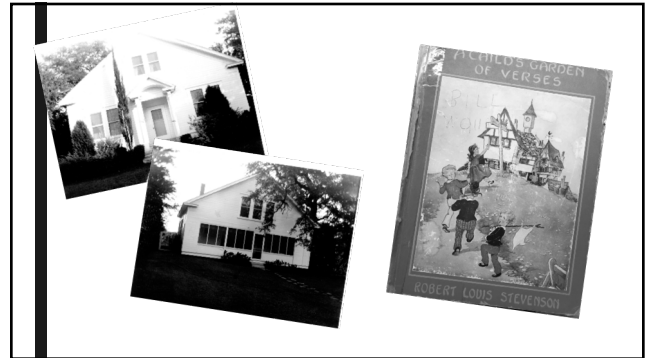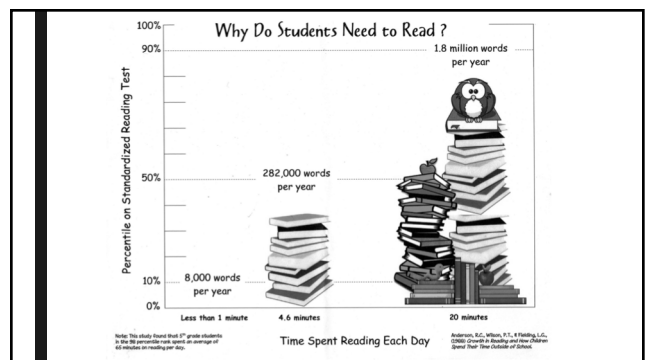# SUMMER READING LEADS TO SUCCESS

Spring Branch Parent U
April 16, 2019
Judy Wallis, Ed.D.

REFLECT FOR A MOMENT ON YOUR OWN LITERACY HISTORY.
~
WHAT MADE YOU A READER?

Why Do Students Need to Read?

Slide 1

Perhaps there is another reason to read . . .
Books can be . . .

. . .windows, offering views of the world

. . . windows can also be sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination

. . . mirrors when the lighting is just right and reflect back to us

Rudine Sims Bishop, 1990

Slide 2

Key Conditions for Growing a Reader

-Access to books

-Time to read

-Volume of reading

Slide 3

In school, we strive to make sure every child, every day . . .

- Reads something they choose.
- Reads something accurately.
- Reads something they understand.
- Writes about something that is meaningful to them.
- Talks to peers about their reading and writing.
- Listens to a fluent adult read aloud.

Allington, 2012

Slide 4

What Can We Do *During* the School Year?

- **PUT BOOKS IN STUDENTS' HANDS**
- Advertise summer opportunities and books
- Encourage growth mindsets (Dweck) and curiosity
- Engage kids in book clubs

Create Curiosity

- "At high levels [of curiosity], the achievement gap associated with poverty *was essentially closed* . . ."

- "Curiosity can predict not only how much teens will *remember* about a story they've read, but also how *thoughtfully they reflect* on the story's characters."

- "With curiosity, you need just enough information to be intrigued — *too little can make a situation bewildering and too much robs you* of the opportunity to explore a topic and learn for yourself."

https://hechingerreport.org/piqued-the-case-for-curiosity/

What Can We Do *During* the School Year?

- Teach strategies
- Recruit parents as partners, not taskmasters
- Engage students in setting personal goals
- Offer choices from rich arrays of books
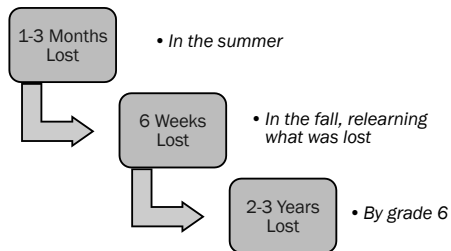- Book talk every day

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However, it should surprise no one that any proficiency that goes unpracticed for three months deteriorates.

What happens in the summer to two readers reading at the same level in May when they return to school in August?

