

# Prevent Summer Slide

## Keep your kids in the reading habit during the break so they don't fall behind when classes resume.

It is wise as a parent of a struggling reader to try to stop "summer slide" — the backsliding that may occur when students are out of school. Try these strategies to help your child improve her reading during the summer and beyond:

- **Six Books to Summer Success:** Research shows that reading just four to six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the books, be sure that they are [just right](#) — not too hard and not too easy.
- **Read Something Every Day:** Try to take advantage of every opportunity to read. In the morning, encourage newspaper reading — even if it is just the comics. During the day, your child can read schedules, TV guides, magazines, etc. For example, if your child watches the food channel, help him look for a recipe online. End the day by having your child read to you from the book he is currently reading. Have him rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you.
- **Keep Reading Aloud:** [Reading aloud](#) benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will be building listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.

It's hard to keep up a reading routine with many summer distractions. These suggestions are meant to fit into a busy schedule and to make reading fun!

# Great Summer Reads for Teens

## Popular Series for Preteens

Whether your child's a hipster, dreamer, or history buff, these popular boredom busters offer plenty of appeal.



### [Alice the Brave](#)

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

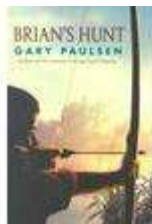
The summer before eighth grade, Alice tries to confront her fears, not the least of which is a fear of deep water.



### [A Matter of Trust](#)

by Anne Schraff

Darcy Wills and Brisana Meeks were friends in grade school, but all that changed at Bluford when Darcy started hanging with a group of students Brisana despises. Now the former friends are bitter rivals,...



### [Brian's Hunt](#)

by Gary Paulsen

At home in the Canadian wilderness, Brian Robeson faces the challenge of camping alone with a wounded dog. The tale of adventure proceeds as Brian and his dog find what happened when a murdering bear...

## Great Grown-Up Books for Preteens

Sharing great books is a perfect way to share quality time with your middle schooler.



### [Counting Coup](#)

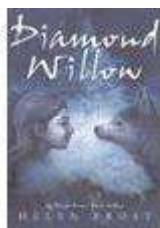
by Joseph Medicine Crow  
Herman Viola

In this narrative autobiography from the National Geographic series, Chief Joseph Medicine Crow recounts his life growing up in his beloved Crow country. He tells of Native American culture and history...

### [Daughter Of The Forest](#)

by Juliet Marillier

In this first book of the Sevenwaters Trilogy, Sorcha and her six brothers are separated by a curse when their father marries a sorceress. Only Sorcha can save them in this retelling of the Celtic "Swans"...



### [Diamond Willow](#)

by Helen Frost

Diamond-shaped verse with hidden messages tell the story of twelve-year-old Willow and her spirit ancestors who watch over her as she drives her dog sled in Alaska.

## Printz Award Winners

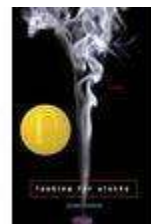
This annual award is granted to a "book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature." Often exploring tough subjects, these moving, sometimes funny, and often startling titles will show your teen the power of a good book.



### [The White Darkness](#)

by Geraldine McCaughrean

Fourteen-year-old Symone is taken on a surprise trip to Antarctica by her uncle Victor. In search of a legendary gateway to the interior of Earth, Victor's behavior teaches Sym about her troubled...



### [Looking for Alaska](#)

by John Green

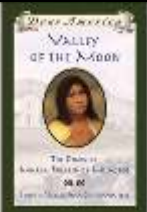
Miles "Pudge" Halter befriends some fellow boarding-school students and falls in love with Alaska Young, the razor-sharp, self-destructive nucleus of the group. When tragedy strikes, Pudge discovers...



### [How I Live Now](#)

by Meg Rosoff

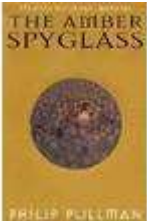
Troubled 15-year-old Daisy is sent to stay with relatives in England for the summer. But when war strikes England and her family is split up, Daisy must learn how to survive on her own.



### Valley of the Moon

by Sherry Garland

Acclaimed author Sherry Garland makes her second contribution to the DEAR AMERICA list with the story of Rosa, a Mexican servant girl in Alta California, 1845.



### The Amber Spyglass

by Philip Pullman

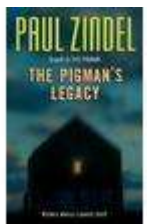
Will and Lyra are in grave danger as they try to save themselves and the people they love, both living and dead, from the destruction of the Authority and his dark forces of evil.



### The Battle of the Labyrinth

by Rick Riordan

In the fourth volume of "Percy Jackson & The Olympians," fourteen-year-old Percy faces conflicting emotions as he and his friends face Daedalus's underground Labyrinth to try to protect Camp Half-Blood...



