



GUIDE TO SUMMER READING



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NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LITERACY COLLABORATIVE

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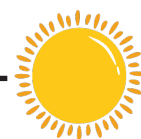
INTRODUCTION

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen effectively. These skills enable students to express themselves clearly, listen to others, gain knowledge and build an understanding of the world around them.

New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is dedicated to ensuring all students build their literacy skills and become strong readers. Especially during the summer months, families play a vital role in supporting their child's continued literacy development at home.

Why is Summer Reading Important?

- Reading daily is very important for all children to strengthen their vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension and build their background knowledge. Summer reading also helps students cultivate a love for reading.
- Research shows that up to two months of reading skills can be lost over the summer when students do not engage in educational activities. This is often referred to as the 'summer slide'. When returning to school, these students fall further behind their peers.
- It is recommended that students read every day since they are not getting the same daily access to text as they would when school is open.
- Spending two to three hours per week reading and practicing literacy skills during the summer can help students avoid the summer slide and increase academic achievement.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

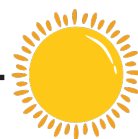
Families

- Review this guide's resources to support your child in building their literacy skills
 - Tips for Families to Support Reading at Home
 - Recommended Titles by Grade Bands
 - Resources for Finding Books and Texts
 - Additional Resources to Support Literacy Development
- Set a summer reading goal with your child and your child's school. Sample goals can include:
 - Number of books read
 - Number of pages read
 - Time spent reading
 - Exploring new genres and new authors

A note to families: Book titles and websites in this guide have been suggested by librarians and educational organizations. Be an active part of your child's book selection. Also, please check with your child's school if there are additional lists for recommended or required books.

Schools

- Share this guide with families
 - Provide printed copies and send home along with important end-of-year notices and/or report cards
 - Email the guidebook to families with a personal note regarding the school's commitment to summer reading
 - Upload the guidebook to your school's website so families can easily access online
 - Link the guidebook to your school's social media accounts
 - Share with your Family Coordinator who can further support families with summer reading
- Check in with students and families over the summer about their reading goals via telephone, email or remote conferences.
- Engage in online conversations about summer reading through a shared platform; provide a platform for students to discuss summer reading with peers.
- If possible, allow students and their families to enter your school library to check-in/out books on a regular basis.



TIPS FOR FAMILIES & GUARDIANS

Model Positive Reading Habits

- Let your children see you read for pleasure.
- Share your excitement for reading with your kids. Talk about what you are reading and why you are reading it.
- Schedule time into your daily/weekly schedule for the whole family to sit down and read.
- Take a trip to the local bookstore, or an online bookstore, and shop for books as a family.
- Visit the library as a family; help each other select books to read.
- Attend readings by favorite authors at local bookstores and libraries. If possible, purchase the book(s) and let your child get the author's signature or borrow the book from the library.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children (siblings, cousins, neighbors, pets and even stuffed animals make great audience members).
- Include reading beyond books; have newspapers and magazines available as well.

Talk About Books

- At dinner, or other informal times, ask your children about the book they are reading.
- Use reading questions to have deeper conversations about books.
- Share your childhood memories about reading and books. Talk about your own favorite kids' books and authors, your struggles/successes with reading, etc.
- Use the Supporting Reading at Home Resource to support your child with a culturally and linguistically responsive approach.

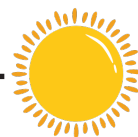
Provide Books Aligned to Your Child's Interests

- Notice what your child is most interested in reading and provide them with more reading materials on that topic/genre.
- Ask a teacher or librarian for book suggestions —they usually know the new and popular reading material for children of different ages.
- Utilize [Teachingbooks.net](https://teachingbooks.net) to watch book trailers, interviews with authors, and gauge your child's interest in a particular book.