Access to books; will read during the summer

No access to books; won't read during the summer

The Long-Term Effects of Summer Loss

1-3 Months Lost
- *In the summer*

6 Weeks Lost
- *In the fall, relearning what was lost*

2-3 Years Lost
- *By grade 6*

Why Some Children Read During the Summer and Some Don't

Those who read	Those who *don't* read
■ Home-provided enrichment activities	■ No enrichment activities
■ Trips to local library and/or bookstore	■ Libraries not convenient and no library cards
■ Check out or buy books	■ Limited or no funds to purchase books
■ Support to read	■ Little support to read

Ethnicity

Frequent vs. Infrequent Readers

Number of books in the home varies by child ethnicity and reading frequency

Figure 3. Average number of books in the home

BOOKS

White	Asian/ other/ multi-racial	Hispanic	Black	Frequent readers	Infrequent readers
120	115	79	72	139	74

*Kids and Family Reading Report, 2018*

What Can We Do *in the Summer*?

- ■ **PUT BOOKS IN STUDENTS' HANDS**
- ■ Engage families
- ■ Open school libraries for check-out (*the school is a hub for learning*)
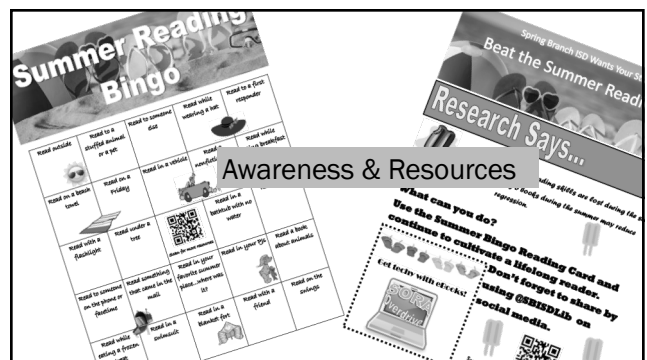- ■ "Breakfast and Books" and "Book Clubs" at school during the summer

What Can We Do *in the Summer*?

- Book trades
- Summer blogs and websites
- Postcards
- Little libraries
- Promotions from school
- Partner with foundations and nonprofits

Watch <u>Stories</u> Online
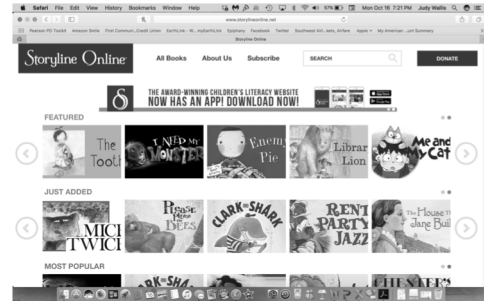
- Little Libraries in Communities

Awareness & Resources

Books Between Kids
Nonprofit organization started in 2012

"Our mission is to build home libraries for children in need, one summer at a time."

Reading Is Fundamental

RIF believes every child deserves an opportunity to own books, learn how to read, and obtain the fundamental building blocks to achieve their highest potential. Literacy opens doors and enables every child the chance to live their own journey.

**Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy**

Building home libraries for students in Spring Branch

What More Can We Do?

- Know what kids want in books

- Know kids' favorite authors and interests

Kids agree they have trouble finding books; parents underestimate this challenge

Figure 1. Percentage of kids and parents who agree with the statement "I/My child have/has trouble finding books that I/he/she likes"
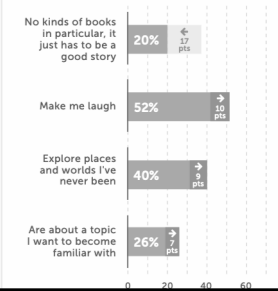
● Kids   ● Parents

Kids: 19%, 26%, 35%, 33%
Parents: 34%, 48%, 41%, 46%

AGES: 6–8, 9–11, 12–14, 15–17
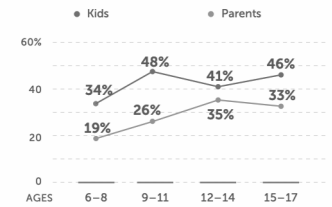
Base: Children ages 6–17; Parents with kids ages 6–17

