

Talk About It:

Part of growing as a reader is learning how to think while you read. Ask each other questions before, during, and after reading:

- What was most important about what we just read?
- How did the characters change over time?
- What was your favorite part of that section?
- Did you read anything that might impact your life? How?
- Does this text remind you of something you have read, seen, or heard before? How?



Get Caught Reading:

Set an example by reading in public. Let everyone see you reading a newspaper or browsing through a novel on the beach or beside the pool. Live up chore time or meal time by taking turns working while one person reads aloud a favorite book or an exciting new novel. Have fun!

Why should students read during the summer?

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, faculty members Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen have completed a three-year study showing that students lose up to three months of learning every summer—skills they worked hard to acquire during the school year. However, the study showed a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who took part in summer reading at home.

Allington compares the slide in reading ability to an athlete's fitness. "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," Allington said.

- from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

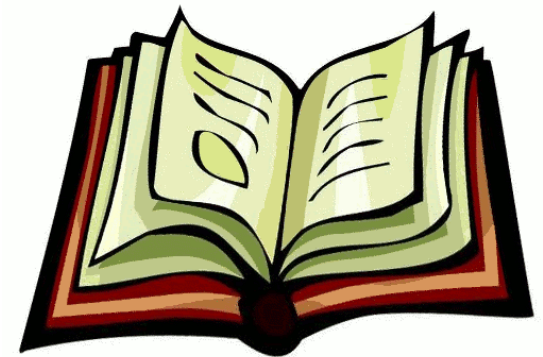
Read more about it:

<http://intl.kappanmagazine.org/content/85/1/68.short>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/bridging-summer-reading-gap>

Berkeley County School District Summer Reading

Rising 8th Graders



"For one who reads, there is no limit to the number of lives that may be lived, for fiction, biography, and history offer an inexhaustible number of lives in many parts of the works, in all periods of time."

- Author Louis L'Amour

Theme:

Decisions and Realizations



The Themes

Many of the things students will read and write in Grade 8 ELA explore topics related to good and bad decisions and their consequences as well as realizations about how we learn about who we are and the places we fill in the world. Some of the books on these lists are more challenging than others, but all explore these themes through events (plot), characters, and conflicts.

Summer Reading Project

Consult with parents, teachers, and/or teacher librarians to choose one book from each list (fiction and informational) or other titles from each genre that fit the theme. With parent approval of the choices, students will read the two books over the summer. Each school will share rewards and expectations for when school starts in August.

These books and others like them are available not only in school libraries, but also in your public libraries and local book stores. Have a great summer and enjoy the magic of books!

Fiction Texts such as:

- *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Avi (E)
- *The Final Four*, Paul Volponi (E)
- *Anne of Green Gables*, L.M. Montgomery (T, J)
- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, J.K. Rowling (and others in this series) (J)
- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick (J)
- *Gym Candy*, Carl Dueker (E) (and others by this author)
- *Out of My Mind*, Sharon M. Draper (J)
- **Thirteen Reasons Why*, Jay Asher (J)
- *Skinny*, Donna Cooner
- *Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli (E) (and others by this author)
- *That Was Then, This is Now* or *Rumble Fish*, S.E. Hinton (E)
- *The Aurora County All-Stars*, Deborah Wiles (E)
- *Twisted*, Laurie Halse Anderson (J)
- *The Chocolate Wars*, Robert Cormier (E, J)
- *Eight Cousins*, *Rose in Bloom*, or *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (T, J)
- *The Yearling*, Marjorie Keenan Rawlings (T)
- *Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dumphrey*, Margaret Peterson Haddix (and others by this author)
- **The Skin I'm In*, Sharon Flake
- *A Separate Peace*, John Knowles (J)
- *Good Enough*, Paula Yoo
- *Wonder*, R.J. Palacio (J)
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Scott O'Dell (T, J)
- *The Fighting Ground*, Avi
- **Cut*, Patricia McCormick
- *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls (T, J)

Informational Texts such as:

- *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: Stories of Life, Love, and Learning*, Mark Canfield, et al (E)
- *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*, Eric Schlosser (E)
- *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens*, Richard Carlson
- *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell (E, J)
- *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, Gregg Lewis (J)
- *Boys Who Rocked the World* or *Girls Who Rocked the World*, Michelle Roehm McCann (E)
- *Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World*, Garth Sundem (E)
- *Mistakes that Worked*, Charlotte Jones (E)
- *I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness to the Blind Side and Beyond*, Michael Oher (J)
- **I Did it Without Thinking: True Stories About Impulsive Decisions that Changed Lives*, Bob Hugel

T= Traditional Favorites

* = Mature topics

(E) = available on the district e-bookshelf

(J) = available on the public library e-bookshelf
via <http://berkeleylibrarysc.org/>