Tips and Book Recommendations

The subsequent pages provide tips and book recommendations for specific age groups:

- [Kindergarten - Grade 2](#)
- [Grades 3-5](#)
- [Grades 6-8](#)
- [Grades 9-12](#)



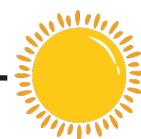
TIPS FOR K-2

Read Aloud to Each Other

- Read your child's favorite stories aloud.
- Let your child read aloud to you. Reading the same book multiple times is natural and beneficial for new readers. You might also want to try reading a page to your child and then ask your child to read the same page back to you. Keep it fun or make it into a game.
- Practice the names of letters and the sounds the letters make. "Do you see the letter 'b' on the page? What sound does that letter make?"
- Practice the sounds in words with your child. Young children often do not hear all the sounds that make up words. Use rhyming words: cat-> hat -> mat -> bat. Sound words out with your child: "Where's your book? B-b-b--oooo-k."

Create a Reading Environment in Your Home

- Set up a comfortable space in your home for reading, free from distractions like TV/computer/games/phones. Placing pillows or cushions on the floor is an easy way to make any space into a reading space.
- Have reading materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, etc. throughout your home and easily accessible to your children.
- Always bring a book to read on public transportation and when you anticipate having to wait in a line.
- Create a special place for your children to keep their books in the home. For example, a specific section of a bookshelf, a box in their room or in a designated place at home, etc.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: K-2

Book Title

A Gift from Abuela

[All the Way to Havana](#)

[Blue Sky White Stars](#)

[Carmela Full of Wishes](#)

[Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus](#)

[Frog and Toad Together](#)

[Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors](#)

[I am Enough](#)

[Last Stop on Market Street](#)

[Llama Llama Red Pajama](#)

[Malala's Magic Pencil](#)

Monsoon Afternoon

[Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons](#)

[Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat](#)

[Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood](#)

[The Undefeated](#)

[Under my Hijab](#)

[We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga](#)

[Where are You From?](#)

[You Hold Me Up](#)

Author

Cecilia Ruiz

Margarita Engle

Sarvinder Naberhaus

Matt de la Peña

Mo Williams

Arnold Lobel

Hena Khan

Grace Byers

Matt de la Peña

Ann Dewdney

Malala Yousafzai

Kashmira Sheth

Eric Litwin

Javaka Steptoe

Carole Boston Weatherford

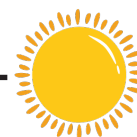
Kwame Alexander

Hena Khan

Traci Sorell

Yamile Saied Méndez

Monique Gray Smith



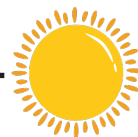
TIPS FOR GRADES 3-5

Read Aloud to Each Other

- Read your child’s favorite stories aloud.
- Let your child read aloud to you. If their reading sounds choppy, practice the page(s) several times. Alternatively, you read the page first, and then ask your child to read the same page back to you. Keep it fun or make it into a game.
- Find materials to read aloud wherever you go: menus, advertisements, brochures, street and store signs, bus and subway maps, catalogs that come in the mail, free newspapers, etc.

Create a Reading Environment in Your Home

- Set up a comfortable space in your home for reading, free from distractions like TV/ computer/games/phones. Placing pillows or cushions on the floor is an easy way to make any space into a reading space.
- Have reading materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, etc. throughout your home and easily accessible to your children.
- Subscribe to a children’s magazine and have the magazine sent directly to your child. Show interest when it arrives: for example, “Show me your favorite article,” “I love that picture of the sea lions.” Some popular magazines include [Highlights](#), [Ranger Rick](#), [Sports Illustrated for Kids](#) and [National Geographic Junior](#).
- Use reading as a vehicle for learning. For example, if your child is interested in flying a kite, read an article on making a kite at home.
- Ask relatives and friends who do not live near you to send letters or emails to your child.
- Always bring a book to read on public transportation and when you anticipate having to wait in a line.
- Create a special place for your children to keep their books in the home. For example, a specific section of a bookshelf, a box in their room, etc.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: 3-5

Book Title

Author

[28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World](#)

Charles R. Smith, Jr.

