

Summer Reading

Quick Facts

- Teachers spend 4-6 weeks re-teaching information lost over the summer.
- As much as 85 percent of the reading achievement gap between low-income and high-income students is attributed to the “summer slide.”
- Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary, and reading speed.
- Students who read at least four books over the summer do better on comprehension activities in the fall than students who read one or none.
- Facts from [10 Critical Facts About Summer Reading](#).

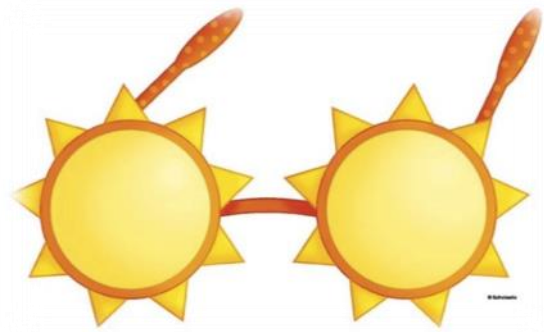
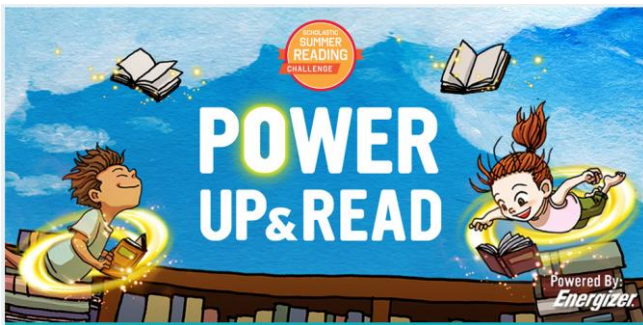
Essential Vocabulary

- **character** – the people or animals central to a story
- **plot** – the events of a story; the beginning, middle, and end
- **summer slide** – a back slide in skills or retention that happens over the summer or long breaks from academics
- **theme** – the main lesson or overarching idea of a story
- **vocabulary** – the body of words known and used with ease

Lesson Ideas

Summer Reading Challenge

Enroll your class in the [Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge: Power Up & Read](#). Students can log in and track their minutes spent reading, while unlocking short stories from favorite authors and earning digital rewards. Whole schools can work toward winning an author visit. Printable pledges, tools and resources, and parent engagement pieces are available.



Travel Brochure

Create a travel brochure of summer reading books. Pick a selection (or two!) that takes place far away from home and research the location. Provide places to visit pulled straight from the book. Encourage students to visit the location, if possible, or virtually travel using a Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. Students can cook dishes common to the region and research culture with geography.

Make a Book Trailer

Show students the many [book trailers available on Scholastic](#), and have them create one of their own to show off a book they read this summer. Open an online forum to post book trailers and keep kids interacting and finding new books to read with the help of their friends. Share select trailers on video message boards in the school next fall. No tech? No problem. Have students create paper storyboards for their trailers.



Make a Musical Playlist

Have students make a playlist of songs that personify a character or convey the mood at different points in the book. Students can add a song for each chapter or major event, and explain why they think the song is appropriate to represent that portion of the book or the character’s feelings.

Lesson Ideas Continued

Book Club Setup

Set a schedule of book club meetings throughout the summer at the local library or school, if the campus is open. Lay out a reading plan for students, so they are able to keep up throughout the summer. Pre-plan questions for each meeting, and students can independently meet (or meet with the help of parents) to discuss the books. Go one step further and take it online, with links to various activities and ideas that match what is happening in the books.



Character Cutouts

Have students lie on butcher paper and trace to make a full-sized person to cut out. Send paper home with them. While completing summer reading, students select one character to create a character map about. They can add favorite quotes, character thoughts and inferences, and even decorate the character to look like the book character. Have students bring characters back in the fall to make a hall display that will interest other readers.



Resource Connections

[Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Articles & Blogs

- [Avoid the Summer Slide](#)
- [Five Ways to Celebrate Summer Reading](#)
- [Pam Allyn's Five Tips for Summer Reading](#)
- [Five Ways to Keep Students Writing All Summer Long](#)
- [65 Videos to Build Excitement for Summer Reading](#)
- [Summer Reading Goals](#)