



We ask that all students entering grades 1-8 in the fall maintain a Summer Reading Log. The goal is for upper grade students to read a minimum of six books over the summer and for younger children to read for 30 minutes each day. The students can choose from a list of fun challenges to guide their reading or they can self-select all of their reading choices. In September, your child's teacher will use the reading logs to have students talk about the books they enjoyed the most. Various classroom activities revolving around summer reading will take place in September. Great resources to support summer reading can be found on the district website [www.medford.k12.nj.us](http://www.medford.k12.nj.us).

Summer reading loss is real. But, a child can maintain the reading gains made during the school year & make a summer leap forward by continuing to read. Young readers need to read just 6 books to beat back loss! Reading more books leads to even greater achievement.

## How To Grow A Strong Reader

**READ  
FOR  
LONGER  
SPANS  
OF  
TIME!**



**READ  
MORE  
PAGES!**

**STAMINA + VOLUME = STRONG READER!**

### Q: Any ideas on how to get a conversation started about a book my child is reading?

A: It only takes a few minutes to get across the idea that "I am interested in you as a reader and what you are reading." That's what is most meaningful to your child. Try these conversation starters...

Tell me something interesting you learned about a character or about the subject you read.

What do you like about the book you're reading? Why?

Can you connect to a character? An event? Or to the problem of the story? How?

How is this book changing your thinking or understanding of the topic? Does it change how you think about anything in your own life?

## How Do I Know If A Book Is Right For My Child?

Kids need "just right" books. That means they need access to books that can be read with ease - few words that need figuring out and comprehension is high. A quick way to check if a book is too challenging is to try the **FIVE FINGER RULE**:

- Read a random page from the book
- Count how many words the reader does not know
- If the number is more than five, the book is most likely not right at this time.

*Check for understanding:*

**Ask your child to retell what was read.**

A child can retell any part of a book that is "just right".

***"We can't let kids not read. It's oxygen for their future."***

***~Penny Kittle***

Keep these in mind while checking for understanding. Can your child...?

### Fiction...

- Talk about characters by name
- Retell story events the way they unfolded
- Talk about characters' feelings or changes

### Nonfiction

- Talk about specific information
- Tell what they learned about the topic
- Note what was new or different information

My child doesn't like the book.

Now what?



Let it go. Really? Yes!

Research supports that books that are too difficult or not interesting should be abandoned for other books. Reading "just right" books for enjoyment should always be encouraged. Have a conversation about why your child did not like the book and see if it can help him or her make a better choice next time.

## How long should my child spend reading?

A general guideline for children entering 1st - 5th grade is 30 minutes a day. Younger children often break their reading time into multiple, shorter sessions. Naturally, reading for longer time frames produces better readers. Use your best judgment to encourage your reader to grow stamina.



## What about my older kids?

Use the summer as an opportunity to build the habit of reading daily. Reading can easily get pushed out of a busy schedule that includes practices and games and swimming and.... Summer is the perfect time to teach your child how to manage his or her time and how to make reading a part of the daily routine.



*Students need to put a lot of miles on their reading odometers, because there is a correlation between achievement & the amount of practice they do.*  
~Laura Robb



## Where can I go to find good reading material that will capture my child's interest?

Fortunately we have a goldmine of great reading material right in our own backyard - The Pinelands Library. Pinelands runs a summer reading program for children of all ages. Check out their website for more information. And do not miss the **NEW parent resource we developed just for you** and just for this purpose! You will find all you need to fill your child's summer with texts of all genres & formats.

Students entering 1st - 5th Grades

<https://goo.gl/GfCKrD>

Students entering 6-8th Grades

<http://bit.ly/summerofsix>



## How can I help my child select books he or she will enjoy?

1. Allow choice
2. Read across several genres
3. Consider texts written in a variety of formats & for different purposes - ebooks, magazines, brochures
4. Read different ways
  - Read aloud to a sibling or parent
  - Partner read with a parent or a friend
  - Listen to someone else read through online sites or recorded books.

Contact the curriculum office at 609-654-6416 if you have additional questions.