

**ELA 6-8**

**Summer Reading Packet**



## At Home Activities: Grades 6–8

### Model Positive Reading Habits

1. Let your children see you read for pleasure.
2. Share your excitement for reading with your kids. Talk about what you are reading and why you are reading it.
3. Give books as presents for holidays or as rewards for special accomplishments.

### Make Reading Part of Regular Family Activities

1. Schedule time into your daily/weekly schedule for the whole family to sit down and read.
2. Take a trip to the local bookstore, or an online bookstore, and shop for books as a family.
3. Visit the library as a family; help each other select books to read.
4. Attend readings by favorite authors at local bookstores and libraries. If possible, purchase the book and let your child get the author's signature.
5. Encourage older children to read to younger children (siblings, cousins, neighbors, etc.).

### Read Aloud to Each Other

1. Ask your child to read his/her book aloud to you. If they seem resistant, ask them to read a smaller section such as a paragraph, or page from their book.
2. Read aloud interesting articles from newspapers, magazines, or online sites. "Listen to this, the mayor thinks we should..."
3. Incorporate these read-alouds into your daily/weekly routines: while doing the dishes, making food, etc.
4. Read aloud an instruction manual, or ask your child to read it aloud to you, as you put together a new item in your home.

### Create a Reading Environment in Your Home

- Set up a comfortable space in your home for reading, free from distractions like TV/computer/games/phones. Placing pillows or cushions on the floor is an easy way to make your regular space into a reading space.
- Have reading materials (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.) throughout your home and easily accessible to your children.
- Subscribe to a magazine and have the magazine sent directly to your child.
- Use reading as a vehicle for learning. Research and read about topics that come up naturally in conversation. ("I wonder when the subway was built—let's look it up.")

- Ask relatives and friends that do not live near you to send letters or emails to your child.
- Remind your child to bring a book on public transportation and when they anticipate having to wait in a line (like at the doctor's office).
- When traveling, buy bookmarks as souvenirs (they are inexpensive and promote reading!)

### **Talk about Books**

- At dinner, or other informal times, ask your children about the book they are reading.
- Use reading questions to have deeper conversations about books.
- Share your childhood memories about reading and books. Talk about your own favorite books and authors from middle school, your struggles/successes with reading, etc.

### **Provide Books Aligned to Your Child's Interests**

1. Notice what your child is most interested in reading and provide them with more reading materials on that topic/genre.
2. Encourage relatives to give books as gifts. Suggest topics in which your child is interested.
3. Ask a teacher or librarian for book suggestions—they usually know the new and popular reading material for children of different ages.

### **Help Adolescents Balance Reading with Their Active Social Lives:**

1. Set aside a span of time every night that is just for reading (turn the phone and TV off).
2. Make a schedule with your child to help plan out reading (the bus ride on the way to karate lessons is a great time for reading).
3. Buy a couple copies of a book and encourage your child to invite his/her best friend to read it together.

### **Grade Six Reading List**

- **Awkward** by Svetlana Chmakova
- **Blackbird Fly** by Erin Entrada Kelly
- **Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to... (series)** by Tommy Greenwald, illustrated by J. P. Coover
- **Courage and Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II Denmark** by Deborah Hopkinson
- **Drones** by Louise Spilsbury
- **Jinx Trilogy (series)** by Sage Blackwood

- **Let Your Voice Be Heard: The Life And Times Of Pete Seeger** by Anita Silvey
- **Lost in the Pacific, 1942** by Tod Olson
- **Mad about Monkeys** by Owen Davey
- **Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects: Build \* Invent \* Create \* Discover** by Jack Challoner
- **Once Was A Time** by Leila Sales
- **Planet Tad (series)** by Tim Carvell
- **Sitting Bull : Lakota Warrior And Defender Of His People** by S.D. Nelson
- **Sneaker Century: A History of Athletic Shoes** by Amber Keyser
- **Stars of World Soccer** by Illugi Jökulsson
- **The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
- **The Inker's Shadow** by Allen Say
- **The Tapper Twins Tear Up New York** by Geoff Rodkey
- **Tiny Stiches: The Life Of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas** by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman
- **Took: A Ghost Story** by Mary Downing Hahn

#### Grade 7–8 Reading List

- **Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America** by Gail Jarrow
- **Coding Projects in Scratch** by Jon Woodcock
- **Compass South** by Hope Larson, illustrated by Svetlana Chamakova
- **Embassy Row (series)** by Ally Carter
- **Everland** by Wendy Spinale
- **First Flight Around the World** by Tim Grove
- **Flying Cars** by Andrew Glass
- **Ghost** by Jason Reynolds
- **Gracefully Grayson** by Ami Polonsky
- **Lunar Chronicles (series)** by Marissa Meyer
- **Ms. Marvel (series)** by G. Willow Wilson, illustrated by Takeshi Miyazawa
- **Paper Things** by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
- **Ruby on the Outside** by Nora Raleigh Baskin
- **Steve Jobs: Insanely Great** by Jessie Hartland
- **Survivor's Club** by Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat
- **The Lions of Little Rock** by Kristin Levine
- **The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights** by Steve Sheinkin
- **The Rig** by Joe Duce
- **To All the Boys I've Loved Before** by Jenny Han
- **Where You'll Find Me** by Natasha Friend