

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

K-12 Summer Reading Guidelines

Independent Reading Activities

The collection of grade-appropriate activities below may be used to enhance the summer reading experience for students. The activities are reflective of different learning styles and several of them focus on high order tasks. Schools may use the following activities as listed or may modify them to meet specific student learning styles. The length of the assignment and the amount of time that will be required to complete it should be considered when making summer reading assignments.

Elementary K-2

- Keep a reading log/journal of the books you have read. Include the title(s), a one-sentence summary of each, and write two or three new words you have learned from your reading.
- Draw a picture of your favorite page. If possible explain in writing why this page is your favorite.
- Draw a map of the book's setting. Explain the setting in two or three sentences below the picture.
- Make a picture timeline of all the events in the book.
- Make two posters about the book using one or two of the following media: finger-paint, water colors, crayons, chalk, real materials.
- Rewrite the story in picture book form.
- Create a puppet or finger puppet about your favorite character.
- Using a shoe box, create a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, building, plants, and animals) of an important scene in the book.
- Make up another beginning and ending for the story. Include pictures/drawings.
- Cut out magazine pictures to make a collage or poster illustrating the idea of the book.
- Make a mobile showing pictures or symbols of happenings in the book.
- Draw a picture postcard to a friend about what the book is about.
- Draw a portrait of the main character and write a one sentence summary to accompany your sketch.
- Draw a comic strip of your favorite scene.

Elementary (Intermediate)

- Keep reading log/journal on the books read and make a list of words you have learned. Write the new word, copy the sentence in which it is used, write a definition using your own words, and draw a picture or symbol which reminds you what the word means.
- Surf the Internet prior to, while, or after reading a book to check out the Web and its offerings about the book, its author, or its subject.
- Make a poster advertising your book so someone else will want to read it.

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- Create a dramatic monologue for a character in a specific scene. What are they thinking/feeling at that moment? Why?
- Draw a map of the book's setting and explain.
- Write a one page "pitch" to a producer explaining why the story would or would not make a great movie.
- Draw a multi-colored movie poster for the book. Put usual movie information on it. (Who would you cast in the movie, etc.)
- Create a collage around themes or characters in the book.
- Rewrite a scene and change the gender of the characters to show how they might act differently.
- Write a character diary, writing at least five journal entries as if you are the main character in the story. Write down events that happen during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why.
- Write a poem about one of the characters.
- Pick the most important word/line/image/object/event in the chapter and explain why you chose it. Be sure to support your choice with examples.
- Build a miniature stage setting of a scene in the book. Include a written explanation of the scene.
- Send a postcard from one of the characters. Draw a picture on one side; write the message on the other.
- Choose a character. Tell whether or not you would want him/her for a sibling, parent, friend, or partner (choose one) and why.
- Create a timeline of the major events in your book. Use drawings or magazine cutouts to show the events along the timeline. Label each event.
- Draw a portrait of the main character and write a summary to accompany your sketch.
- Design a T-shirt that promotes your book.
- Make up another beginning and ending for the story. Include drawing/sketches to illustrate the changes.
- Design a poster to advertise your book. Be creative...use details...elaborate...use color! Try to make it 3-D or movable.
- Create a board game about a book you have read and play the game with family members.
- Discuss an effect relationship you found in the book.
- As a literary agent, write a letter to the publishing company designed to persuade them to publish this book.
- Create a Top Ten List. On this list ten, write or illustrate things you have learned from the book.
- You are the reporter. Write a front page news story or a report live from the scene.