[Alvin Ho: Allergic to the Great Wall, the Forbidden Palace, & Other Tourist Attractions](#)

Lenore Look

[Amal Unbound](#)

Aisha Saeed

[Ana Maria Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle](#)

Hilda Eunice Burgos

Anacaona: The Golden Flower Queen (La reina flor de oro)

Viviana S. Torres

[Aru Shah and the End of Time](#)

Roshani Chokshi

[As Brave As You](#)

Jason Reynolds

[At the Mountain's Base](#)

Traci Sorell

[Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings](#)

Francie Latour

[Better Nate Than Ever](#)

Tim Federle

[Blended](#)

Sharon M. Draper

[Bravo!: Poems About Amazing Hispanics](#)

Margarita Engle

[Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story](#)

S.D. Nelson

[Charlie Hernández and the League of Shadows](#)

Ryan Calejo

[Charlotte's Web](#)

E.B. White

Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee Count Me In

Varsha Bajaj

Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom

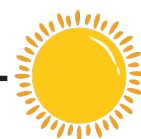
Tim Tingle

[Cute as an Axolotl](#)

Jess Keating

[Dara Palmer's Major Drama](#)

Emma Shevah



Book Title

Author

[Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin](#)

[Dog Man](#)

[Don't Feed the Geckos!](#)

Donovan's Big Day

[Drawn Together](#)

[Dreamers](#)

[El Deafo](#)

Escape from Syria

[Finding Langston](#)

[Germs: Fact and Fiction, Friends and Foes](#)

[Grand Canyon](#)

[Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race](#)

[I am Jazz](#)

[Indian Shoes](#)

[Jada Jones: Rock Star](#)

Juana and Lucas

[Lark and the Dessert Disaster](#)

[Love](#)

[Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation](#)

[Merci Suarez Changes Gears](#)

Muskrat Will Be Swimming

[My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey](#)

Duncan Tonatiuh

Dav Pillkey

Karen English

Lesléa Newman

Minh Lê

Yuyi Morlaes

Cece Bell

Samya Kullab

Lesia Cline-Ransome

Lesia Cline-Ransome

Jason Chin

Margot Lee Shetterly

Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings

Cynthia Leitich Smith

Kelly Starling Lyons

Juana Medina

Natasha Deen

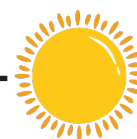
Matt de la Peña

Edwidge Danticat

Meg Medina

Cheryl Savageau

Lesia Cline-Ransome



Book Title

[Our House is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet](#)

[Out of My Mind](#)

[Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré](#)

[Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions, and Murderous Medicines](#)

[Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation](#)

[Talking Leaves](#)

[The Adventures of Captain Underpants](#)

The Nian Monster

[The One and Only Ivan](#)

[The People Shall Continue: 40th Anniversary Special Edition](#)

The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop

[The Story that Cannot be Told](#)

[The Turtle of Oman: A Novel by Naomi Shihab Nye](#)

[Young, Gifted and Black](#)

[The Witch Boy](#)

[Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas](#)

[Two Naiomis](#)

[When the Sea Turned to Silver](#)

[Where the Mountain Meets the Moon](#)

[Wonder](#)

Author

Jeanette Winter

Sharon M. Draper

Anika Aldamuy Denise

Sarah Albee

Duncan Tonatiuh

Joseph Bruchac

Dav Pilkey

Andrea Wang

Katherine Applegate

Simon J. Ortiz

Carole Boston Weatherford

J. Kasper Kramer

Naomi Shihab Nye

Jamia Wilson

Molly Knox Ostertag

Gwendolyn Hooks

Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich and Audrey Vernick

Grace Lin

Grace Lin

R.J. Palacio



TIPS FOR GRADES 6-8

Read Aloud to Each Other

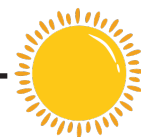
- Ask your child to read a book aloud to you. If they seem resistant, ask them to read a smaller section such as a paragraph or page from their book.
- Read aloud interesting articles from newspapers, magazines, or online sites. “Listen to this, the mayor thinks we should...”
- Incorporate these read-alouds into your daily/weekly routines: while doing the dishes, making food, etc.
- Read aloud an instruction manual, or ask your child to read it aloud to you, as you put together a new item in your home.

