Reading is a simple and enjoyable way for students to boost their brainpower, so Chesterfield County Public Schools encourages middle school students to read during summer vacation.

What students read is less important than how much they read, research shows. A study by Barbara Heyns found that “children who read at least six books during the summer maintained or improved their reading skills, while kids who didn’t read saw their skills slip by as much as an entire grade level.” Summer reading is more about practicing the enjoyable habit of reading than it is about challenging students academically.

Many organizations compile lists of middle grade books. To make it easy for middle school students and their parents to self-select books for summer reading, links to many organizations are provided here.

Chesterfield County Public Schools does not endorse any specific titles on these lists. Not all parents will consider all of the books on these sites to be appropriate, so parents are encouraged to visit the sites for reviews to determine which books are appropriate for their children or visit a county library to speak with a librarian.

**Association for Library Service to Children**

*Grades 6-8 Summer Reading List*
- “The Great Greene Heist” by Varian Johnson
- “Dream On, Amber” by Emma Shevah

**Scholastic**

*Reading Resources for Ages 11-13*
- “From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler” by E.L. Konigsburg
- “Holes” by Louis Sachar

**Read Kiddo Read**

*Great advanced reads*
- “Scarlet” by Marissa Meyer
- “The Diviners” by Libba Bray

**Children’s Books on About.com**

*Award-Winning Historical Fiction for Middle Grade Readers*
- “Dragon’s Gate” by Laurence Yep
- “Zora and Me” by Victoria Bond and T.R. Simon

*Realistic Fiction for Middle Grade Readers*
- “The Lemonade War” by Jacqueline Davies
- “Nest” by Esther Ehrlich

*Fairy Tales With a Twist for Middle Grade Readers*
- “Tuesdays at the Castle” by Jessica Day George
- “Frogged” by Vivian Vande Velde

**Pearson Prentice Hall**

*Summer Reading List*
- “The Arkadians” by Lloyd Alexander
- “Steal Away” by Jennifer Armstrong

**More information**

These links can help students and parents learn more about summer reading and book choices:
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Favorites
- SYNC — free audiobook program for young adults
- “But Mom, I hate to read!” — Tips for Reluctant Readers
- Reading Tips and Picks for Tweens and Teens
- What’s On Your Summer Reading List? Authors Tell All
- Reviews — School Library Journal
- ReadWriteThink After-School Resources
- Text Messages: Recommendations for Adolescent Readers
- Summer Reading Tips From Librarians
- Seize the Summer: Keep Kids Active and Engaged in Learning
- Get Ready for Summer Reading
- Summer Reading Activities
- Consejos Para Padres: Programas de Lectura de Verano
- Summer Reading Tips to Go — En Español
- Parent Tips: Summer Reading — En Español
- 13 Ideas for How Parents Can Encourage Summer Reading
- Virginia Reader’s Choice