



Dear Parents,

I know that this year has been a different and challenging year in so many ways. We have been so blessed to have been in school and with our students in person. It's always so rewarding to see them grow as learners and as people.

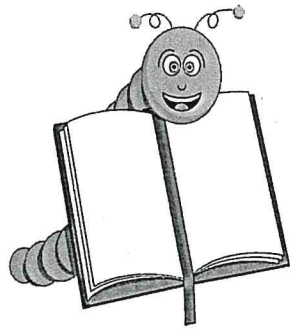
They have made amazing progress and have learned so much. You may have heard about the "summer slide". I had always heard that term too and didn't realize just how serious it could be until I started working with the same students year after year. Students who do not read over the summer, especially our younger students, may come back to school in the fall 2 levels or more below where they left. It often takes until November to get back to the level they were at when they left in June. My challenge to you this summer is to not let that happen. I know how busy summer can be and how much we all deserve a lot of rest and relaxation after this crazy year we have had but I challenge you to make reading a fun part of your summer routine. Set aside a few minutes a day or even 30 minutes 3x per week for reading. Take a book to the park as part of a picnic, read under the shade of a tree on a hot day or on the porch with a glass of lemonade, read at night with a flashlight under the stars or in a tent, have a "book club" meeting at dinner where you all discuss something you are reading ....so many ideas and ways to make reading fun!

Most of our local libraries have wonderful summer reading programs. I know they may look a little different this year but please check into them if you can. They will help motivate your child to read and I'm sure they will have fun along the way. Check out [:www.summerreadingnys.org/parents-find-your-library/](http://www.summerreadingnys.org/parents-find-your-library/) where you can find information for every library in Jefferson County.

We have put together packets for you to download and print at home to help encourage reading and writing over the summer. If you don't have access to a printer and would like these pages printed, please let the school know and we can make the copies here for you.

I wish you a summer filled with family, faith and fun. Happy reading!

Mrs Patti McElheran  
patti.mcelheran@ihcschool.org



## Reader's Oath

I promise to read  
Each day and each night.  
I know it's the key  
To growing up right.

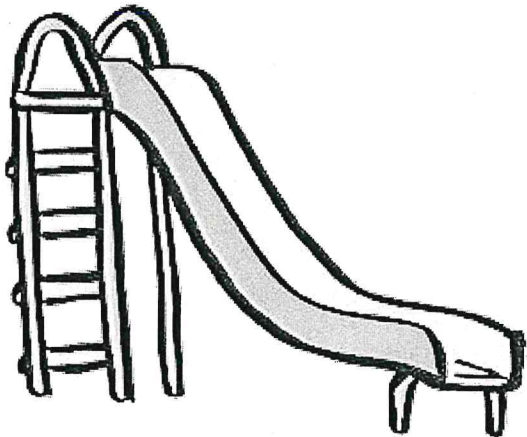
I'll read to myself  
I'll read to a crowd.  
It makes no difference  
If silent or loud.

I'll read at my desk  
At home and at school.  
On my bean bag or bed,  
By the fire or pool.

Each book that I read  
Puts smarts in my head.  
'Cause brains grow more thoughts  
The more they are fed.

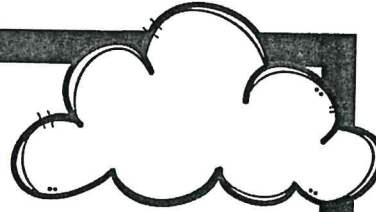
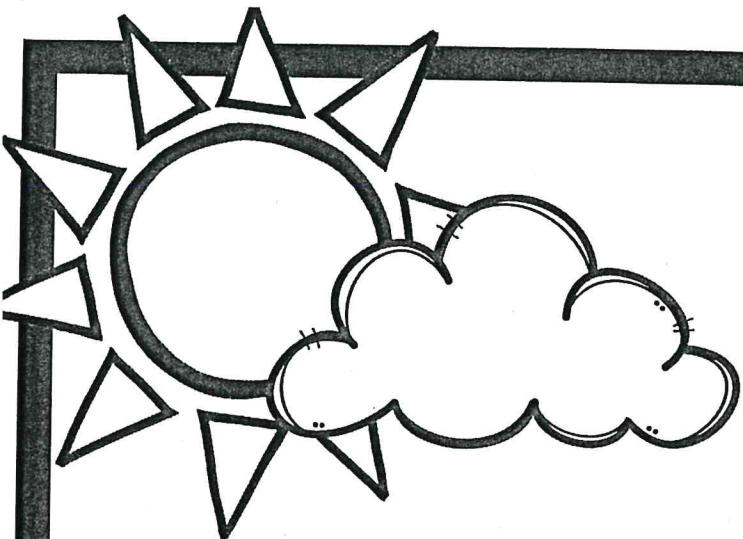
So I take this oath  
To make reading my way  
Of feeding my brain  
What it needs every day.