Help Adolescents Balance Reading with their Active Social Lives

- Set aside a span of time every night that is just for reading (turn the phone and TV off).
- Make a schedule with your child to help plan out reading (for example, the bus ride on the way to karate lessons is a great time for reading).
- Buy several copies of a book and encourage your child to invite their best friend to read it together.

Create a Reading Environment in Your Home

- Set up a comfortable space in your home for reading, free from distractions like TV/computer/games/phones. Placing pillows or cushions on the floor is an easy way to make any space into a reading space.
- Have reading materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, etc. throughout your home and easily accessible to your children.
- Use reading as a vehicle for learning. Research and read about topics that come up naturally in conversation.
- Ask relatives and friends who do not live near you to send letters or emails to your child.
- Remind your child to bring a book when they go on public transportation and when they anticipate having to wait in a line.
- Buy bookmarks as souvenirs if traveling (they are inexpensive and promote reading) and/or pick up free ones offered at most bookstores.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: 6-8

Book Title

Author

[Above and Beyond: NASA's Journey to Tomorrow](#)

Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

[Ahimsa](#)

Supriya Kelkar

[Amina's Voice](#)

Hena Khan

[Booked](#)

Kwame Alexander

[Brown Girl Dreaming](#)

Jacqueline Woodson

[Cat Girl's Day Off](#)

Kimberly Pauley

[Dactyl Hill Squad](#)

Daniel Jose Older

[Danny Blackgoat: Dangerous Passage](#)

Tim Tingle

[Dear America: The Story of an Undocumented Citizen \(Young Readers Edition\)](#)

Jose Antonio Vargas

[Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#)

Jeff Kinney

[Dragon Pearl](#)

Yoon Ha Lee

[Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans](#)

Don Brown

[Each Tiny Spark](#)

Pablo Cartaya

[Echo](#)

Pam Muñoz Ryan

[Escape from Aleppo](#)

N.H. Senzai

[Esperanza Rising](#)

Pam Muñoz Ryan

[Fatty Legs](#)

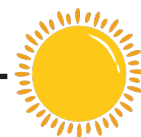
Christy Jordan-Fenton &
Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

[Fault Lines in the Constitution](#)

Cynthia Levinson & Sanford
Levinson

[Flying Lessons & Other Stories](#)

Ellen Oh



Book Title

Author

[For Black Girls Like Me](#)

Mariama J. Lockington

[Front Desk](#)

Kelly Yang

Gaawin Gindaaswin Ndaawsi (I Am Not a Number)

Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer

[George](#)

Alex Gino

Ghost

Jason Reynolds

[Harbor Me](#)

Jacqueline Woodson

How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story

Tim Tingle

[How to be an American: A Field Guide to Citizenship](#)

Silvia Hidalgo

[I Lived on Butterfly Hill](#)

Marjorie Agosin

[In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse](#)

Joseph Marshall III

[Inside Out and Back Again](#)

Thanhha Lai

[It Ain't So Awful, Falafel](#)

Firoozeh Dumas

[Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World](#)

Ashley Herring Blake

[Just Like Jackie](#)

Lindsey Stoddard

[Katana at Superhero High \(DC Superhero Girls\)](#)

Lisa Yee

[Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks](#)

Jason Reynolds

[Lucky Broken Girl](#)

Ruth Behar

[Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish](#)

Pablo Cartaya

[Maximilian and the Lucha Libre Club: A Bilingual Lucha Libre Thriller](#)

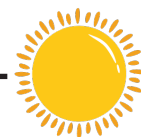
Xavier Garza

[New Kid](#)

Jerry Craft

[One Last Word](#)

Nikki Grimes



Book Title

Author

[Other Words for Home](#)

