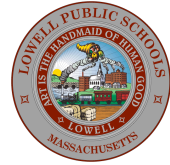




Summer Reading Program—Lowell Students Read



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers:

As partners in the education of our youth, I invite you to help your children extend their reading skills this summer.

- **Did you know that if your children read books this summer, they will come back to school in September better prepared to succeed in school?**
- **Did you know that good readers are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college?**

Here's how you can help:

- Check that your child reads for 30 minutes every day.
- Sign your child's book log each time your child finishes a book.
- Take your child to the Pollard Library and make sure your child has a book he or she can read.



Your child is expected to:

- Select and read a minimum of one title from the attached list. (Some schools have specific titles by grade level. Please see the list below)
- Return to school prepared to participate in a discussion about a book that he or she read.
- Pass in a book log: a list of all the books he or she read during the summer.



Scholastic is also offering a summer reading challenge. Your child may enter the number of minutes they read each day using their login and password at <https://www.scholastic.com/summer/home/>. Schools across the city, state, and country will be competing to see who reads the most. The top Lowell Schools will have schoolwide celebrations sponsored by the Lowell Police Superior Officer's Association & Lowell Police Patrolmen's Association.

Here's how Lowell Public Schools is helping:

- On the back of this letter you will find a list of high interest titles are available to borrow at the **Pollard Library**. These titles may be purchased at area bookstores.

Your child will receive a certificate of participation when he/she passes in his or her book log. Each student who reads at least one book will be entered into a drawing to represent his or her school at a School Committee meeting in the fall.

In partnership with the Lowell Spinners and their support for Summer Reading, each student that logs minutes in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge will receive a voucher for their choice of game: June 20th, July 24th, or August 11th.

We know that with your guidance and commitment, your child will be better prepared to begin or continue with the middle school journey.

Thank you,



Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Below is a list of required titles by school and grade. Some schools require a specific text title in addition to choosing from the list below so that students have conversations around and do work with the same book in the fall. If a school does not have a required title, then your child is expected to read books of their choosing.

	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Bartlett	No Required Text - Student Choice			
Butler	No Required Text - Student Choice			
Cardinal	No Required Text - Student Choice			
Daley	<u>Rules</u> Cynthia Lord	<u>The Breadwinner</u> Deborah Ellis	No Required Text - Student Choice	
Laura Lee	No Required Text - Student Choice			
Pyne	<u>Bud, Not Buddy</u> Christopher Paul Curtis	<u>Stargirl</u> Jerry Spinelli OR <u>Maniac Magee</u> Jerry Spinelli	<u>The Graveyard Book</u> Neil Gaiman or <u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> Gennifer Choldenko	<u>Legend</u> Marie Lu or <u>Among the Hidden</u> Margaret Peterson
Robinson	No Required Text - Student Choice			
Sullivan	No Required Text - Student Choice			
STEM	No Required Text - Student Choice	<u>Stargirl</u> Jerry Spinelli OR <u>Maniac Magee</u> Jerry Spinelli	No Required Text - Student Choice	N/A
Stoklosa	No Required Text - Student Choice			
Wang	No Required Text- Student Choice	No Required Text- Student Choice	<u>Hoot</u> Carl Hiaasen	<u>Stargirl</u> Jerry Spinelli

Student Username and Log-In Information:

Both iReady and Scholastic Summer Reading can be accessed via CLEVER. You can find this link on the district homepage, as well as your school's homepage.

