

A Resource Guide to Avoid the

Summer Slide

Great Neck North Middle School
English Department

Contact: Mrs. Cinthia Serowik
cserowik@greatneck.k12.ny.us



Tips to Prevent the Summer Slide

1. Choose the Right Books.

If your child's book is too easy, he/she will get bored. If it is too difficult, he/she may abandon it. A "just right" book should be challenging but engaging. Check out our list of resources to help your child select books to read over the summer.

2. Make it Fun!

Going on vacation? Have your child research the places you will be visiting over the summer. Reading up on silly laws or the geography and culture of an area will get your child more excited about the trip while learning and building their social studies skills. Staying local? Don't forget about the local parks, museums, zoos, aquariums, etc. Your local community is full of learning opportunities you've probably never considered.

3. Visit Your Local Library or Bookstore.

Public libraries and bookstores often have fun activities planned during the summer months - from author visits and book talks to game nights and art activities.

4. Set a Goal!

Set some reading goals with your child or set some goals together. The assigned summer reading book should not be the only book your child reads this summer. Depending on your child's age and reading level, you might want to aim for a book a week, or to set aside time every night to read. Don't forget North Middle's 30x6 initiative! Perhaps you will read the same book and share your reflections. Use the attached resources and questions to guide your conversations. These moments help establish a love of reading and a closer bond.

5. Read every day!

Practice makes perfect! Show your child that reading is a priority, even when school is not in session.

WAYS TO SUPPORT LITERACY INSTRUCTION

AT HOME



*"You're never
too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and
read to a child."
-Dr. Seuss*

30 x 6

Students should be reading 30 minutes a night, 6 days a week.

WHAT SHOULD YOUR CHILD'S READING ENVIRONMENT LOOK LIKE AT HOME?

- Comfortable
- Well-lit
- Free of distractions - television, cell phones, headphones, etc.
- Don't let reading always be the the last assignment of the night.

BUILDING STAMINA

Not every child will be able to read for 30 consecutive minutes in one sitting, so that is a goal to work towards. A conversation with your child might sound like, "Let's try to read ten minutes tonight. Then we'll take a break and read ten more..."

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD HAS DONE THE READING?

- Check the number of pages read nightly.
- Read alongside your child for 30 minutes.
- Read the same book.
- Have a conversation with your child about the book. Use the questions attached as a guide.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S NOT WORKING?

- Talk to your child about the book he or she is reading. Is he/she able to discuss the book in detail? Is he/she able to answer questions that require more than a simple "yes" or "no" answer?
- Your child is not "in a book."
- Your child is not "getting" the book he or she is reading.
- Your child should be finishing a book equivalent every two weeks (one book equivalent = 200 pages).

WHAT TO DO IF IT'S NOT WORKING

- Change the reading environment.
- Encourage your child to reread tough portions of books, particularly in the beginning. This is a valuable activity.
- Read aloud. Take turns reading aloud.
- Read alongside your child.
- Read the same book that your child is reading.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD CHOOSE A BOOK

- Identify a book that your child enjoyed reading; find another book in that series or another book by that author.
- Explore books in the same genre.
- Obtain recommendations from your child's classmates, friends, or siblings.
- Ask your child's teacher.
- Ask the librarian at NMS or your local library.
- Refer to the websites and resources listed on the Additional Resources/Websites page.
- Consult websites like Barnesandnoble.com, Goodreads.com, readingandwritingproject.org/resources/book-lists, and Scholastic.com.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/WEBSITES

Conversation Starters

Questions to Ask Your Student Before, During, and After Reading

North Middle School English Department Website

<http://englishnms.weebly.com>

Scholastic.com

Newsela.com

ReadWorks.org

ReadWriteThink.org (Parent & Afterschool Resources)

GreatNeckPublicLibrary.org (Young Adult Programs)

Time Magazine Top 100 Young Adult Books

<http://time.com/100-best-young-adult-books>

What Should I Read Next?

www.whatshouldireadnext.com

National Geographic <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com> also has high interest non-fiction articles on a variety of levels. The more skilled readers may prefer the <http://www.nationalgeographic.com> regular site.

