

# SUMMER READING TIPS

## For Teachers



“Summer Slide” describes the educational ground children could lose during the three-month break from school, particularly when it comes to reading. In fact, a 2002 report from Johns Hopkins Center for Summer Learning finds that: “A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately two months or roughly 22 percent of the school year. It’s common for teachers to spend at least a month re-teaching materials students have forgotten over the summer. That month of re-teaching could have been spent on teaching new information and skills.”

### What’s in Your Book Bag?

Show your students the books that you have picked out to read during your summer break. Knowing that you plan to make reading part of your summer days sends a positive message about reading and the pleasure it brings.

### Be Oprah

Pull together a list of ten books (age-appropriate) that you love and want every student to experience and then talk passionately and sincerely about these books to your students. Your enthusiasm will be contagious!

### Promote Scheduling Time for Summer Reading.

Swimming lessons, day camps, baseball games, playing with friends, a week at Grandma’s, vacations – summer is full of fun and activity. There is time, however, no matter how much is on the schedule for summer, to read! Send the [Tracking Calendars](#) home with your students so they stay on track!

### Host Book Club.

Jim Trelease said it best in *The Read-Aloud Handbook*: “The love of reading is more caught than taught and best caught in groups.” Invite parents to Summer Family Book Club in your classroom before school is out. Read aloud a title from your top ten list to your students prior to club. During club, talk about the book and encourage thoughts and questions. Encourage parents to do the same at home. If possible, provide background information and discussion questions for all the books on your top ten list. Don’t forget the snacks!

### Spread the Word.

Are your students and their parents aware of what the summer slide is and how to prevent it? Send home a copy of [Tips for Parents](#). Copy our [My Summer Reading Plan](#) for each student and fill out together before school is out.

### Plug the Summer Reading Program at the Local Public Library.

Local public libraries have great summer reading programs. Distribute the information, or better yet, invite the librarian to your class and let him/her tell your students all about it.