CLEVER Password
Username:
Password:

Below is a list of recommended titles for summer reading. This list includes new titles and old favorites. If the title says "YA" that is a young adult book and may have mature content. Some authors write both for younger readers and older readers, so please be sure to read the back of the book or check out Goodreads or Amazon for reviews and suggested age ranges. **In addition, you may read any books. Enjoy reading and read far and wide.**

Middle School Reading List 2018

New Fiction

Author's Name

Book Title

Kwame Alexander	Rebound
Cassie Beasley	<i>Tumble & Blue</i>
Jennifer Bell	<i>The Crooked Sixpence</i>
Betsy Bird (ed)	<i>Funny Girl: Funniest. Stories. Ever</i>
Sage Blackwood	<i>Miss Ellicott's School for the Magically Minded</i>
Emma Carroll	<i>In Darkling Wood</i>
Jack Cheng	<i>See You in the Cosmos</i>
Leslie Connor	<i>The Truth As Told By Mason Butle</i>
Alan Gratz	<i>Refugee (YA)</i>
Shannon Hale	<i>The Princess in Black</i>
Erin Entrada Kelly	<i>Hello, Universe</i>
Hana Khan	<i>Amina's Voice</i>
Dana Langer	<i>Siren Sisters</i>
Bill Nye	<i>At the Bottom of the World</i>
RJ Palaccio	<i>Augie and Me: three Wonder Stories</i>
Linda Sue Park	<i>A Long Walk to Water (YA)</i>
Jason Reynolds	<i>As Brave As You</i>
Ilyasah Shabazz	<i>Betty Before X</i>
Jerry Spinelli	<i>The Warden's Daughter</i>
Natasha Tarpley	<i>Harlem Charade</i>
Eric Walters	<i>Walking Home (YA)</i>
Rita Williams-Garcia	<i>Clayton Byrd Goes Underground</i>

Favorite Series

Author's Name

Book Title

Melissa de la Cruz	<i>Isle of the Lost</i>
Chris Colfer	<i>The land of stories by</i>
Erin Hunter	<i>Warrior</i>

New Graphic Novels

Author's Name

Book Title

Shannon Hale	<i>Real Friends (YA)</i>
Ben Hatke	<i>Mighty Jack and the Goblin (YA)</i>
Victoria Jamieson	<i>All's Faire in Middle School (YA)</i>
Molly Ostertag	<i>The Witch Boy (YA)</i>
Jeremy Whitley	<i>Princess (YA)</i>

Here are some past favorites! You might also want to read other books by the writers on this list.

<u>Author's Name</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
Avi	<i>Something Upstairs</i>
Tony Abbott	<i>Firegirl</i>
Randa Abdel-Fattah	<i>Does My Head Look Big In This?</i>
Lloyd Alexander	<i>Time Cat</i>
Choi, Sook Nyui	<i>Year of Impossible Goodbyes</i>
Andrew Clements	<i>Janitor's Boy</i>
Barbara Cohen	<i>Thank You, Jackie Robinson</i>
Rachel Cohn	<i>Gingerbread</i>
Caroline Cooney	<i>Code Orange</i>
Sharon Creech	<i>Absolutely Normal Chaos</i>
Christopher Paul Curtis	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>
James Dashner	<i>The Maze Runner</i>
Kate DiCamillo	<i>The Tale of Despereaux</i>
Sharon Draper	<i>Out of My Mind</i>
Deborah Ellis	<i>The Breadwinner</i>
Eleanor Estes	<i>Ginger Pye</i>
Sharon Flake	<i>The Skin I'm In</i>
Neil Gaiman	<i>The Graveyard Book</i>
Patrica Giff	<i>Eleven</i>
Carl Hiaasen	<i>Chomp!</i>
Will Hobbs	<i>Crossing the Wire</i>
Silas House	<i>Same Sun Here</i>
Ann Jaramillo	<i>La Linea</i>
Francisco Jimenez	<i>The Circuit</i>
Cynthia Kadohata	<i>Kira-Kira</i>
Alethea Kontis	<i>Enchanted</i>
Thannah Lai	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i>
Cynthia Lorde	<i>Rules</i>
Mike Lupica	<i>Travel Team</i>
Ann Martin	<i>A Corner of the Universe</i>
Walter Dean Myers	<i>Somewhere in the Darkness</i>
Jennifer Nelson	<i>False Prince</i>
Rodman Philbrick	<i>Freak the Mighty</i>
Louis Sachar	<i>Holes</i>
Naomi Shihab Nye	<i>Habibi</i>
Neal Shusterman	<i>The Shadow Club</i>
Gary Soto	<i>Baseball in April</i>
Jerry Spinelli	<i>Stargirl</i>
Rebecca Stead	<i>Liar and Spy</i>
Janet Tashjian	<i>My Life as a Book</i>
Yoshiko Uchida	<i>A Jar of Dreams</i>
Dannette Vigilante	<i>The Trouble with Half a Moon</i>
Jacqueline Woodson	<i>Locomotion</i>