Jasmine Warga

[Pashmina](#)

Nidhi Chanani

[Piecing Me Together](#)

Renee Watson

[Race to the Sun](#)

Rebecca Roanhorse

[Raymie Nightingale](#)

Kate DiCamillo

[Roll with It](#)

Jamie Sumner

Rooting for Rafael Tosales

Kurtis Scaletta

[The Crossover](#)

Kwame Alexander

[The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora](#)

Pablo Cartaya

[The First Rule of Punk](#)

Celia Perez

The Great American Dustbowl

Don Brown

[The Hero Next Door](#)

Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich (editor)

[The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell](#)

Chris Colfer

[The Lightning Thief \(Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1\)](#)

Rick Riordan

[The Skin I'm In](#)

Sharon Flake

[The Stars Beneath Our Feet](#)

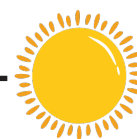
David Barclay Moore

[The Truth as Told](#)

Mason Buttle

[They Called Us Enemy](#)

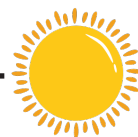
George Takei with Justin Eisenger and Steven Scott



TIPS FOR GRADES 9-12

Help High School Students Balance Reading with their Active Social Lives

- Encourage teens to use various social media tools such as [GoodReads](#) where they can connect with people who like the same books as they do, and share their opinions about the books they are reading.
- Keep your discussions about reading positive; do not pressure your kids or criticize the books they like.
- Read some popular young adult books and discuss them with your teen; this can be a wonderful way to talk about sensitive subjects.
- Encourage your teen to become an expert in a subject they particularly enjoy by reading widely and deeply about that topic.
- Do not abandon reading aloud just because your teens are capable of reading for themselves; reading aloud is something you can mutually enjoy and it can be a great bonding experience.
- Remind teens that used bookstores are great places to hunt for quirky, bargain books.
- Suggest that your teen leave online reviews about the books they have read, to help other readers decide whether or not those books might be right for them. They can leave reviews on Amazon, or start a “vlogging” book review series on YouTube.
- Encourage your child to listen to audio books. While it is not “reading,” it is a great way to get teens “hooked” on different literature and authors.
- Help teens find social events like poetry slams or teen book clubs at a [local branch library](#), bookstore, or art space.
- Encourage your child to use various online tools such as [Animoto](#) to create their own book trailers.

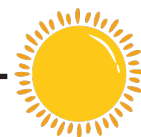


BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: 9-12

Book Title

Author

A Map of Days (the Fourth Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children)	Ransom Riggs
All American Boys	Brandon Kiely and Jason Reynolds
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe	Benjamin Alire Saenz
Becoming	Michelle Obama
Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America	Editor: Ibi Zoboi
Children of Blood and Bone (Legacy of Orisha Book 1)	Tomi Adeyemi
Dear Martin	Nic Stone
Enchanted Air	Margarita Engle
Fire Starters	Jen Storm
First People: An Illustrated History of American Indians	David King
From Twinkle, with Love	Sandhya Menon
Gabi, a Girl in Pieces	Isabel Quintero
Good Enough	Jen Petro-Roy
Here to Stay	Sara Farizan
Him Standing	Richard Wagamese
House of Purple Cedar	Tim Tingle
Hurricane Child	Kacen Callender
I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)	Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick



Book Title

Author

[Jackpot](#)

Nic Stone

[Jim Thorpe, Original All-American](#)

Joseph Bruchac

[Killer of Enemies](#)

Joseph Bruchac

[Lights, Camera, Disaster](#)

Erin Dionne

[March: Books 1-3](#)

Congressman John Lewis and
Andrew Aydin

[Miles Morales: Spider-Man](#)

Jason Reynolds

[More Happy Than Not](#)

Adam Silvera

[Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass](#)

Frederick Douglass

[On the Come Up](#)

Angie Thomas

[Pemmican Wars: A Girl Called Echo](#)

Katherena Vermette

[Pride](#)

Ibi Zoboi

[Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy](#)