# How to Avoid the "Summer Slide"



Experts agree that children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward. According to the authors of a report from the National Summer Learning Association: "A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately two months or roughly 22 percent of the school year.... It's common for teachers to spend at least a month re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer. That month of re-teaching eliminates a month that could have been spent on teaching new information and skills."

1. **Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right – not too hard and not too easy.
2. **Visit the local library:** Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. The public library has summer reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area.
3. **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 they will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This increases student knowledge and expand their experience with text, so that students will do better when they read on their own.
4. **Set a good example:** When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book, magazine or newspaper, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.
5. **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Find time to read EVERY DAY. Students don't have to sit down for 30 minutes at a time...read anytime (in the car, in a waiting room for appointments, when it's too hot to go outside, beside the pool)...ANYTIME is a good time to read!)



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# Summer Journal



# Summer Journal Prompts

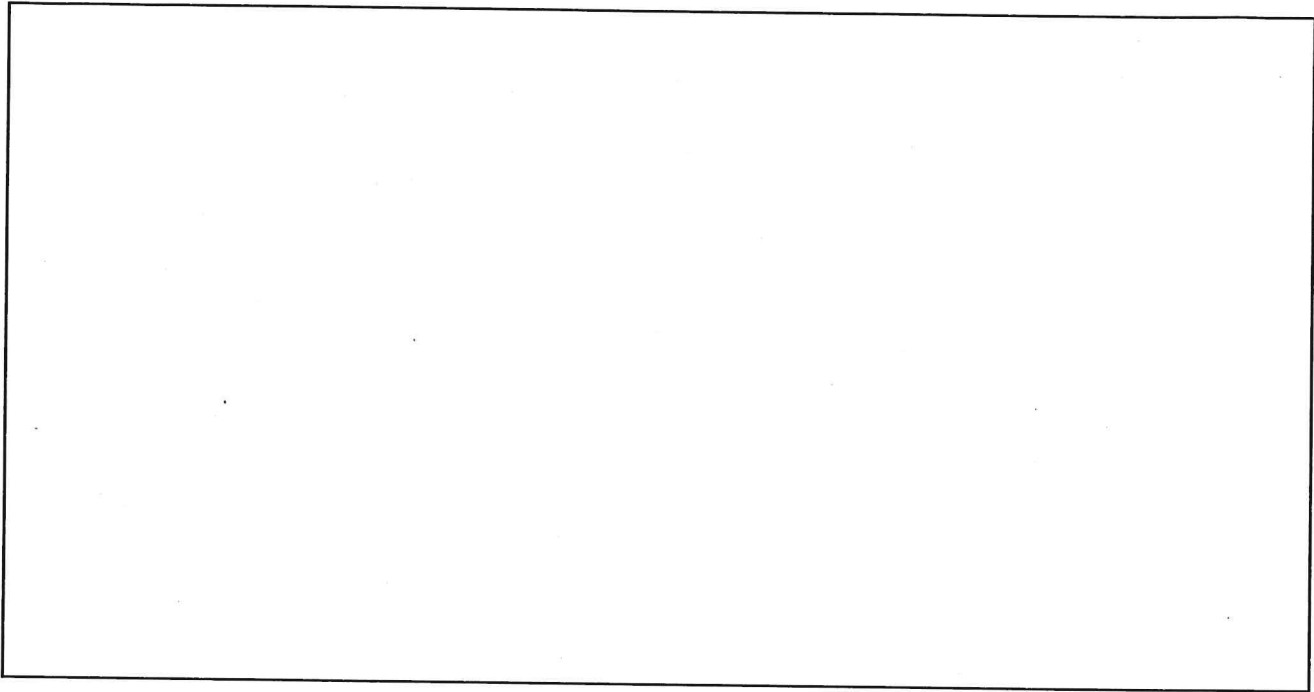
## You can write about...

