

Summer Brain Gain!

Summer Reading Recommendations

Parents - It is critical that children read year-round! Research has shown reading consistently over the summer can prevent summer learning loss. Please make time for your child to read every day this summer – with you, independently, or both – so that he or she can continue to grow as a reader!



BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





Guidelines for Recommended Summer Reading

- Summer reading is incredibly important for reading level maintenance, so it is critical to make time for reading every day.
- These books represent only a small sample of titles that your child/children may enjoy. You should not feel compelled to either stick to or complete the list.
- These books are hand-selected by members of the Brent community! There are some classics, some currently popular titles, some fiction, and some non-fiction. It would be pages and pages long if we put down everything we would like for kids to read, so this is just a representative sample. The idea is for families to go forth from here.
 - There is a separate list of poetry, appropriate for a wide range of readers, and also a list of graphic novels for middle readers.
 - There is a separate list containing the names of non-fiction authors and series. We included non-fiction books in this way because sometimes we find authors that write great books on lots of subjects at lots of levels. Equally often, we find series that are assembled according to certain criteria, and the author is less important than a books' membership in the collection.
- If your family is completing a summer reading challenge (such as the one offered by DC Public libraries, [here](#)), lots of these books meet the terms of those challenges!
- Write about your reading! Use a notebook, set up a reading journal, draw pictures, write to friends about your books – do what you can to respond to your reading on paper.
- Enjoy the reading! We hope that family reading time is a favorite activity in your home and that you are looking forward to devoting lots of time to it this summer!

Have you heard about the DC Public Library Challenge?



Kids, teens, and adults can have fun and win prizes for reading this summer by participating in the 2018 DC Public Library Summer Challenge. Every 20 minutes you read, or every library event you attend, brings you closer to earning great prizes like free food from Chipotle and tickets to Washington Nationals baseball games.

Participating is as easy as reading a book, magazine, blog or website. Click [here](#)* to get to the sign up page. If you've participated in any of the Library's reading programs in the past, you can log in to your existing account with your username and password.

Three Easy Steps to Win:

- Read 20 minutes a day and/or attend an event at the library for at least 10 days out of each month (June - August).
- Log your reading online or pick up a game board at your neighborhood library to track your activity.
- Visit the library to get your prizes starting on the 20th of each month and throughout the month of August (while supplies last).

*<https://www.dclibrary.org/summerchallenge>

Picture Books for Family Read Aloud



Title and Author	Title and Author
A Bad Case of Stripes by D. Shannon	Swimmy by L. Lionni
Salt in His Shoes by D. Jordan	The Patchwork Quilt by V. Flourney
Lola at the Library by A. McQuinn	The Day the Crayons Quit by D. Daywalt
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild by P. Brown	The Honest-to-Goodness Truth by P. McKissack
Abiyoyo by P. Seeger	The Emperor's Egg by M. Jenkins
The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by P. Goble	Last Stop on Market Street by M. de la Pena
One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale by Remi	Olivia by L. Falconer
The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore by W. Joyce	Corduroy by D. Freeman
Make Way for Ducklings by R. McCloskey	Blueberries for Sal by R. McCloskey
Have You Filled a Bucket Today? By C. McCloud	Fanny at Chez Panisse by A. Waters
Jabari Jumps by G. Cornwall	Goin' Someplace Special by P. McKissack
Rapunzel by R. Isadora	Rosie Revere, Engineer by A. Beaty
One by Kathryn Otoshi	Amazing Grace by M. Hoffman
Follow the Moon Home by P. Cousteau	The Different Dragon by J. Bryan
Is Your Mama a Llama? By D. Guarino	Going Places by P. Reynolds
Alvin Ailey by A. D. Pinkney	The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by M. Prett
A Chair for My Mother by V. B. Williams	The Stinky Cheese Man by J. Scieszka
The Dragon Prince by L. Yep	The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System by J. Cole