Bil Wright

[Rebel Seoul](#)

Axie Oh

[Refugee](#)

Alan Gatz

[Scythe](#)

Neal Schusterman

Shadowshaper

Daniel Jose Older

[The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed their Lives](#)

Dashka Slater

The Arrival

Shaun Tan

[The Bridge Home](#)

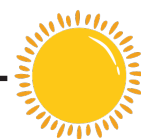
Padma Venkatraman

[The Disappearing Spoon \(Young Readers Edition\)](#)

Sam Kean

[The Education of Margot Sanchez](#)

Lilliam Rivera



Book Title

Author

[The Fault in Our Stars](#)

John Green

[The Hate U Give](#)

Angie Thomas

[The Hunger Games](#)

Suzanna Collins

[The Living](#)

Matt de la Peña

[The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali](#)

Sabrina Khan

[The Night Diary](#)

Veera Hiranandani

[The Outsiders](#)

S.E. Hinton

[The Porcupine of Truth](#)

Bill Konigsberg

[The Shadow Hero](#)

Gene Luen Yang and Sonny Liew

[The Sun is Also a Star](#)

Nicola Yoon

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

Harper Lee

[Us in Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos](#)

Lulu Delacre

[Warcross](#)

Marie Lu

[We are Okay](#)

Nina LaCour

[We Too Sing America: South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Immigrants Shape our Multiracial Future](#)

Deepa Lyer

[When Dimple Met Rishi](#)

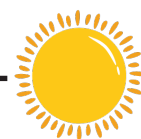
Sandhya Menon

[When I was the Greatest](#)

Jason Reynolds

[Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass](#)

Meg Medina



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Summer Reading Challenges

New York State Assembly's 2023 Summer Reading Challenge

Pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August!

This challenge is in cooperation with the Summer Reading at New York Libraries program.

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

New York Times 14th Annual Summer Reading Challenge

Middle and high schoolers are invited to share what they're reading from June 9th to August 18th.

[Summer Reading Contest](#)

NYC Public Library Events and Activities

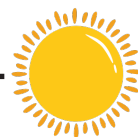
Learn about virtual events, book lists and fun activity suggestions designed to spark your imagination at local public libraries in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island, and Queens.

[NYC Public Libraries Summer Reading](#)

Leyendo en Casa

Literacy Partners invites Spanish-speaking families to a virtual workshop on how to promote a love of reading with your children.

[Leyendo en Casa](#)



LOCATING & ACCESSING TEXT ONLINE

[Citywide Digital Library - SORA](#)

Students can access free e-books, audiobooks, and magazines using their NYCPS login credentials. They can add a public library card to their account to maximize their search.

[Citywide Digital Library - SORA Collections](#)

Students can access free, grade-level Hidden Voices/Mosaic lists and other theme and subject collections.

[Brooklyn Public Library](#)

All NYC residents can access free e-books and other resources using a library card. Students and families can apply for a free card through bklynlibrary.org website. You can also access books and other resources through [Cloud Library](#).

[Free Comics from Amazon](#)

Students can read a selection of comic books for free through Amazon, including The Avengers and Black Panther.

[Gale Database](#)

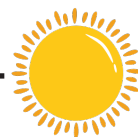
Students can access this database where you can search for articles in popular newspapers and magazines.

[MyON](#)

MyOn is a digital library with over 8,000 titles. They are sponsoring a Summer Learning Series for families on how to use MyOn at home.

[New York Public Library \(NYPL\)](#)

All NYC residents can access free e-books and other resources using a library card. Students and families can apply for a free card through the nypl.org website. You can also access books and other resources through [Cloud Library](#).



[National Geographic Kids](#)

Free access to nonfiction articles on science and social studies topics from National Geographic Magazine for Kids.

[Newsela](#)

Students can access to a variety of articles on current events, history, art, culture, and science as well as some fiction. If your child doesn't already have access through their school, their teacher or guardian will need to set up an account and share a code.

