



JUST READ, FLORIDA!

2017 SUMMER LITERACY ADVENTURE

Florida's First Lady Ann Scott and the Florida Department of Education have partnered with the Florida Lottery and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to announce the 2017 **Summer Literacy Adventure**.

Literacy experts and educators agree that children of all ages need to be read to, read by themselves and talk about the books they have read during the summer. Your student's summer reading and book discussions will help maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency and provide the opportunity to learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime. According to research by Richard Allington (2007), by the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement. Researchers also conclude that two-thirds of the ninth-grade reading achievement gap can be explained by summer learning loss. Let's work together to help students in Florida stay on track and not lose valuable ground in reading.

The 2017 **Summer Literacy Adventure** is geared to help children stay on target, motivated and excited about reading and literacy. During summer vacation, it is important for students of all ages and reading levels to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis.

To make reading even more exciting, we are challenging all of our state's students to pledge to read as many books as possible throughout the summer break, and I hope that you will encourage all of the teachers, students and parents in your school to participate. Each student can fill out his or her pledge on the *Just Read, Florida!* website at [Summer Literacy Pledge](#). Following the summer break, the department will recognize the top 10 schools with the highest percentage of participation. The school whose students read the most books will receive a surprise visit from First Lady Ann Scott.

In addition to this challenge, here are some suggestions and resources for you, as the district literacy leader, to share with administrators, reading coaches and teachers in every school in your community to encourage reading. Thank you for your continued efforts to provide Florida's students the resources and support they need to be successful in school and in life.

2017 SUMMER LITERACY ADVENTURE SUGGESTIONS AND RESOURCES:

- Provide tips to parents for summer reading. (See Parent Tips for Summer Reading attachment.)
- Use up any remaining Parent-Teacher Organizational funds at the school or district levels by providing summer book-packs. Book-packs include age-appropriate books at the student's reading level with follow-up activities for students to complete during the summer break.
 - Materials that support the themes of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics);
 - Materials that foster parental involvement, reinforce learning at home and support Florida Standards; and
 - Resources that include, when possible, online engagement.
- Consider having "Open Library Nights" at your schools where children and parents can come and check out books and read at the school library. Media specialists may want to track grade-level participation and recognize these children/grades at a schoolwide **2017 Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration**.
- Consider allowing children to use classroom library books or media center books as tools to meet the **Summer Literacy Adventure** challenge. Books can be checked out during summer library hours.



SUMMER READING TIPS

- Consider sending phone messages via your district's automated messaging system to all students, encouraging them to keep reading and be part of the **Summer Literacy Adventure** when they return to school. This message can come from the superintendent, principal, reading coach or classroom teacher.
- Consider using the school website to promote the **Summer Literacy Adventure**.
- When students return to school in the fall, coordinate a **Summer Literacy Adventure Celebration** for the students who participated.
- Consider having rewards or prizes for students who complete the **Summer Literacy Adventure**.
- Encourage your students to visit their local libraries during the break.
- Invite your students to use the "Find a Book" tool to identify books geared toward their interests.
<https://www.lexile.com/fab/fl/>
- Engage in "Just Take 20," which empowers families in their role as literacy developers by helping parents and adults find teachable moments and encouraging the addition of 20 minutes of real-time reading in their everyday lives. Engaging parents in family literacy is a worthwhile endeavor because it helps students form the positive habits, attitudes and dispositions that result in lifelong learning and productive citizenry. Learn more at <http://www.justreadflorida.com>.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT, PARENT AND TEACHER RESOURCES:

Students:

- The *Just Read, Florida!* website provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
- **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Program** is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://www.floridamediaed.org/>

Teachers and Parents:

- **Florida Public Libraries** <http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/florida-information/libraries/florida-libraries/public-library-homepages/>
 - The *Just Read, Florida!* website provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
 - *Just Read, Florida!* parent site <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/parents>
 - *Just Read, Families!* <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/families>
 - **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Program** is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://www.floridamediaed.org/>
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