



Summer Pastimes for Kids

List of favorite books can keep children reading—even in summer.

It's a simple equation: School equals books; and summer equals movies, sports and video games. For the upcoming summer months, reading simply doesn't come out on top. As a result, unfortunately, most children actually lose reading skills during the summer, according to the tutoring experts at Sylvan Learning, the nation's leading provider of personalized reading instruction.

From kindergarten through high school, most students backslide academically throughout the summer months, only to spend weeks or months making up lost ground at the beginning of the following school year.

According to a recent Sylvan Learning survey conducted online by Harris Interactive, **94 percent of students of all ages** agree that they like reading books they choose themselves. To encourage students to read this summer, Sylvan Learning assembled a list of the books on the categories that the survey participants ranked as most interesting.

The book list includes dozens of the most popular student favorites for these fun topics broken down by age. This list provides parents with a way to give their children a head start on finding the kinds of books they like to read. Some sample book titles include:

K-2

- **Sports:** *Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball*, By David A. Adler
- **Adventure:** *Where the Wild Things Are*, By Maurice Sendak
- **Education:** *My Book about Me*, By Dr. Seuss, Roy McKie
- **Innovators:** *Goodnight iPad: A Parody for the Next Generation*, By Ann Droyd
- **Arts:** *Sign Language: My First 100 Words*, By Michiyo Nelson
- **History:** *Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, By Robert Byrd
- **Movies:** *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, By Judi Barrett

Grade 3-5

- **Sports:** *Extreme Sports*, By John Crossingham, Bobbie Kalman
- **Adventure:** *How to be a Detective*, By Dan Waddell
- **Education:** *The Everything Kids' Science Experiments Book: Boil Ice, Float Water, Measure Gravity-Challenge the World Around You!* (Everything Kids Series), By Tom Robinson



- **Innovators:** *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor*, By Emily Arnold McCully
- **Arts:** *13 Artists Children Should Know*, By Angela Wenzel
- **History:** *The Boy Who invented TV*, By Kathleen Krull
- **Movies:** *Harry Potter Literary Series*, By J.K. Rowling

Grade 6-8

- **Sports:** *Lebron James: The Rise of a Star*, By David Lee Morgan Jr.
- **Adventure:** *My Life as a Stuntboy*, By Janet Tashjian, Jake Tashjian
- **Education:** *A Smart Girl's Guide to Starting Middle School*, By Julie Williams Montalbano
- **Innovators:** *Where's My Stuff?: The Ultimate Teen Organizing Guide*, By Samantha Moss, Lesley Schwartz
- **Arts:** *Acting for Young Actors: The Ultimate Teen Guide*, By Mary Lou Beli, Dianh Lenny
- **History:** *The History of Moviemaking: Animation and Live-Action, from Silent to Sound, Black-And-White to Color (Voyages of Discovery)*, By Sheilia Keenan
- **Movies:** *Tuck Everlasting*, By Natalie Babbitt

Grades 9-12

- **Sports:** *Throw Like a Girl: How to Dream Big and Believe in Yourself*, By Jennie Finch
- **Adventure:** *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster*, By Jon Krakauer
- **Education:** *The Secrets of College Success*, By Lynn F. Jacobs/Jeremy S. Hyman
- **Innovators:** *The Book of Styling: An Insider's Guide to Creating Your Own Look*, By Somer Flaherty
- **Arts:** *The Color Purple*, By Alice Walker
- **History:** *The Forgotten 500: The Untold Story of the Men Who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War II*, By Gregory A. Freeman
- **Movies:** *The Hunger Games*, By Suzanne Collins

The books on the list—more than 140 titles in all—prove that summer reading can be fun and entertaining as well as educational. See the complete summer reading list on the Sylvan Learning website.