[Poems for Kids](#)

Free access to a variety of poems.

[Queens Public Library](#)

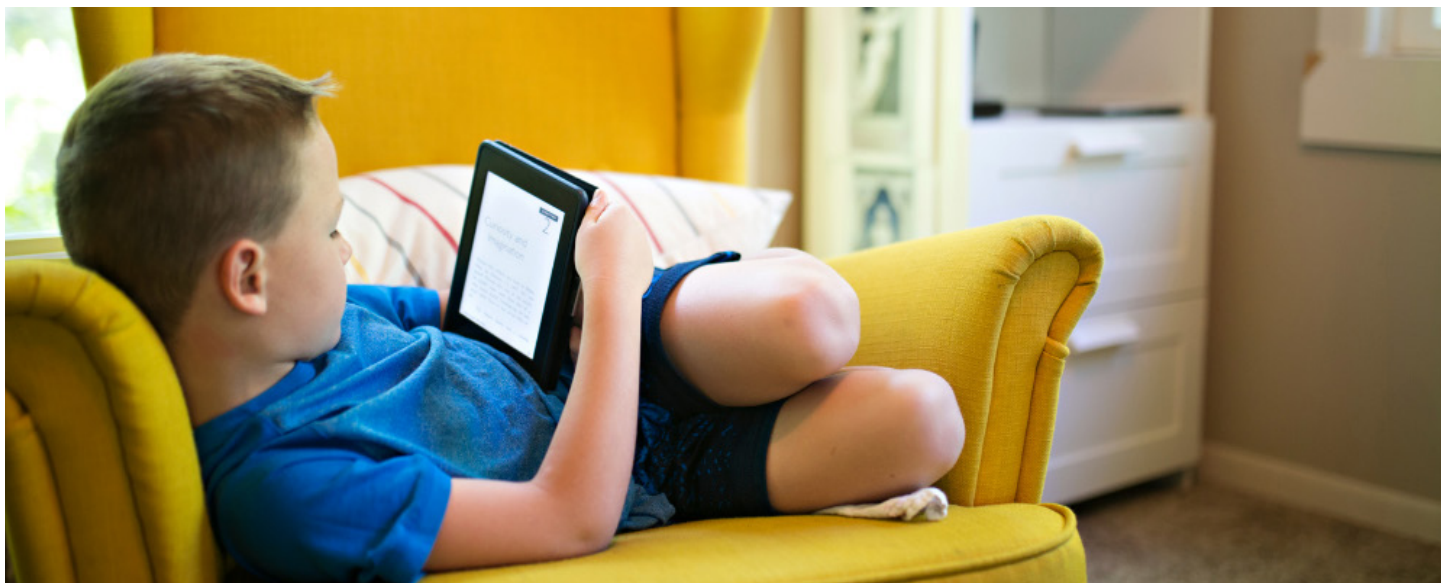
All NYC residents can access free e-books and other resources using a library card. Students and families can apply for a free card through the queenslibrary.org website. You can also access books and other content through [Cloud Library](#).

[Smithsonian Tween Tribune](#)

Free access to articles on current events, history, art, culture and science.

[Sports Illustrated Kids](#)

Free access to sports-themed articles from Sports Illustrated for Kids.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Reading – Elementary

[Reading 101: A Guide for Parents - Reading Rockets](#)

Provides ways to help children grow as readers, writers, and learners.

[Supporting Your Child’s Reading at Home](#)

Provides easy-to-follow instructions to help your child practice foundational reading skills.

[A New Model for Teaching High-Frequency Words - Reading Rockets](#)

Learn how to “rethink” teaching of high-frequency words.

[Let’s Learn - Thirteen • PBS](#)

Learn how to “rethink” teaching of high-frequency words.

[Sesame Street](#)

Provides games and storybooks to help keep children curious, confident, and excited to explore more.

[Reading Tip Sheet for Parents Pre K - Grade 3](#)

Provides tips for parents available in 13 languages.