Picture Books for Shared Reading



Title and Author	Title and Author
Tikki Tikki Tembo by A. Mosel	What a Wonderful World by A. Bryan
Waiting is Not Easy! By M. Willems	The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog by M Willems
The Story of Ferdinand by M. Leaf	One Family by G. Shannon
A Mother for Choco by K. Kasza	Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
It's OK to Be Different by T. Parr	The Grouchy Ladybug by E. Carle
The Monster at the End of This Book by J. Stone	A Flag for Our Country by E. Spencer
What if Everybody Did That? by E. Javernick	The Earth Book by T. Parr
Harold and the Purple Crayon by C. Johnson	Max Found Two Sticks by B. Pinkney
Harry the Dirty Dog by G. Zion	Bear Shadow by F. Asch
Peter's Chair by E. J. Keats	Guess How Much I Love You? By S. McBratney
Giraffes Can't Dance by G. Andreae	No Kimchi for Me! By A. Kim
Lola at the Library by A. McQuinn	Dragons Love Tacos by A. Rubin
The Hello, Goodbye Window by N. Juster	When Sofie Gets Angry, Really, Really Angry by M. Bang
Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss	Goodnight, Gorilla by P. Rathmann
The Rainbow Fish by M. Pfister	The Runaway Bunny by M. W. Brown
please, baby, please by S. Lee and T. L. Lee	Trombone Shorty by T. Andrews
How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? by J. Yolen	Goodnight Moon by M. W. Brown
Whoever You Are by M. Fox	I Dissent by D. Levy

Early Readers/Chapter Books and Series



Individual Books	Books in Series
Danny and the Dinosaur by S. Hoff	Miami Jackson by P. McKissack
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile by B. Waber	Nate the Great by M. W. Sharmat
Amelia Bedelia by P. Parrish	Berenstain Bears by J. Berenstain
Morris the Moose by B. Wiseman	Katie Woo by F. Manushkin
Grizzwold by S. Hoff	Nikki & Deja by K. English
Dinosaur Time by P. Parrish	Flat Stanley by M. Brown
Splat the Cat by R. Scotton	Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo
Two for Joy by G. Amateau	Lulu and the Duck in the Park by H. McKay
Mac and Cheese by S. Weeks	Keena Ford by M. Thomson
Pete the Cat by J. Dean	Houndsley and Catina by J. Howe
The Flimflam Man by D. B. Beard	The Magic Treehouse by M. P. Osborne
Not My Dog by C. Rodowsky	Mr. Putter and Tabby by C. Rylant
Gooney Bird Greene by L. Lowry	Lighthouse Family: The Storm by C. Rylant
Song of the Giraffe by S. Jacobs	George and Martha by J. Marshall
The Dream Stealer by S. Fleischman	EllRay Jakes is NOT a Chicken! By S. Warner
Freckle Juice by J. Bloom	Zelda and Ivy by L. McGee
Fish Face by P. R. Giff	Fox and His Friends by E. Marshall
The Skirt by G. Soto	Zapato Power by J. Jules

Middle Reader Chapter Books (Grades 3-6)



Title and Author	Title and Author
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by R. Dahl	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by G. Lin
Esperanza Rising by P. M. Ryan	The Penderwicks by J. Birdsall
My Side of the Mountain by J. C. George	Kira-Kira by C. Kadohata
Wild Robot by P. Brown	When You Reach Me by R. Stead
Clubhouse Mysteries: The Buried Bones Mystery by S. Draper	The One and Only Ivan by K. Applegate
The Lemonade War by J. Davies	Ghost by J. Reynolds
The Hidden World of Changers by H. K. Varian	Journey to Jo'burg by B. Naidoo
Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution by Avi	Amina's Voice by H. Khan
Crenshaw by K. Applegate	Wish by B. O'Connor
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by C. Grabenstein	Bunnicula by J. Howe
Moon Over Manifest by C. Vanderpool	The Phantom Tollbooth by N. Juster
Savvy by I. law	The Witch of Blackbird Pond by E. G. Speare
The City of Ember by J. DuPrau	Harriet the Spy by L. Fitzhugh
Forever, or a Long Long Time by C. Carter	Paper Things by J. R. Jacobson
Ella Enchanted by G. C. Levine	Plunked by M. Northrup
Liar and Spy by R. Stead	Roll of Thunder, Hear by Cry by M. D. Taylor
The Last Dragonslayer by J. Fforde	Better Nate Than Ever by T. Federle
Flying Lessons & Other Stories edited by Ellen Oh, co-founder of We Need Diverse Books	From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