Kids and Family Reading Report, 2018
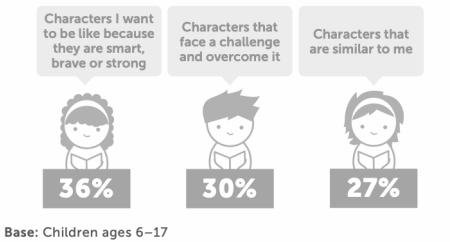

What kids want in books, compared to 2016

Figure 4. Percentage of children who selected each item, compared to 2016

Item	%
No kinds of books in particular, it just has to be a good story	20% ← 17 pts
Make me laugh	52% → 10 pts
Explore places and worlds I've never been	40% → 9 pts
Are about a topic I want to become familiar with	26% → 7 pts

Kids and Family Reading Report, 2018

Top 3 types of characters kids want in books

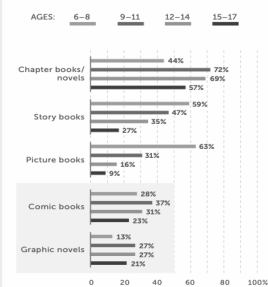**Figure 4a.** Percentage of kids who say they want each type of character

Characters I want to be like because they are smart, brave or strong	Characters that face a challenge and overcome it	Characters that are similar to me
36%	30%	27%

Base: Children ages 6–17

Kids and Family Reading Report, 2018

Book types children like to read the most

Figure 5. Percentage of children who like to read each book type the most

AGES: 6–8, 9–11, 12–14, 15–17

Book type	6–8	9–11	12–14	15–17
Chapter books/novels	44%	72%	69%	57%
Story books	59%	47%	35%	27%
Picture books	63%	31%	16%	9%
Comic books	28%	37%	31%	23%
Graphic novels	13%	27%	27%	21%

Kids and Family Reading Report, 2018

Finding the "Best Books"

- National Council Teachers of English
- International Literacy Association
- American Library Association
- *Horn Book*
- *School Library Journal*
- Bank Street College of Education
- Scholastic *Kids and Family Reading Report*
- Goodreads
- Book stores like Blue Willow
- School librarians

Importance of Diverse Books

- Both parents and kids want . . .
  - *To see characters who look like themselves*
  - *To read about people and experiences different than their own*
  - *To read about various cultures, customs, religions*
  - *To understand differently-abled people*
  - *To see people of color*
  - *To see people with gender differences*
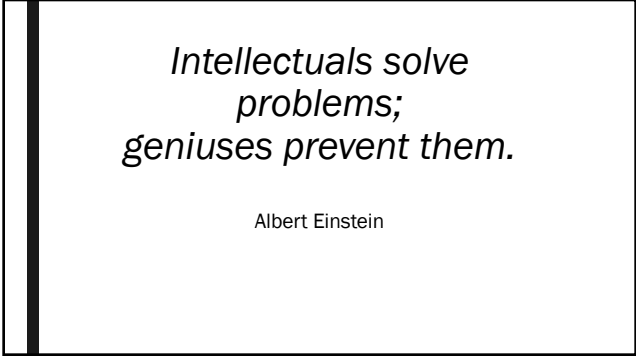
Kids and Family Reading Report, 2018

More Reading About Summer Reading
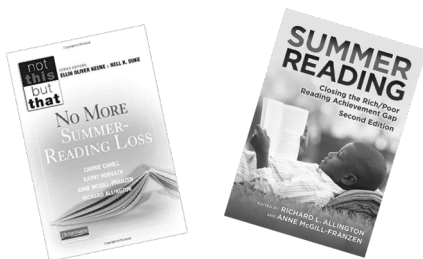
In the end, we must remember that that this is a choice adults must make,
but
it is the children who will either benefit or pay the price based on what we choose to do.

Richard Allington & Anne McGill-Franzen, 2018

> *Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them.*
>
> Albert Einstein