



# Lowell Public Schools 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.

Have your child read at least **20 MINUTES PER DAY**. Students who read **5 minutes** a day score **50th percentile**. Students who read **20 minutes** a day score at the **90th percentile**.

Visit the **Library**. Find reasons for your child to **practice** writing skills. **Write...** a book, a blog, a zine, a poem.

Engage in meaningful conversations with your child. Stimulating conversations boost language skills. **Audio Books**. Instead of listening to the radio, listen to audio books during long drives. **Model Reading Behavior**. If your child sees you reading, they will want to read as well.

**Read to your child**. This builds listening skills, imagination, and increases vocabulary. **Learn a new word each week**. Post the new word with its definition and have a contest for who can use it the most times in one week. **COOK with your child**. Have your child follow a recipe. This enhances both reading and math skills.

Here's how you can help:

- Check that your child reads for 30 minutes every day or read with them.
- Visit the Pollard Library and make sure your child has a book they can read. If you don't have a library card already, you can sign up online for an e-library card!  
<https://lowelllibrary.org/services/ecard/>

Your child is expected to:

- Select and read titles from the attached list or **any books they want**. This list includes new titles and old favorites. Some authors write for both 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.
- Return to school prepared to participate in a discussion about a book that he or she read.

Reading is fun! **Play BINGO!** Each child that returns their BINGO board and his/her name will receive a certificate at their school.

Log the books your child reads either on paper **OR** online. [Click here](#) to enter each book. This will create a list at their school of all the books your child read. Be sure to keep your log only on paper **OR** only online, not both!

We look forward to hearing about how much you read this summer!

Thank you,

Chief Academic Officer

Summer Reading 2021

Students Entering Grades 5-8

## 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.

### Graphic Novels



### Nonfiction & Poetry



### Fantasy & Adventure



### Realistic & Historical Fiction



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

<b><u>Author 's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Book Title</u></b>
Kwame Alexander	<i>Rebound</i>
Avi	<i>Something Upstairs</i>
Tony Abbott	<i>Firegirl</i>
Randa Abdel-Fattah	<i>Does My Head Look Big in This?</i>
Cassie Beasley	<i>Tumble &amp; 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>
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>
Leslie Connor	<i>The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle</i>
Caroline Cooney	<i>Code Orange</i>
Sharon Creech	<i>Absolutely Normal Chaos</i>
Sharon Flake	<i>The Skin I'm In</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>
Erin Entrada Kelly	<i>Hello, Universe</i>
Thannah Lai	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i>
Dana Langer	<i>Siren Sisters</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>
Bill Nye	<i>At the Bottom of the World</i>
RJ Palaccio	<i>Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories</i>
Jason Reynolds	<i>Ghost &amp; Track Series</i>
Louis Sachar	<i>Holes</i>
Ilyasah Shabazz	<i>Betty Before X</i>
Naomi Shihab Nye	<i>Habibi</i>
Neal Shusterman	<i>The Shadow Club</i>
Jerry Spinelli	<i>The Warden's Daughter</i>
Rebecca Stead	<i>Liar and Spy</i>
Janet Tashjian	<i>My Life as a Book</i>
Natasha Tarpley	<i>Harlem Charade</i>
Yoshiko Uchida	<i>A Jar of Dreams</i>
Dannette Vigilante	<i>The Trouble with Half a Moon</i>
Eric Walters	<i>Walking Home</i>
Rita Williams-Garcia	<i>Clayton Byrd Goes Underground</i>
Jacqueline Woodson	<i>Locomotion</i>

<b><u>Author's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Series</u></b>	<b><u>Series Title</u></b>
Julia Alvarez		<i>Tia Lola</i>
Eoin Colfer		<i>Artemis Fowl</i>
Melissa de la Cruz		<i>Isle of the Lost</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**

<b><u>Author's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Book Title</u></b>
Raina Telgemeier	<i>Sisters Drama   Ghosts/Smile/Guts</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 Series</i>
Shannon Hale	<i>Real Friends</i>
Ben Hatke	<i>Mighty Jack and the Goblin</i>
Victoria Jamieson	<i>All's Faire in Middle School</i>
Molly Ostertag	<i>The Witch Boy</i>
Jeremy Whitley	<i>Princess</i>

**Non Fiction**

<b><u>Author's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Book Title</u></b>
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 Everything</i>

# Summer Reading **BINGO**

Fill up your sheet with summer reading fun and see if you can hit **BINGO** before school is back in session.

<p>Read a poem from a book of poetry. Then practice writing your own!</p>	<p>Go camping under the stars (or in a living room pillow fort) and read your favorite spooky story. Remember to bring a flashlight!</p> 	<p>Research a topic that interests you and read an article about it -- parents, feel free to lend a hand!</p>	<p>Listen to an audio book on your next summer road trip.</p>	<p>Choose a book from the Pollard Summer Reading List and give it a read!</p> 
<p>Read aloud to a younger sibling or relative!</p>	<p>Explore a joke book and then try a joke out on your family and friends.</p>	<p>From Pete the Cat to Clifford, try reading to your furry friend -- stuffed animals work too!</p> 	<p>Swap! Exchange favorite summer reads with your bestie!</p>	<p>Judge a book by its cover and see if you like the story inside!</p>
<p>Who's hungry? Read a recipe then make a meal!</p> 	<p>Read a book published the year you were born!</p>	<p><b>FREE</b></p> 	<p>Read a book your parents read as kids. Bonus if you read it together!</p>	<p>Read a book that's been turned into a movie then have a screening after you've finished!</p> 
<p>Pick up a book with over 150 pages (you don't have to finish it!).</p>	<p>Love family game night? Read board game directions then get playing.</p>	<p>Start a new series!</p>	<p>School's out! Find a book with <b>Summer</b> in the title and give it a read.</p> 	<p>Read a book you rented from the public library.</p>
<p>Write a story then read it aloud to your parents.</p> 	<p>Read outside in the summer sun.</p> 	<p>Read a book by an author you've never read before.</p>	<p>Read non-fiction (a biography, memoir, article, newspaper, etc.).</p>	<p>Reread a favorite picture book.</p>

[Log your summer reading book titles here!](#)

## My Summer Reading Log

Remember if you want an easier way, enter all of your books online by [clicking here](#) each time you finish one. (You don't need to keep a paper copy!)

<b>Book Title</b>	<b>Book Author</b>
1.	
2.	
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12.	



# Lowell Public Schools Summer Writing



Want to keep growing as a writer? Over the summer, revisit writing that you already tried during the school year, try out a new kind of writing, or push yourself and try writing something in the next grade level. If parts of the writing seem too tricky right now, try what you can. You can write anything you want!

[Click here](#) to access the Summer Writing Choice Board with video tutorials for each choice.

**Creative Writing**

**Memoir**

**Mystery**

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**Informational Writing**

**SUMMER WRITING CHOICE BOARD**

**Personal Narrative**

**Journaling**

**Historical Fiction**

**Science Fiction**

**Poetry**