### The Pigman's Legacy

by Paul Zindel

While walking home from school one day, sixteen-year-old Staten Islanders John Conlan and Lorraine Jensen see a face in the window of a house that is supposed to be empty. Who could it be? When they discover...

### Flags of Our Fathers

by James V. Bradley

By following the lives of each of the six men immortalized in the famous photograph of the flagraising over Iwo Jima, readers will realize the full impact of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

### Girl With A Pearl Earring

After her father loses his sight, 17-year-old Griet becomes a maid to help with family expenses. Her artistic sense endears her to her master, the famous Johannes Vermeer, but his wife dislikes the pretty...

### In The Heart Of The Sea

by Nathaniel Philbrick

The crew members of the whaleship "Essex" face a daunting situation after their ship is rammed and sunk by a sperm whale. Located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the crew members attempt to survive...

### Motherland

When fifteen-year-old Maya returns to India for the summer, she feels a sense of alienation in the home of her birth. She and her grandmother, Amamma, deepen their relationship after Maya suffers a serious...

### Peace Like A River

When eleven-year-old Reuben Land's brother shoots two boys and flees the state, his family begins an extraordinary journey to find him.



### The First Part Last

by Angela Johnson

On his sixteenth birthday Bobby learns Nia is pregnant. While the world around them says they should give the baby up for adoption, circumstances change at Feather's birth, and Bobby struggles to figure...

### A Step from Heaven

by An Na

From her early school years through her teens, Young Ju Park struggles to please her unhappy, violent father by becoming a proper American student while retaining her identity as a proper Korean girl.



### Kit's Wilderness

by David Almond

After thirteen-year-old Kit's grandmother dies, his family moves back to a small mining community to be with his grandfather. Befriended by a boy who plays the game of Death, Kit learns the significance...



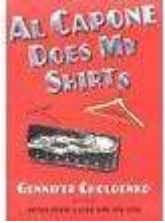
### Monster

by Walter Dean Myers

Young, black 16-year-old Steve Harmon, an amateur filmmaker, is on trial for the murder of a Harlem drugstore owner and could face the death penalty. Steve copes by writing a movie script based on his...

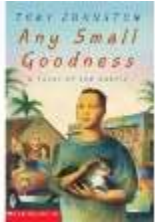
## Books for Boys: Grades 6-8

Tween boys gain a better understanding of themselves and others with these inspiring tales.



[Al Capone Does My Shirts](#) by Gennifer Choldenko

In 1935, Moose Flanagan, age 12, moves to Alcatraz Island. His father works at the prison, and his sister Natalie is autistic. Very little was known about autism at the time, and this funny, touching story...



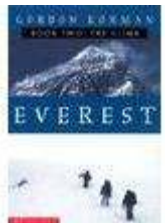
[Any Small Goodness](#) by Tony Johnston

Growing up in the barrio of East Los Angeles, eleven-year-old Arturo struggles to make sense of the world around him. Although his family is loving, frightening events take place, reminding Arturo that...



[The Bar Code Tattoo](#) by Suzanne Weyn

Kayla is ostracized at school because she refused to get the required tattooed bar code and now she must run to avoid the authorities and fight for her freedom.



[The Climb](#) by Gordon Korman

Everest. The ultimate climb. The greatest of risks. Four kids are on a quest to reach the top. But their ascent is not easy. The weather is harsh. The competition is harsher. Then the unexpected...

Everest series: book 2



[Eagle Strike](#) by Anthony Horowitz

Sir Damian Cray-millions adore him, and only teen spy Alex Rider recognizes him as a global threat. Surviving a bullfight, a high-speed chase through Amsterdam, and a human video game, Rider must try to...

Alex Rider Adventure series: book 4



[Heat](#) by Mike Lupica

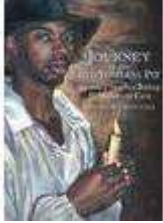
Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents...



[Henry VIII](#) by Sean Stewart Price

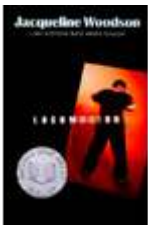
A Wicked History will be the definitive biography series for middle and high school students on the evil individuals who twisted the course of history. The design is sophisticated to attract middle-school...

A Wicked History series



[Journey to the Bottomless Pit](#) by Betsy Mitchell Elizabeth Mitchell

In 1838, a seventeen-year-old slave boy named Stephen Bishop was trained to be a tour guide for Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. Adventurous and bold, Stephen explored the cave in his time off and made many...



[Locomotion](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

Eleven-year-old Lonnie Collins Motion, affectionately dubbed Locomotion by his mother, deals with the loss of his parents and the separation from his sister, Lili, by writing poetry.



[Love That Dog](#) by Sharon Creech

At first, Jack refuses to write poetry because he believes that it is only for girls. After his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, introduces him to the work of Walter Dean Myers and types some of his writing...