

K-8 Summer Reading Activities

Independent Reading Activities

- 1) Select three books from the appropriate list (for the upcoming grade level).
- 2) For each book read, complete one activity from the appropriate section.
- 3) Bring the activities to the homeroom teacher on the first day of school.

Elementary (K-2nd)

- 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.

Intermediate (3rd-5th)

- 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.
- 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.

Middle school (6th-8th)

- 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.
- 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.