

Flemington-Raritan School District

Growing Summer Readers for Grades 3 - 4



"Just like hockey players lose some of their skills if they stay off their skates and off the ice for three months, children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development."

-Dr. Richard Allington, University of Tennessee

Summer Reading Student Goals:

1. I can develop a reading life by choosing books that cultivate my interests and curiosities.
2. I can prepare to share my interests and insights from favorite texts.
3. I can prepare for discussions by organizing my thoughts, expanding my understandings and reflecting on my reading.

This summer, students entering 3rd and 4th grades should:

1. Dedicate Time to Reading

Students should read material that they enjoy, can read with fluency and comprehension, and that challenges their thinking. In addition, according to the U.S. Department of Education, students should read for a minimum of thirty minutes daily. Avid readers should obviously not limit themselves to thirty minutes per day.

2. Self-Select Reading Material

Students will not be assigned specific reading materials; instead, they will find and choose various books, magazines, blogs, and articles, etc. on their own.

Note: Parents or guardians should be involved in the process of choosing texts if they have any concerns about appropriateness and suitability of their child's choice of reading material.

3. Be Ready for September!

While students will likely read several texts over the summer, they will be required to speak knowledgeably to their classmates about one text that was meaningful to them. While reading, students may choose to use post-it notes, journaling, jotting, illustrating, or rehearsing; whatever works best for them as readers. Upon returning to school in September, students will share their thinking. When sharing, students should be prepared to:

- Name the title and author of the text.
- Identify the text as fiction or nonfiction.
- Briefly describe the text by summarizing or highlighting a favorite part.
- Explain why this text was meaningful or important to them.
- Answer classmates' questions about the text.

Resources:

- [Washington Post: Getting kids to read: The 5 key habits of lifelong readers](#)
- Department of Education: [Why Summer Reading Pays Off Year-Round](#)
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville: [Summer reading is key to maintaining or improving students' reading skills](#)

Please visit the Flemington-Raritan School District "Summer Reading" webpage for more information.