

Unearth a Story

Summer Reading Choice Board



In partnership with the Spotswood Public Library, students in grades K-5 are invited to select one of the following extension activities that explores this year's Summer Reading theme: "Unearth a Story". **Projects are due to your student's teacher on September 4, 2026.** A panel of judges will use a rubric to select six winners (one per grade level) who will be honored at a Summer Reading Reception at the Spotswood Public Library on **Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

Dinosaur Fossil Dig & Story Discovery

1. Create a dig site and hide your dinosaur fossils (bones, mini dinosaurs, etc.)
2. Invite a family member or friend to excavate the fossils using a paintbrush.
3. Imagine the story of the fossil discovered and **write a book** about it.
4. Make sure your book has a title and illustrations.
5. Give your fossil/dinosaur a name, write about what it ate, where it lived and an adventure it had.

Hidden Garden Story Hunt

1. Plant seeds in a flowerpot or cup.
2. Observe your plant as it grows throughout the summer.
3. Keep a simple growth journal with drawings, photos and observations.
4. **Create a poster** that showcases the evidence you gathered while watching your plants grow. Add your pictures, photos and daily/weekly observations.
5. Imagine what creatures might live in your plant's environment. Add a picture of your creature and describe what it is and why it chose our plant as a home.

Archaeologist's Audio/Video Field Log

1. Go on an archaeological "dig" in your backyard, the park, the beach or any place that makes you happy.
2. What special artifact did you find on your dig? **Record a Breaking News Report** that describes this amazing discovery. Your report can be a 60-second podcast or a video.
3. In your report, be sure to describe your discovery, where you found it, what era it was from and why it is a special find.
4. Have fun with this project? Feel free to dress up like an archaeologist, use sound effects and props!

Reading Treasure Diorama

1. Choose your favorite book that you "unearthed" during Summer Reading.
2. Bring your book to life by **building a diorama** or **3-D model** of your favorite scene.
3. Make sure to include lots of fun materials that help the audience feel like they are inside your story.