Many museums in New York, and throughout the nation, have wonderful websites!

The New York Historical Society <http://www.nyhistory.org/education> and the New York Public Library <http://www.nypl.org> are two places that are fun to explore on line and in person.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- + What has been happening in the book that you are reading?
- + Who is the main character? Why is this character important to the story?
- + What is the main character like? Can you relate to the character? Why or why not?
- + Discuss what the character learned about himself, his family, or his friends.
- + If you could be friends with any character in the book, who would it be? Why?
- + Can you tell me about the main problem in the story?
- + Describe a conflict between two characters. How was the conflict resolved? What did you learn about these characters based on their actions?
- + In what kind of place is the story set? How does this affect the mood, characters, or events in the story?
- + What does the title have to do with the story?
- + What do you think the author is trying to say? Can you provide examples from the text to support your thinking?
- + What do you like or dislike about the book?
- + What other books have you read that had a similar theme or message?
- + What is something else you have read this year that relates to this story?
- + What surprised you most about the story? Why was it surprising?
- + How did the story change your thinking?
- + Would you recommend this book to anyone? Why or why not?

Asking Questions



Good readers ask questions
to help them understand
what they read.

Questions to Ask Your Student Before, During and After Reading

Before Reading:

Question	Strategy Addressed
<p><i>At beginning of new book:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think this book will be about? Why do you think that? • What characters do you think might be in this story? 	Predicting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you know about the topic of this book? (Have you ever been camping/ seen a ghost/been to a farm, etc) • Does the topic of this book remind you of anything you know or have done? 	Connecting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions would you like to ask the author before you read this book? • What are you wondering about as you look at the cover and back of your book? 	Questioning
<p><i>If continuing a book student has been reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has happened so far in this story? 	Summarizing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think will happen next? Why? 	Predicting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions would you like to ask the author about this book? • Do you have any questions about what has happened so far? 	Questioning

During Reading:

Question	Strategy Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think will happen next? Why? • How do you think the character will handle this situation? 	Predicting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think the character did _____? How do you know? • What must have happened here that the author didn't tell us? • What emotions is the character feeling? How do you know? 	Inferring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would you have done if you were the character? • Has anything like this ever happened to you? Does it remind you of something? • How would you have felt if that happened to you? • Do you know someone like this character? • How are you like/different than this character? 	Connecting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you've been reading, what pictures have been in your mind? • If you were in the story, what would you hear, taste, smell or feel? • What does the character/setting look like in your mind? • Tell me what you were imagining in your mind as you read that page/paragraph. 	Visualizing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything you're wondering about right now? 	Questioning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you put what you've just read in your own words? • What's happened to this character so far? • Tell me the most important things you read today in order of how they happened. 	Summarizing

During Reading, Cont.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this making sense to you? • Wait, what's going on here? • Would it help you to understand if you slowed down? • Do you need to reread that part? • What does this word mean? • Where did you stop understanding? How can we fix it? 	Monitoring Comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think it will be important to remember this? Why? • What parts of what you read help you predict what will happen next? • Are there some parts of this story that are more important than others? Which ones? Why are they most important? • What's the big idea in what you've read today? 	Determining Importance

After Reading:

Question	Strategy Addressed
<i>At the end of a book:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If this story had a sequel, what do you think it would be about? 	Predicting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main message of this book? What does the author want you to think about? What was the big idea? 	Inferring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions would you like to ask the author right now? 	Questioning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell me the story in your own words. • Retell the most important events in the story from beginning, middle and end. 	Summarizing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the most important events in this story? 	Determining Importance
<i>If continuing a book student has been reading:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize what you have read today? Retell the most important events in order. • What's happened to this character so far? 	Summarizing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think will happen next? Why? 	Predicting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions would you like to ask the author about this book? • Do you have any questions about what has happened so far? 	Questioning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will be most important for us to remember in what we read today? 	Determining Importance