

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

May 2015



Book Picks

■ *Salsa Stories* (Lulu Delacre)

The gift of a blank notebook inspires Carmen Teresa to collect stories about her family's Hispanic heritage. As she listens to the tales, she hears a common thread—food. This book of fictional short stories includes recipes youngsters can make and sample. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Do Not Open* (John Farndon)

Readers who love a great secret will enjoy this encyclopedia-style book. Go behind the scenes to learn about lost treasures, satellite surveillance, advertising tricks, and much more. Each page uses illustrations, diagrams, and photos to explore the facts.

■ *The History of Money: From Bartering to Banking* (Martin Jenkins)

How are shells, stones, plastic cards, and paper alike? They've all been used as currency. This fun historical tour of money begins in the Ice Age and continues to present day. Along the way, it makes complex topics like interest, exchange rates, and inflation easy to understand.



■ *Frostborn* (Lou Anders)

A sinister plot forces 12-year-old Karn to flee his family farm. He'll need all the strategy he learned from his favorite game—*Thrones and Bones*—and help from his new half-giant friend to outwit trolls, zombies, and a fire-breathing dragon. Book 1 of the *Thrones and Bones* fantasy series.



Allan Composite School
Nadia Breckner, Principal Kelly Wandler, Vice Principal

Keep reading!

Youngsters who read for pleasure learn more and tend to be more successful in school. And when better to enjoy books than the lazy days of summer? Try these creative twists for motivating your child to read while school is out (and beyond).

Set the scene

Help your youngster pitch a tent or spread a blanket out back so he can read beneath the stars. He could gather a flashlight and books with a night theme (nonfiction on nocturnal animals, a stargazing guide). Or suggest that he read “in the pool.” Let him fill an inflatable pool with pillows and stuffed animals instead of water—he'll have a cozy place to curl up with books set at an ocean or a lake.

Read across the map

Start by printing out a map of the United States or the world. Then, encourage your child to read books that allow him to color in a state or country. What qualifies? A story set in the state or country, a nonfiction book about the place, an



author born there, or even just a mention of the location. See how many states or countries your youngster can fill in by the end of the summer.

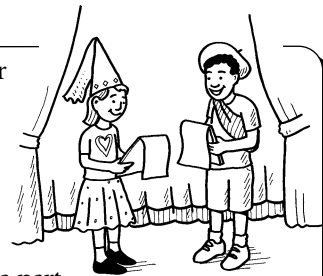
Share reading material

Make it a tradition for your family to collect fun and interesting “shorts” to read together. Give each person a large envelope to fill with things he reads each week: magazine and newspaper stories, comic strips and comic books, articles printed from the Internet, or mail. At the end of the week, read your favorites to each other. Empty your envelopes, and begin gathering new material. 📖

Language-rich activities

When you're looking for summer activities, consider outings that involve reading, writing, and language. Here are examples:

- Attend a poetry reading at a coffee shop or bookstore. Your child may be inspired to read more poems by the speaker or to write her own poetry.
- Try out for a community play. If your youngster gets a part, she'll need to do a lot of reading—and speaking—as she memorizes her lines.
- Join a Scrabble club to work on spelling and vocabulary. Check libraries or community centers, or look for clubs at scrabbleplayers.org.
- Listen to a storyteller at a fair or festival. Encourage your child to experiment with storytelling when you get home. 📖



Be a family historian

Every family has a history! Exploring it can be a fun way to spark your child's interest in nonfiction writing—and build her research skills, too. Suggest these ideas.

Solve family mysteries. How did Grandpa get his nickname? Why does your family bake bread every July 22? Let your youngster interview family members to find out. She can question them in person, by phone, or through letters or emails. Then, have her write up what she discovers and share it.

Uncover stories using documents. Your child could flesh out family history by asking relatives to share *primary*



sources—old letters, birth certificates, marriage licenses, newspaper articles, and other documents. For instance, if she's writing about an uncle who won the state spelling bee, she might cite information from an article about the event.

Create a record for the future. Today's events are tomorrow's history. Encourage your youngster to collect current family stories in a journal or blog for future generations to read. As she decides what to write about, encourage her to include details her future self would want to know, such as why she wanted to play the violin. ■



Words of the future

Analog clock, landline phone, snail mail... what do these terms have in common? They're *retronyms*, or phrases created to distinguish new developments (*digital clock, cell phone, email*) from older versions. Help your youngster see how language evolves by playing with retronyms.

1. First, take turns naming retronyms—once you get going, it may be hard to stop! For



instance, *The Great War* became known as *World War I* when World War II took place, and we started saying *bar soap* when *liquid soap* became popular.

2. Then, have your child reach into the future to create his own. Ask him to predict inventions for the year 2050 and think of new names and retronyms. *Examples: land car* and *flycar* (a flying car), *petroleum gas* and *grass gas* (fuel made from grass). Tell your child to put his list in a safe place so he can see how many come true. ■



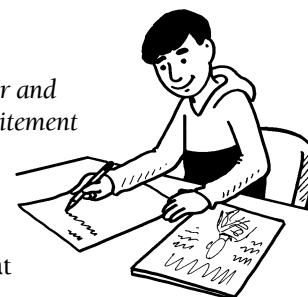
My name in print

Q My son recently wrote a letter to the editor and was thrilled to see his name in print. I'd like to use his excitement to keep him writing. What can I do?

A Many children's magazines accept stories, poems, articles, and jokes. Encourage your son to browse the selection at your library or a bookstore to find ones that match the type of writing he likes to do.

He can also search online for publications and contests for young authors. For starters, he might try Kids Can Publish University (fivestarpublishments.com/kidscanpublish). Be sure he checks each publication's website for submission guidelines—the rules telling what they publish and how to format his work.

Then, once school starts up again, suggest that he get involved with the yearbook, newspaper, or literary magazine. School publications offer another great way for your child to see his name in print. ■



Parent Success for a struggling reader

Parent 2 Parent My daughter Stacy made great progress with her reading specialist this year—progress I want her to build on over the summer. So I was happy when the reading specialist sent home suggestions.

The main thing, Mrs. Brooks said, is for Stacy to read as often as possible. And she reminded me that Stacy isn't too old to be read to. In fact, the teacher

said, hearing other readers can help her become a better reader.

Mrs. Brooks also said it would be great if someone in our family could be Stacy's reading pal and read regularly with her. I told Stacy about that, and she knew exactly who she wanted to ask—her favorite cousin, Jolie. The girls are a good match, since Jolie loves to read and is just a year older than Stacy. Now they're planning a trip to the library to sign up for the reading program and check out books. ■



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5583