

Summer Reading 2016

May 23 – August 6

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Summer Reading . . . Why should I read during the summer?

Because you get to read whatever you want, however much you want, and no one is going to test you on it after you finish. Because you get to do it for yourself. Because it's fun.

2. Okay, so I'll read for fun this summer. But if it's for myself, why should I do it for the library?

You certainly don't have to, we just try to add a little more fun by giving you a free book for participating and the chance to win lots of cool prizes. Also, you'll get to connect with a community of readers who share your passion and give you a place to belong.

3. So just what is Summer Reading?

Just what we've said: Read what you want, let us know that you've read, get free stuff. That's really all there is to it.

4. Cool. How do I get started?

Three options:

- Come to any Johnson County Library location and get a reading log to track what you read;
- Go to jocolibrary.org/summerreading and print a reading log to track what you read; or
- Go to jocolibrary.org/summerreading and create a profile to track what you read online.

It's your choice—do what is most appealing to you.

5. Hmm . . . Tell me more about how the reading log works.

You decide how it works—there is a lined portion if you want to record the titles of the books you read and there are bubbles to color in if you want to keep track of landmarks like number of books, pages, or minutes read. You set your own goal(s) and you decide when you've succeeded.

6. And the online tracking?

It's the same idea, only instead of paper you use the internet. You set your own goal(s) and you decide when you've succeeded. You can track minutes or list titles read (or both).

Additionally, the site offers many badges you can choose to earn for doing those activities and others—most of which have a social component: you can rate books, leave comments about them, create lists and quizzes, represent yourself with an avatar, and more.

7. You mentioned something about prizes?

Everyone who participates in the kids program gets a free book. Visit the library during the second half of the summer (July 5-Aug. 6) with the completion slip from your reading log—or to fill one out if you participated online—and you'll get to pick the book of your choice from our selection. We'll also give you a certificate of completion.

Those who participate in the teen program online get free books as well, and don't have to wait. Visit the library any time after May 23 and you'll get to pick the book of your choice from our selection.

8. Is that all?

Nope. Kids have two more possibilities. Each time you visit one of our libraries you can enter your name in our weekly prize drawings that will include: a book bag, a t-shirt, a signed copy of the book *The Night the World Turned Royal Blue*, a cup, a door hanger, a wristband, playing cards, a balloon, and a kickbag. And everyone who turns in a completion slip will be entered to win one of two possible grand prizes: your picture on a poster in the library or four tickets to the Kansas City Zoo.

Adults will also be able to enter a weekly drawing at any branch for prize books. Teens and adults who participate, whether online or through an entry form available at any location, will be entered to win one of our Kindle Fire grand prizes.

9. I have to admit it sounds tempting, but I'm just not convinced I want to drag books around all summer.

You're welcome to check out ebooks to your phone, tablet, or other device and read without the bother of "books." We have a nice selection on our website.

10. I have to admit it sounds tempting, but I'm just not convinced I want to actually read anything this summer.

Then you can listen. Hearing books counts just as much toward participation as reading them (and improves your reading skills similarly, if your parents are worried). Someone can read out loud to you, you can check out an audiobook on CD, or you can download an audiobook from our website.

(And don't forget to give yourself credit for reading out loud to others, like your little brother or sister; even newborns can participate in Summer Reading.)

11. Parents worried. Yeah. Mine are making me read even though we're supposed to be getting a break from schoolwork. Blech.

Did you know that running gets easier the more you do it? Running is hardest—and the least fun—when you're totally out of shape. As you get more fit, you find you enjoy it more. So it is with reading. If you start school in the fall having not once practiced your reading "muscles" over the summer, it's going to be very hard work getting back into things. Keeping those reading muscles in shape by using them a bit will make your fall that much more enjoyable. And the best part is you can practice them by reading (or listening to) anything you want (instead of something that's been assigned). The fact that you're engaging in the activity of reading is much more important than *what* you're reading.

12. Speaking of running, what's with the whole, "On Your Mark, Get Set ... Read!" thing? Is it a competition?

Other than creating connection and belonging with your community of fellow readers, Summer Reading is an individual pursuit. Your goals are yours alone—you decide what you want to read and how much you want to read, and you will receive the same prizes no matter what. When you are ready to celebrate your achievement, we are ready to celebrate with you.

The theme, "On Your Mark, Get Set ... Read!" simply gives us a way to focus some of our excitement and offerings. It can go with the Summer Olympics if you want. It can be about the Royals and Chiefs and sports and athletes. It can be about getting active and healthy and outside. It can be about mental fitness and health. Or you can ignore it completely. We like to have a theme; you can choose how to make it work for you.

