

You are here: [Home](#) / [\(13-18\) Teen Pink](#) / [Education](#) / [Jump into Summer Reading!](#)

Jump into Summer Reading!

June 7, 2010 by [Administrator](#)

1 Comment

Filed under [Education](#), [Feature](#), [Hot Pink Topic](#)

By: [Ashley Leeds](#) and [Alexandra Mayzler](#).

You and your daughters are probably counting down the remaining days of the school year. The day-to-day routine is becoming less rigid and you are all looking forward to lazy mornings and less structured days. As a parent, you might be concerned that your daughter knows the daytime TV lineup a little too well, and she might be arranging her activities around reruns of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and "Made." While it is important to unwind and just chill out, rest and relaxation time doesn't have to mean being camped out in front of reality TV or zoned out in front of the family computer.



This can also be a time to be thinking about summer reading, and not the kind that is required by the school. Has your daughter shown an interest in a book that she hasn't had the chance to read during the busy school year? Is she inspired by something or someone outside of her school curriculum? Now is the time to pick up a fun-read, something your daughter is drawn to that doesn't have to result in a book report or character study. You might also be considering some kind of enrichment this summer, maybe something that your daughter's school doesn't offer, like a poetry class or Shakespeare study. One thing to keep in mind is that, in order to make summer reading enjoyable, it can't feel like homework: make it part of the routine, not like a chore.

When you think about summer reading, also consider activities that might go along with a specific story or character. In order to kick summer reading into action, have a plan. Here are some great ways to keep your girls reading, and perhaps make it a positive and memorable experience.

Getting Started...

Brainstorm.

Before setting up a summer reading plan, sit down with your daughter and make a list of books, people, places, or ideas that she would be interested in reading or learning more about. Maybe your daughter has an interest in biographies or has a desire to learn about what women wore in ancient Japan. From that list pick 4 or 5 books that your daughter could read throughout the summer and make a plan as to what she is going to read first.

Take a field trip.

After school gets out, make a trip to the library or book store. Bring the list that you and your daughter have come up with and select the books she has chosen for summer reading. While you are there, you and your daughter might want to look at books by authors your daughter has read in the past; perhaps there is something new out?

Set a "schedule." I know that "schedule" is probably the last word that you want to hear in the summer, but make a "plan" with your daughter to do a little reading each day. You can set aside as little as 20 minutes or as many as 2 hours either in the middle of the afternoon heat or right before bed. If you make a plan and write it down, it is more likely to happen. Plus, talking about books is a great conversation starter.

While you are reading...

Make it a team effort. Choose a book that your daughter has shown an interest in (maybe one that doesn't coincide with her favorite TV show). Make a plan to read it together, either aloud or like your own little book club. Discuss what things you liked, what things you related to, anything that caught your attention.

Put an end to "I'm Bored." Often times, girls just need a little prompting when they can't come up with something to keep them occupied. Make a project that goes along with something in the book that your daughter is reading. It could be making her own pair of "traveling pants" by putting patches and sequins on a pair of old jeans or starting her own diary to begin telling her life story like Anne Frank.

If your daughter is planning to go to sleep away camp, have her bring a book or two to read during downtime. Perhaps a book would be a hot commodity to share or trade with friends and bunkmates (something other than chocolate contraband).

The nice thing about summer reading is that it doesn't have to be confined to the library or desk. Perhaps bringing a book to the pool or to the park might be an encouraging way to get your daughters excited about reading... Tan and read at the same time? Just make sure she packs the sunblock.

If you and your girls are stumped for titles, here are some suggestions to jumpstart your summer reading...

Summer "Book" Busters

For Middle Schoolers:

- Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech
- The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney
- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
- When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

For High Schoolers:

- How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez
- The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
- Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts
- The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
- White Oleander by Janet Fitch
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

NEWS & UPDATES



Sign up to receive breaking news as well as receive other site updates!

Enter your email address...



TEAM PINK

We're the web's #1 source for parenting girls! At Parenting Pink, we believe in raising strong, resilient girls - together. Parenting girls brings with it unique challenges, issues, and joys. We're here to give you advice, offer lots of support, and share a few laughs along the way! Check out our latest pink topics, connect with other parents in our [Parenting Pink Forum](#), or browse our "girl" book and product selections. We've got the 411 on all things PINK and now you will too!