[Read Aloud Routines](#)

Provides a routine for families to follow with their child. Available in Spanish.

Writing – All Grades

[7 Ways to Encourage Your Child’s Writing - Reading Rockets](#)

Discover creative strategies to encourage children to write.

[New York Times Writing Prompts](#)

144 prompts to inspire children’s writing.

[Book Review Form - NYPL](#)

Write reviews and rank the titles you read this summer.



READING COMPONENTS: PHONEMIC AWARENESS & PHONICS

In addition to reading texts, you can help your child develop language; map sounds to letters; blend sounds to read word parts and words; learn new words; write words; and read for understanding. These skills are essential for developing into a strong reader. In this section, families can find resources and activities to support each of the reading components.

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic Awareness - the ability to speak, hear, identify, and manipulate the 40–44 spoken phonemes (smallest units of sound, often known as the building blocks of speech) that make up the English language.

RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

[Activities for the Preschool or Elementary Classroom | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides tips to support the development of phonemic awareness.

[Practicing with Syllables and Rhyming | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides activities to build early literacy skills.

[Playing with Sounds to Build Phonemic Awareness: Activities for Your Pre-K or K Child | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides activities to hear, identify, and play with the sounds in spoken language.

[Playing with Sounds to Build Phonemic Awareness: Activities for Your First Grader | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides speech sound activities to support the development of phonemic awareness.

[Sound/Spelling Boxes | Classroom Strategies | Reading Rockets](#)

Explains and demonstrates how to use sound boxes (with/without print) to support children to segment words into sounds.

Phonics

Phonics - the ability to know how letters represent sounds, how to decode words and how to remember their spellings.

RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

[Games to Breakdown and Put Words Together | Classroom Strategies | Reading Rockets](#)

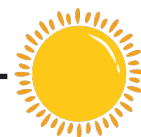
Provides activities and demonstrations to support children to use the knowledge of blending sounds and segmenting words when reading and spelling.

[General Phonics Practice Activities](#)

Provides flashcards, games and other activities to reinforce phonics skills.

[For Students at a K-2 Reading Level](#)

Provides flashcards, games and other activities to reinforce phonics skills developed for K -2 families.



READING COMPONENTS: FLUENCY, VOCABULARY, & COMPREHENSION

Fluency

The ability to read words automatically without errors in text. A fluent reader groups words together to form meaningful phrases and sentences and reads with expression to reflect and enhance the meaning of a text. Fluency is critically important and is a bridge between decoding words and comprehension.

RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

[Fluency Matters | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides activities students can do at home to build reading fluency.

[Poems at Home | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides suggestions for using poetry to build reading fluency.

[Family Fluency For Students at 6+ Grade Reading Level](#)

A workbook for families to help build children's fluency. Passages appropriate for students reading at a 6th grade reading level or higher.

[Family Fluency For Students at 4 - 5 Grade Reading Level](#)

A workbook for families to help build children's fluency. Passages appropriate for students reading at a 4th or 5th grade reading level.

[Family Fluency For Students at 2 - 3rd Grade Reading Level](#)

A workbook for families to help build children's fluency. Passages appropriate for students reading at a 2nd or 3rd grade reading level.

Vocabulary

The ability to know the meanings and pronunciations of an ever-increasing bank of words.

RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

[Vocabulary Games | PBS KIDS](#)

Provides word games for elementary students.

[Got a Newspaper? You've Got Learning! | Reading Rockets](#)

Provides "letters and words" activities for the youngest, plus fun writing prompts and tips on how to read and analyze the news for older kids.

[Freerice](#)

Provides word games for secondary students.

[Educational Hip-Hop Songs & Videos for All Subjects, K-12](#)

Provides Hip hop videos and instructional activities promote literacy and spark activities. A free trial is available.

Comprehension

The ability to construct meaning and acquire knowledge from a text.

RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

[Reading Discussion Bingo](#)

Provides a list of questions families can discuss with their child.



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NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LITERACY COLLABORATIVE