



Just Read, Florida! Summer Literacy Adventure 2011

Florida's First Lady Ann Scott and the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! office proudly announces the **2011 Summer Literacy Adventure!** As summer is fast approaching, we encourage schools, students and parents prepare for the summer break by participating in this fun challenge to have your students read during the break!

Literacy experts and educators agree that children of all ages need to be read to, read by themselves, and talk about the books they have read over the summer. Your student's summer reading and book discussions will help maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency, and provide the opportunity to learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime. According to research by Richard Allington (2007), by the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement. Researchers also conclude that two-thirds of the 9th grade reading achievement gap can be explained by this summer learning loss. Let's work together to help the students of Florida stay on track and not lose valuable ground in reading.

The 2011 Summer Literacy Adventure is geared toward helping children stay on target, stay motivated and stay excited about reading and literacy. During summer vacation, it is important for students to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis--whether the student is a beginning reader or a proficient reader.

The Summer Literacy Adventure invites you to have your students read as many books as possible. Each student can fill out his or her pledge on the Just Read, Florida! website at www.justreadflorida.com, and by the end of the summer, the Department will tally up which schools have the most participants in the Adventure!

In addition to this challenge, below are some suggestions and resources that you as the district literacy leader may share with administrators, reading coaches and teachers in every school in your community to encourage reading. Thank you for your continued efforts in working to provide Florida's students the resources and support they need to be successful in school and in life!

2011 Summer Literacy Adventure Suggestions and Resources:

- Provide tips to parents for summer reading. (See Parent Tips for Summer attachment)
- Provide Just Read, Florida! Parent Brochures for parents of elementary school and secondary students. (See Parent Brochures attached)
- To use up any remaining Parent – Teacher Organizational funds at the school or district levels, schools can provide “summer book-packs.” Book-packs include age appropriate books at the student's reading level with follow-up activities for students to complete during the summer break.
- Consider having Open Library Nights at your schools for children and parents to come and check out books and read while at the school library. Media Specialists may want to track grade level participation and recognize these children/grades at a schoolwide **2011 Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration**.
- Consider allowing children to use classroom library books or media center books as a tool to meet the **Summer Literacy Adventure**. Books can be checked out during the summer library hours.
- Consider sending phone messages via your district's automated messaging system to all students, encouraging them to keep reading and be a part of the **Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration** when they return to school. This message can come from the superintendent, the principal, the reading coach or the classroom teacher.
- Consider using the school website to promote the **Summer Literacy Adventure and Celebration**.
- When students return to school in the fall, coordinate a **Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration** for the students who participated.



Parent Tips For Summer Reading

- Consider having rewards or prizes for those students that complete the **Summer Literacy Adventure**.
- Encourage your students to visit their local libraries during the break.
- Invite your students to use the Find a Book tool to find books that are geared toward their interests.

Additional Student, Parent and Teacher Resources:

- Middle school students will enjoy reading along and asking questions of famous authors through the **Literacy League Book Club** <http://www.fldoe.org/literacyleague/>
 - *Spring Book: The Treasure of Amelia Island* by M.C. Finotti, questions due from students by April 29, 2011
 - *Summer Book: Solomon* by Marilyn Shaw, questions due from students by July 29, 2011
 - **Reading Rockets** is a great resource for parents and teachers. <http://www.readingrockets.org/guides/readingrockets>
Click on the following links for more information and guidance:
 - Launching Young Readers Guides
 - Reading Rockets Parent Tip Sheets
 - A Tale of Two Schools Guides
 - Parents will be thrilled with the **Summer Travel Activities** <http://fun.familyeducation.com/travel/family-travel/33401.html> Explore games, activities and crafts for children.
 - **Summer Time Reading** - Parent resource http://www.rif.org/documents/us/summer_reading.pdf
 - **Just Read, Florida!** The Just Read, Florida! site provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
 - **For Teens, By Teens** recommended reading list <http://www.justreadflorida.com/recommend/PublicDisplay.asp>
 - **Just Read, Families!** <http://www.justreadfamilies.org/>
 - **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards** The Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://myssyra.org>
 - **Education World** A list of activities is provided on this site to extend your child's understanding of what they read in addition to an annotated list of recommended reading for kindergarten through eighth grade. http://www.education-world.com/summer_reading
 - **KidsReads** KidsReads offers an excellent annotated list of classic and new books arranged by age level. <http://www.kidsreads.com/index.asp>
 - **International Reading Association** The International Reading Association provides a unique, annotated, downloadable list of literature chosen by children and by teachers each year from 1998 to 2002 arranged by reading level. <http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.html>
 - **Learn More About Favorite Authors and Illustrators** After reading a book this summer, you and your child may enjoy looking at the author or illustrator's Web site. Most authors include information about themselves and their books as well as information about how to send them a message. Check out these sites for more links to authors' and illustrators' Web sites.
 - **Children's Book Council** This site offers an alphabetical listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their Web sites. <http://www.cbcbooks.org/contacts>
 - **Children's Literature Web Guide** This site offers another complete listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their Web sites. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors.html>
 - Excerpts from "Why Summers Matter in the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap" by Richard Allington & Anne McGill-Franzen (2009) <http://www.gcsnc.com/omb/pdf/Why%20Summers%20Matter%20in%20the%20Rich-Poor%20Achievement%20Gap.pdf>
 - "Summer Reading Loss" By: Maryann Mraz and Timothy V. Rasinski (2007) http://www.ldonline.org/article/Summer_Reading_Loss?theme=print
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