Lower Division Summer Reading

May 2023

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the school year, our focus shifts to summer activities and ways to reinforce student learning. Research shows that students require ongoing review and practice of previously taught skills for maximum retention. This is especially true for students with learning differences. With that in mind, we have assigned summer reading to provide you and your child with opportunities to engage in rich, meaningful literature together.

At Swift, we have embraced a knowledge-building curriculum that provides students with grade-level content, texts, and vocabulary development. This carries across all subject areas, with a direct tie to content subjects and the arts. The books we have selected will connect to topics covered in the coming year. Our purpose is for students to be exposed to rich texts with the background knowledge that will support their learning. We recognize that students may not be able to read these books independently. Therefore, we encourage you to become familiar with reading strategies that are used here at Swift to support struggling readers.

Some useful strategies and tools are:

- An adult first previews the text to become familiar with the content and vocabulary.
- An adult then introduces the text; student previews and shares what they notice and wonder about the book which prompts their curiosity and interest in the text.
- Together, an adult and a student read the book. Students are not expected to read the text independently or work on decoding. Support students by reading aloud or using assistive technology. (We have noted which books are available through your child’s Learning Ally account for returning Swift students.
- Discuss the book as you read it. Making connections to existing knowledge and asking questions that support comprehension and new vocabulary.
- Summarize learning by visiting your local library, aquarium, and science and art museums. Children can express their learning by drawing, painting, creating 3D models, timelines, and so much more. Although these are not required, should your child create something, they are welcome to bring them in and share it with their new class in the fall.

Assigned books are as follows:

**Rising 1st** -  [Bats at the Library](#), by Brian Lies (Classic Audio available through Learning Ally)

**Rising 2nd** -  [Frog and Toad All Year](#), by Arnold Lobel (VoiceText available through Learning Ally)

**Rising 3rd** -  [Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist](#), by Jess Keating

**Rising 4th** -  [Who Was Clara Barton?](#), by Stephanie Spinner (VoiceText available through Learning Ally)

I hope you enjoy learning together. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Have a fun-filled, relaxing summer.

Best,

Roni Battaglia
Lower Division Director