

SAT by MBA

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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, The Daily Spark on enhancing vocabulary

Summer reading suggestions

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

Some examples of good books to read:

(1) Books on science:

- E = MC²: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation by David Bodanis
- The Double Helix by James Watson
- The Hot Zone by Richard Preston
- The Way Things Work by David Macaulay
- The Periodic Table by Primo Levi

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(2) Books about history/social studies:

- Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman
- The Things They Carried by Tim O' Brien
- Anne Frank: The Biography by Melissa Mueller
- Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph Ellis
- Hiroshima by John Hersey
- Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James Loewen
- Six Days in October – The Stock Market Crash of 1929 by Karen Blumenthal

(3) Books about Mathematics:

- Zero: Biography of a Dangerous Idea by Charles Zeife

(4) Novels:

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

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