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Middle School

- Keep reading log/journal on the books read and make a list of words you have learned. Write the new word, copy the sentence in which it is used, write a definition using your own words, and draw a picture or a symbol which reminds you what the word means.
- Write a paragraph telling about the title. Is it appropriate? Why not? If you feel it is not appropriate provide an alternate title and explain why this title is better.
- Look through magazines for words and pictures that describe your book. Use these to create a collage on a bookmark.
- Write a summary of your book in the most compelling way you can on paper the size of a business card.
- Using email or other means of corresponding, write to another person (friend or parent) about the book as you read it, having a written conversation about the book.
- Design a poster to advertise your book. Be creative...use details...elaborate...use color! Try to make it 3-D or movable.
- Draw/Paint a multi-colored cover for your book. It must be different from any other cover for that book. Include important "book jacket" information.
- Create a timeline of the major events in your book. Use drawings or magazine cutouts to show the events along the timeline. Label each event.
- Plan a party for the characters in the book you read. In order to do this, complete each of the following tasks: (a) Design an invitation to the party which would appeal to all of the characters. (b) Imagine that you are the characters in the book and tell what each would wear at the party. (c) Tell what food you would serve and why. (d) Tell what games or entertainment you will provide and why your choices are appropriate. (e) Tell how the characters act at the party. (f) What kind of a party is this? (birthday, housewarming, anniversary, etc.)
- Write a character diary, writing at least six journal entries as if you are the main character in the story. Write down events that happen during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why.
- Write a poem about one of the characters.
- Instead of traveling into the book, write a scene or story including pictures in which the character(s) travel out of the book into today.
- Tape an interview with one of the characters in the book you read. Pretend that this character is being interviewed by a magazine or newspaper reporter. Write a script before taping in case you might want to ask the assistance of a partner.
- Design a T-shirt that promotes your book.
- Search the Internet for virtual tours based on the book you are reading. Log your findings in your reading log/journal. Visit the author's official website and write your findings.
- Draw a portrait of the main character and write a summary to accompany your sketch.

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- Make up another beginning and ending for the story. Include drawing/sketches to illustrate the changes.
- Write a one page “pitch” to a producer explaining why the story would or would not make a great movie.
- Identify the character’s main problem in the story. Write to explain how you would have responded if you were in the same situation.
- Create a board game about a book you have read and play this game with family members.
- Create an advice column (Dear Abby) and give the characters in the story advice on how to handle their problems/dilemmas.
- Discuss a relationship you found in the book.
- As a literary agent, write a letter to the publishing company designed to persuade them to publish this book.
- Create a Top Ten List. List ten things you have learned from the book.
- You are the reporter. Write a front page news story or a report live from the scene.
- After reading the book(s) create your own test. The test may be a combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.

Senior High

- Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Make a tape describing the homes of your characters and the places where important events in the book took place. Be creative!
- Make a timeline of the major events in the book you read. Be sure the divisions on the timeline reflect the time period in the plot. Use drawings or magazine cutouts to illustrate events along the time line.
- Create a mandala with many levels to connect different aspects of the book, its historical time, and culture.
- Take a 3x5 card and summarize the events of the story on one side. On the other, analyze the importance of what happened and the reasons they happened.
- Imagine that the book you are reading has been challenged by a special interest group. Write a letter defending the book, using specific evidence from the book to support your ideas.
- Draw an empty head and inside of it draw any symbols, words, or images that are bouncing around in the mind of the character of a story.
- Write a biographical sketch of one character. Fill in what you don’t find in the text using your own imagination.
- Make a passport which belongs to one of the characters. Be sure that the document contains all of the information found on an authentic passport.
- Make a “wanted” poster for one of the characters or objects in your book. Include the following: (a) a drawing or cut out picture of the character or object,

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(b) a physical description of the character or object, (c) the character's or object's misdeeds (or deeds?), (d) other information about the character or object which is important, (e) the reward offered for the capture of the character or object.

- Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stone, old toy pieces, or any other object to create your sculpture. Then write an explanation of how this character fits into the book.
- Design a T-shirt that promotes your book.
- Find five websites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include the websites and an explanation of why your character would choose these sites.
- Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. Include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad, a bumper sticker, and a button.
- Imagine that you are the author of the book you just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer to convince that person to make your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. You may only use books which have not already been made into movies.
- Construct a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, building, plants, and animals) of one of the main events of the book. Include a written description of the scene.
- Draw a portrait of the main character and write a summary to accompany your sketch.
- Write a character diary, writing at least eight journal entries as if you are the main character in the story. Write down events that happened during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why.
- Write a poem about one of the characters.
- Make up another beginning and ending for the story. Include drawing/sketches to illustrate the changes.
- Write a one page "pitch" to a producer explaining why the story would or would not make a great movie.
- Identify the character's main problem in the story. Write to explain how you would have responded if you were in the same situation.
- Create a board game about a book you have read and play with family members.
- Create an advice column (Dear Abby) and give the characters in the story advice on how to handle their problems/dilemmas.
- Discuss an effect relationship you found in the book.
- As a literary agent, write a letter to the publishing company designed to persuade them to publish this book.
- Create a Top Ten List. List ten things you have learned from the book.
- You are the reporter. Write a front page news story or a report live from the scene. After reading the book(s), create your own test. The test may be a combination of matching, multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.