll revealed that 1 in 4 adults read no books last year. Yes, that's 25% of the adults out there are reading **zero** books. This is sad. I knew intuitively the number of books read each year had gone down but to zero? Ridiculous! And what about the adults who are reading more than zero books a year. How many are they reading in all? One? Five? Actually, the same poll reveals the average adult reads only four books per year. Half of those people read less than four. If you are one of the non-book readers who feels you "*don't need no stinking books*", here are 26 great reasons to start the habit...before you are left behind!

**1. Reading is an active mental process** – Unlike TV, books make you to use your brain. By reading, you think more and become smarter.

**2. It is a fundamental skill builder** - Every good course on the planet has a matching book to go with it. Why? Because books help clarify difficult subjects. Books provide information that goes deeper than just classroom discussion.

**3. Improves your vocabulary** – Remember in elementary school when you learned how to infer the meaning of one word by reading the context of the other words in the sentence? You get the same benefit from book reading. While reading books, especially challenging ones, you will find yourself exposed to many new words you wouldn't be otherwise.

**4. Gives you a glimpse into other cultures and places** – What is your favorite vacation spot? I would bet you read a lot about that destination. The more information the better. Books can expand your horizons by letting you see what other cities and countries have to offer before you visit them.

**5. Improves concentration and focus** – Like I pointed out before, reading books takes brainpower. It requires you to focus on what you are reading for long periods. Unlike magazines, Internet posts or e-Mails that might contain small chunks of information. Books tell the whole story. Since you must concentrate in order to read, like a muscle, you will get better at concentration.

**6. Builds self-esteem** – By reading more books, you become better informed and more of an expert on the topics you read about. This expertise translates into higher self-esteem. Since you are so well read, people look to you for answers. Your feelings about yourself can only get better.

**7. Improves memory** – Many studies show if you don't use your memory, you lose it. Crossword puzzles are an example of a word game that staves off Alzheimer's. Reading, although not a game, helps you stretch your *memory muscles* in a similar way. Reading requires remembering details, facts and figures and in literature, plot lines, themes and characters.

**8. Improves your discipline** – Obviously, if 1 in 4 people don't read one book per year, then there is a discipline issue. There may be many causes for people not reading books such as the "quips" of information you can get on the Internet. TV is also a major distracter. Making time to read is something we all know we should do, but who schedules book reading time every day? Very few... That's why adding book reading to your daily schedule and sticking to it, improves discipline.

**9. Learn anywhere** – Books are portable. You can take them almost anywhere. As such, you can learn almost anywhere too.

**10. Improves creativity** – by reading more books and exposing yourself to new and more complete information, you will also be able to come up with more creative ideas. As a personal example, I read many, many books on IT Networking. So often, when IT Admins are stumped with a problem, I can come up with a creative (smack your head simple) solution that isn't written anywhere. But the reason I can do that is because I have read so many books on the subject, I can combine lessons from all of them into new solutions.

**11. Gives you something to talk about** – Have you ever run out of stuff to talk about with your best friend, wife or husband? This can be uncomfortable. It might even make married couples wonder if their marriage is in trouble. However, if you read a lot of books, you'll always have something to talk about. You can discuss various plots in the novels you read, you can discuss the stuff you are learning in the business books you are reading as well. The possibilities of sharing are endless.

**12. Books are inexpensive entertainment** – What's the average price of a movie ticket these days? \$8 – \$10? You can buy a paperback for that price and be entertained for many hours more. If you have a used bookstore nearby, you can get them even cheaper.

*Tip: Once you make reading a habit, you'll enjoy reading the books in your chosen career as well.*

**13. You can learn at your own pace** – Where formal education requires time commitments, books have no late-bells or hourly commitments. So you can learn at your own pace when you read books.

**14. New mental associations** – I touched on this above. As you read more books the depth and breadth of your knowledge expands and your ability to form new associations increases. In reading a book to discover the solution to one problem, you find the solution to others you may not have considered.