Series

<u>Author's Name</u>	<u>Series Title</u>
Julia Alvarez	<i>Tia Lola</i>
Eoin Colfer	<i>Artemis Fowl</i>
Jack Gantos	<i>Joey Pigza</i>
Dan Gutman	<i>Baseball Card</i>
Margaret Peterson Haddix	<i>Shadow Children</i>
Anthony Horowitz	<i>Alex Rider</i>
James Howe	<i>Bunnica</i>
Brandon Mull	<i>Fable Haven</i>
JK Rowling	<i>Harry Potter</i>

Graphic Novels

<u>Author's Name</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
Raina Telgemeier	<i>Sisters Drama Ghosts Smile</i>
Jeff Smith	<i>Bone series</i>
Kazu Kibuishi	<i>Amulet series</i>
Svetlana Chmakova	<i>Awkward Night School</i>
Ransom Riggs	<i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i>
Jimmy Gownley	<i>The Dumbest Idea Ever!</i>
Jennifer Holm	<i>Sunny Side Up</i>

Non Fiction

<u>Author's Name</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
Gail Herman	<i>Who Was Jackie Robinson</i>
Phillip Hoose	<i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i>
Deborah Hopkinson	<i>Titanic: Voices from the Disaster</i>
Quang Nhuong Huynh	<i>The Land I Lost</i>
Peter Nelson	<i>Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis</i>
Gary Paulsen	<i>Guts</i>
Paul Walker	<i>Pride of Puerto Rico</i>
Roald Dahl	<i>Boy</i>
Deborah Kops	<i>The Great Molasses Flood</i>
Catherine Thimmesh	<i>Girls Think of Evervthina</i>

Summer 2018 Student Reading Log

Books read by _____ Grade _____

#	Title	Author	Date Finished	Parent Signature
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				

Summer 2018 Student Reading Log

Books read by _____ Grade _____

#	Title	Author	Date Finished	Parent Signature
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
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Book Talks

Talking about books is a way to spark your classmates' and teachers' interest and introduce them to new texts that they might otherwise miss. Think of a book talk as a brief commercial for your book. Jot down a few notes to remind you of the essential points you want to make. A book talk will take only a few minutes. You might want to think about the following things when deciding what to talk about in your Book Talk.

You will be responsible to talk about one of the books you've read during the summer with your classmates when you return to school.

Talk about the title and the author. (*What would be another good title for this text? Explain.*)

Show the cover and some of the illustrations. (*What information does the reader get?*)

Read aloud the lead or a particularly interesting or exciting part of the text. (*Explain author's craft in this part of the text. Explain how this part of the text affects the reader's understanding.*)

Connect the book to your life or the lives of students in general. (*What did you learn about life or yourself from this book?*)

Pose questions. (*If you could ask the author one question, what would it be and why?*)

Tell about the plot or about one character. (*What is one character's main problem in the story? How did that character resolve his/her problem?*)

Share your own response to the book. (*Would you recommend the book? Explain why or why not.*)

How to Give a Book Talk

(adapted from Guiding Readers and Writers , Fountas & Pinnell, 2001)

- ❖ Look at everyone in your group or class.
- ❖ Speak loudly so all can hear.
- ❖ Talk about the characters, the problem in the story, or some interesting information.
- ❖ Read a small part of the book to interest the readers.
- ❖ Create interest in other readers.