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Ways to Not Fall Behind During the Summer Months

The summer is coming soon. Research suggests that students experience gaps in their learning when they do not read nor study during the summer months. Here, we listed ways to not lag behind during the summer. We have also included a list of books you can read during the summer. These suggestions are categorized according to content area (e.g., science, math, social studies, and the English language arts.)

Improving your verbal ability in the summer



- Read nonfiction and fiction works from a variety of genres (e.g., fiction, nonfiction, biography, autobiography, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, thriller, etc.). As long as the child is interested in the topics, he/she will enjoy the books and get the most out of them.
- Read noteworthy magazines and newspapers articles and online works (e.g., Time, Reader's Digest, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal).
- Take practice tests from a variety of PSAT and SAT preparation materials
- Purchase and work from several preparation tests and guides for the PSAT and SAT
- Get vocabulary flashcards from bookstores
- Get the book, <u>The Daily Spark</u> on enhancing vocabulary

Summer reading suggestions

See <u>Subjects Matter</u> by Harvey Daniels and Steven Zemelman (on the content areas; English, social studies, science, and math, et al).



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Some examples of good books to read:

(1) Books about science:

- <u>E = MC2: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation</u> by David Bodanis
- <u>The Double Helix</u> by James Watson
- <u>The Hot Zone</u> by Richard Preston
- <u>The Way Things Work</u> by David Macaulay
- <u>The Periodic Table</u> by Primo Levi
- <u>The Martian</u> by Andy Weir
- <u>Seven Brief Lessons on Physics</u> by Carlo Rovelli

(2) Books about history/social studies:

- <u>Maus: A Survivor's Tale</u> by Art Spiegelman
- <u>The Things They Carried</u> by Tim O' Brien
- <u>Anne Frank: The Biography</u> by Melissa Mueller
- <u>Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation</u> by Joseph Ellis
- <u>Hiroshima</u> by John Hersey
- Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James Loewen



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- <u>Six Days in October The Stock Market Crash of 1929</u> by Karen Blumenthal
- <u>Between the World and Me</u> by Ta-Nehisi Coastes (winner of the National Book Award).
- <u>Dark Money</u> by Jane Mayer
- <u>Originals</u> by Adam Grant
- <u>Alexander Hamilton</u> by Ron Chernow
- <u>The Wright Brothers</u> by David McCullough
- <u>Dead Wake</u> by Erik Larson
- <u>I Am Malala</u> by Malala Yousafzai

(3) Books about Mathematics:

 <u>Zero: Biography of a Dangerous Idea</u> by Charles Zeife

(4) Novels:

- <u>The Joy Luck Club</u> by Amy Tan
- <u>Out of the Dust</u> by Karen Hesse
- <u>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</u> by Mildred Taylor
- <u>Snow Falling on Cedars</u> by David Gutterson
- <u>Summer of My German Soldier</u> by Bette Greene
- <u>All Creatures Great and Small</u> by James Herriot
- Books by Gary Paulsen, Walter Dean Myers, Robert Cormier
- <u>The Giver</u> by Lois Lowry
- <u>Number the Stars</u> by Lois Lowry
- <u>Seabiscuit</u> by Laura Hillenbrand
- <u>The Catcher in the Rye</u> by J. D. Salinger
- <u>The Great Gatsby</u> by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- <u>A Separate Peace</u> by John Knowles
- <u>The Old Man and the Sea</u> by Ernest Hemingway
- <u>Plays</u> by Arthur Miller
- <u>Atlas Shrugged</u> by Ayn Rand
- Lord of the Flies by William Golding

(5) Sports:

■ <u>The Legends Club</u> by John Feinstein





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■ <u>The Boys in the Boat</u> by Daniel James Brown

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