Books to Spark Conversation About Diversity and Inclusion



Title and Author (picture books)	Title and Author (chapter books)
A Family is a Family is a Family by S. O’Leary	Wonder by R. J. Palacio
The Journey by F. Sanna	I Am Malala: Young Readers Edition by M. Yousafzai
The Big Red Lollipop by R. Khan	Brown Girl Dreaming by J. Woodson
Where Will I Live? By R. McCarney	One Crazy Summer by R. Williams-Garcia
Lost and Found Cat by D. Kuntz	Out of My Mind by S. Draper
And Tango Makes Three by J. Richardson	Just Juice by K. Hess
Family Pictures/ Cuadros de Familia by C. L. Garza	Long Walk to Water by L. S. Park
I Am Jazz by J. Herthel	The Red Pencil by A. D. Pinkney
Yo Soy Muslim by M. Gonzales	George by A. Gino
The Name Jar by Y. Choi	Hidden Figures: Young Readers Edition by M. L. Shetterly
One of a Kind, Like Me/ Unico Como Yo by L. Mayeno	Inside Out and Back Again by T. Lai
Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by R. Sanders	Counting by 7’s by H. G. Sloan
Finders Keepers? By R. Arnett	Return to Sender by J. Alvarez
Separate is Never Equal by D. Tonatiuh	Amina’s Voice by H. Khan
This Day in June by G. Pitman	Shooting Kabul by N. H. Senzai
The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq by J. Winter	The Jacket by A. Clements
I Love Saturdays y domingos by A. F. Ada	I Lived on Butterfly Hill by M. Agosin
Thank You, Mr. Faulkner by P. Palacco	The Skin I’m In by S. Flake

Favorite Nonfiction Authors and *Series*



Author/Series	Description	Some Sample Titles
Seymour Simon	Scientific	The Sun; Guts; Animals Nobody Loves
Gail Gibbons	Scientific	Apples; The Reasons for Seasons; Halloween
Mary Pope Osborne	NF Companions	NF Companions for the Magic Tree House Series
Mary Kay Carson	Biographies, Scientific	Who Invented Television?; The Bat Scientists
Nic Bishop	Scientific	Lizards; Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close
Linda Bozzo	Discover Dogs, Animal Care	I Like Labrador Retrievers; Guide Dog Heros
Mary Jo Rhodes	Undersea Encounters	Life on A Coral Reef; Octopuses and Squids
<i>ASPCA Pet Care Guides</i>	Animal Care	Hamster; Fish; Turtle
<i>Inside Series</i>	Extreme Weather	Inside Tornadoes; Inside Hurricanes
<i>If You Lived...</i>	Historical	If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution
<i>My America</i>	Narrative Historical	Freedom's Wings: Corey's Underground Railroad Diary
<i>National Geographic Kids</i>	Expository High-Interest Topics	National Geographic Readers: Penguins!
<i>Let's Read and Find Out (Science)</i>	High Interest Answers to Kids' Question	How People Learned to Fly; What Makes a Magnet
<i>Klutz</i>	Instructional Books	Scoubidou: A Book of Lanyard and Lacing

Poetry and Graphic Novels



Poetry Collections and Anthologies	Graphic Novels for Middle Readers
Where the Sidewalk Ends By Shel Silverstein	El Deafo By Cece Bell
Honey, I Love By Eloise Greenfield	Secret Coders (series) By Gene Yang
Knock at a Star: A Child's Introduction to Poetry By X. L. Kennedy	Sunny Side Up By Jennifer L. Holm
Something Big Has Been Here By Jack Prelutsky	March (nonfiction trilogy) By John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell
This Same Sky: Poems from Around the World By Naomi Shihab Nye	Real Friends By Shannon Hale
If You're Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand By Kalli Dakos	Amulet (series) By Kazu Kibuishi
A Celebration of Bees By Barbara Esbensen	Phoebe and Her Unicorn (series) By Dana Simpson
All the Small Poems and Fourteen More By Valerie Worth	Babymouse (series) By Jennifer Holm
One Hundred Years of Poetry for Children By Michael Harrison	Ghosts By Raina Telgemeier
Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs By Douglas Florian	Roller Girl By Victoria Jamieson

Ideas for Summer Writing

Does my child need to turn in summer writing?