**15. Improves your reasoning skills** – Books for professionals contain arguments for or against the actions within. A book on cooking *argues* that Chili powder goes well with beef and goes poorly with ice-cream. A book on building a business *argues* that testing an idea for profitability before setting up is a smart strategy and argues against just barreling forward with the idea without testing.

You too will be able to reason better with the knowledge you gain. Some of the arguments will rub off on you. Others you will argue against. Regardless, you'll be reasoning better.

**16. Builds your expertise** – Brian Tracy has said one way to become an expert in your chosen field is to read 100 books on the subject. He also said by continuing the same for 5 years you'll become an international expert. With the Internet and blogs, you could hone that time down to 2-3 years if you follow through.

**17. Saves money** – Apart from saving money on entertainment expenses. Reading books that help you develop your skills saves money. Reading books on how someone went bankrupt will be a warning to you against repeating their mistakes. Reading a book on how to build your own backyard deck saves the expense of hiring a contractor.

**18. Decreases mistakes** – Although I would never suggest putting off an important goal because you fear making mistakes, it is still important to sharpen the saw (link to A.L. post). When you gather the *deep and wide* wisdom that books can provide, you are less apt to make mistakes.

**19. You'll discover surprises** - As you read more books as a source of information, you'll learn stuff you weren't looking for. I've read many great quotes on life and love by reading books on

marketing. I've learned facts about biology from reading about chemistry. Heck, I've picked up some facts about history while reading about programming. Since so many subjects intertwine it's almost impossible not to learn something other than the book's subject.

**20. Decreased boredom** – One of the rules I have is if I am feeling bored, I will pick up a book and start reading. What I've found by sticking to this is that I become interested in the book's subject and stop being bored. I mean, if you're bored anyway, you might as well be reading a good book, right?

**21. Can change your life** – How many times have you heard of a book changing someone's life? For me, it was *Your Erroneous Zones* ([link](#)) by Wayne Dyer – which is the first self-development book I read. It opened my eyes to a whole new way of thinking that was not depressing and dull. It was the first step in my path of choosing my own life and being free of old habitual thought patterns.

There are many, many other books out there that have a reputation for changing lives including [Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity](#), [Handbook to Higher Consciousness](#), [Atlas Shrugged](#), [A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#), [Lord of the Rings](#) and [Black Boy](#) to name a few. But you can start in your chosen field and work your way outward.

**22. Can help break a slump** – Being in a slump is uncomfortable. If you are a writer, you call it writer's block. If you are a salesperson, it's called – not making a sale in 23 days. But a slump can be a crossroads. It might be you are wavering on your commitment to a particular project or (with marriage) person. Or a slump can be simply a lack of new ideas. Books are a great source of ideas, big and small. So if you find yourself in a slump, pick a book on the portion of your life you are slump-ing and get to reading!

**23. Reduces stress** - Many avid readers (including me) unwind by reading. Compared with the person who gets home from work and immediately turns on the TV news, you are going from work stress to crime stress. But it's not just news. TV as a source of relaxation is too full of loud commercials and fast moving (often violent) images. If relaxation is something you want, turn off the TV or computer and pick up a book.

**24. Gets you away from digital distractions** – If you, like many others, feel overwhelmed with the flashing lights, beeps, boops and ring-a-dings that burn up our computing lives, then give books a chance. When you find some good books, you'll find yourself drawn into the subject matter. You'll want to spend more time reading. By spending more time reading books, you'll have less time for the plethora of the digital gadgets begging for our attention.

**25. You'll make more money** - If you make a serious effort to read in your chosen career, your expertise in that specialty will increase. As you become more specialized and learned, you join a smaller group of more qualified people. By being part of the small few with the highest level knowledge your pay will increase. It's simple supply and demand.

**26. The book is always better than the movie** – except for perhaps *No Country for Old Men*.

What are some of the most important books you have read? What is the title that changed your life?