

# Beat the Heat!

## Summer Reading Challenge



Summertime is a relaxing break from school routines, BUT that doesn't mean that your mind should take a break! Reading is a fun, calming activity that will help you prepare for your next grade level by stimulating your brain. In fact, did you know that reading for a mere twenty minutes a day means that by the end of summer, you will have read a total of 1,940 minutes? Think how much more ready you will be for your next grade level with 1,940 minutes of thinking under your belt. (Not to mention how impressed your new teacher will be!)

According to researchers at John Hopkins University, students can lose a total of two to three months of reading achievement over summer vacation. Another study out of Harvard found that reading four to five books over the summer can prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from spring to fall. Let's learn from these two studies, and prevent achievement loss by reading some good books over our three month summer!

This summer, we are challenging our future 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders to keep a reading log of books completed over the summer. We are also attaching a calendar from "Reading is Fundamental". It includes fun literacy activities to complete during our long three month summer vacation.

Every student is encouraged to turn in the attached reading log to his/her teacher during the first week of school. Any student returning a completed reading log will be invited to participate in a celebration.

We are also attaching a lists of great books for those of you looking for good titles and a genre description list to help those of you trying to expand your repertoire of genre!

**Remember, inactive minds can't grow, so read this summer!  
It's fun!**



## **Resources:**

Monarch book list:

<http://www.islma.org/pdf/2016MasterList/2016MonarchAwardMasterList.pdf>

Caudill book list:

[www.rebeccacaudill.org/images/pdf/2016MasterList.pdf](http://www.rebeccacaudill.org/images/pdf/2016MasterList.pdf)

Newbury Award list:

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal>

Caldecott Award list:

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal>

Battle of the Books list:

(visit the Crete Public Library site at : [www.cretelibrary.org](http://www.cretelibrary.org); it is NOT the national list)

## **Genre Guide:**

- **Fable** – narration demonstrating a useful truth, especially in which animals speak as humans; legendary, supernatural tale
- **Fairy tale** – story about magical creatures, often including princesses and princes
- **Fantasy** – fiction with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality
- **Folklore** – the songs, stories, myths, and proverbs of a people or "folk" as handed down by word of mouth
- **Graphic Novel** – story written in a format similar to comic book writing
- **Historical fiction** – story with fictional characters and events in a historical setting
- **Legend** – story, sometimes of a national or folk hero, that has a basis in fact but also includes imaginative material
- **Mystery** – fiction dealing with the solution of a crime or the unraveling of secrets
- **Mythology** – legend or traditional narrative, often based in part on historical events, that reveals human behavior and natural phenomena by its symbolism; often pertaining to the actions of the gods
- **Poetry** – verse and rhythmic writing with imagery that creates emotional responses
- **Realistic fiction** – story that is true to life
- **Science fiction** – story based on impact of actual, imagined, or potential science, usually set in the future or on other planets
- **Short story** – fiction of such brevity that it supports no subplots
- **Tall tale** – humorous story with blatant exaggerations, swaggering heroes who do the impossible with nonchalance
- **Biography/Autobiography** - narrative of a person's life. A true story about a real person.
- **Narrative nonfiction** - factual information presented in a format which tells a story.




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