No, this isn't a requirement. However, teachers often love to see the writing students have done over the summer at the beginning of the school year. It helps kick start the process of getting to know the child and his or her writing!

Respond to Reading

Reader's responses are a great way for kids to think about what they are reading and practice their writing skills at the same time. Kids can read, then write responses about books that interest and challenge them. Any notebook will do, and drawing pictures is also great!

Write to Your Favorite Author

Does your child have a favorite author? This is a great way to engage kids in a conversation about books they love and wonder about the real person who wrote those books. Here's some advice from children's writer Mary Amato on how to write to an author:

- Write a thoughtful, personal letter. Tell the author something about yourself and why you enjoy her books.
- Ask thoughtful questions, like how did you come up with the setting for a particular book, or why did a character behave a certain way in the story.
- Write a rough draft of the letter using the letter format. Help your child edit the letter by checking spelling, sentence and paragraph construction, and capitalization.
- Write the final draft by hand. A handwritten letter is especially personal!
- Send the letter to the writer "in care of" her publisher. Here's how to find that: look for the publisher's address inside the book. Usually, the mailing address will be listed in the first few pages of the book. (If the complete address is not shown, you can always find it on the publisher's website.)
- Include an envelope with your name and address and a stamp, ready to go. This makes it easy for a busy author to respond.

Review It!

Summer is a great time for new experiences and field trips, near or far. After visiting new places, have your child write persuasive reviews of their adventures. Did you try the new sandwich shop on the corner, see the newest Pixar movie in 3D or explore all the animal habitats at the zoo? Would you recommend your trip or experience to another family? Why or why not? Encourage your child to record their thoughts and experiences, explaining their reasoning. Kids can even add things like menus, ticket stubs, museum tour maps, autographs and hiking trail maps to accompany their reviews and help support their reasoning.

Brent Elementary, 2018

I've heard of kids blogging. Are there sites that are good for this?

Yes! Here are some tips:

Step 1: Have a talk about Internet safety

Writing for an online audience is fun, but should be done with caution. Talk with your child about who will have access to the blog, and make decisions about using names, etc.

Step 2: Choose an online blog site for kids

WordPress, Blogger and Edublogs are all free and easy to use. Parents create an account for their child to use, and accounts can be restricted during set up.



Suggestions for:

Reading Online

- <http://www.storylineonline.net/>
 - This site was created by the Screen Actors Guild and features well known actors and actresses reading favorite books. For example, check out James Earl Jones reading *To Be A Drum!* No sign-up required.
- <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading>
 - This site has many many leveled books available to read or have read aloud! It's a British site, so the accents are lovely, but the authors aren't as familiar. Sign-up required.
- <http://www.biguniverse.com/>
 - This is a useful site for finding non-fiction books to page through. You can even write and create books here! Sign-up required.

Finding Books

- www.betterworldbooks.com
 - This site is where the DC Public Library hosts its on-going online sidewalk sale.
- www.thriftbooks.com
 - Used books sold online with free shipping. Most books are priced under \$4. Site has textbooks too!
- www.dclibrary.org
 - Check out all the summer reading programs at the SE and NE libraries – there is a ton going on!
- Fairy Godmother (319 7th Street SE)
- Politics & Prose (5015 Connecticut Ave. NW)
- East City Bookshop (645 Pennsylvania Ave. SE)
- Capitol Hill Books (7th & C St. SE)
 - Used books, usually ½ the cover price. Not a ton for kids, but several classics.
- Friends of the Montgomery County Library Bookstores
 - Three locations selling used books. Check the website for daily hours at each store:
 - Rockville: 4886 Boiling Brook Parkway
 - Gaithersburg: 604 Quince Orchard Road
 - Wheaton: 11701 Georgia Ave