- \_\_\_\_\_ the last week of school
- \_\_\_\_\_ how you changed in 1st grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ your teacher from last year
- \_\_\_\_\_ what you want to do during your summer break
- \_\_\_\_\_ your favorite activity during the summer
- \_\_\_\_\_ friends you made at school
- \_\_\_\_\_ chores at home
- \_\_\_\_\_ favorite outside activity
- \_\_\_\_\_ funniest moment during the summer
- \_\_\_\_\_ your favorite vacation
- \_\_\_\_\_ plants in your garden
- \_\_\_\_\_ favorite foods to eat during the summer
- \_\_\_\_\_ your favorite movie
- \_\_\_\_\_ friends you made in the summer
- \_\_\_\_\_ favorite summer memory
- \_\_\_\_\_ going to the pool, beach, or lake
- \_\_\_\_\_ taking a bike ride
- \_\_\_\_\_ going to camp
- \_\_\_\_\_ music lessons or music that inspires you





date:



A series of horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 15 parallel lines spaced evenly down the lower half of the page.



# Summer Fun

My Summertime Goals....

A Picture of My Favorite Summer Activity

The Things I Will Miss Most About School...

This Summer I Will...







# Summer Reading Log

Title

Author

#of pages/  
minutes

Parent  
Initials



# READING BINGO CHALLENGE

Get 4 in a row, 4 corners, or play for a black out card to win!

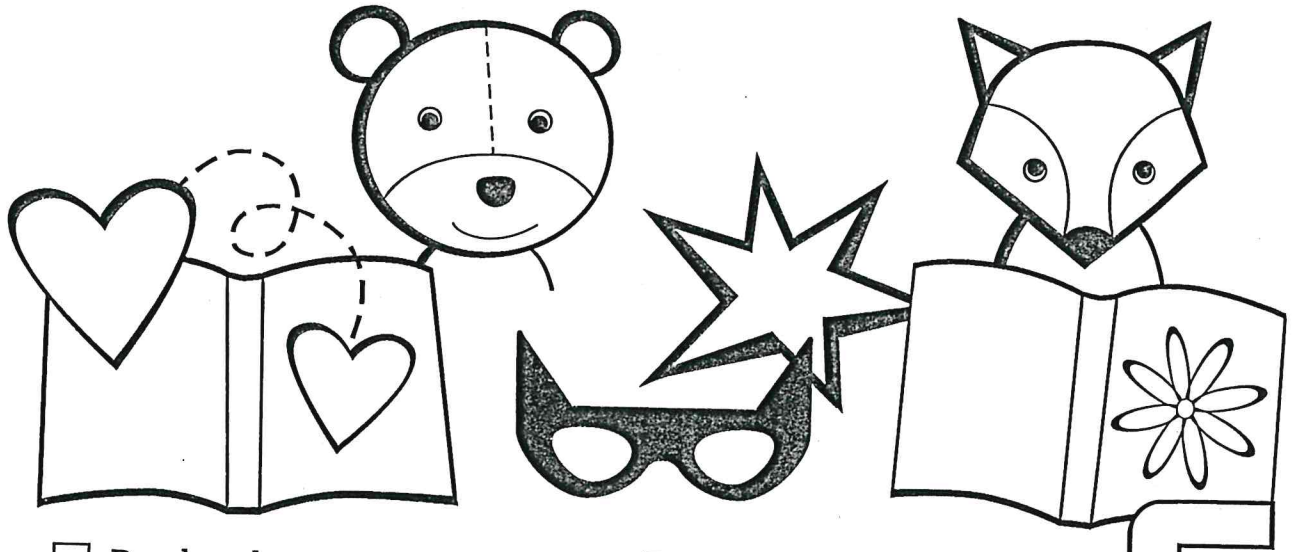
Read a Book with a Flashlight	Read a Funny Book	Read a Book to an Animal (real or stuffed)	Read a Book About Transportation
Read a Book About Animals	Read a Book to a Younger Child	Read a Book with a One Word Title	Read a Poem
Read to a Grandparent	Read a Book that Rhymes	Read a Fairy Tale Book	Read a Book Outside
Read Your Favorite Book	Read a Book About Bugs	Read Inside a Blanket Fort	Read to Your Family During Breakfast

**REWARD:**

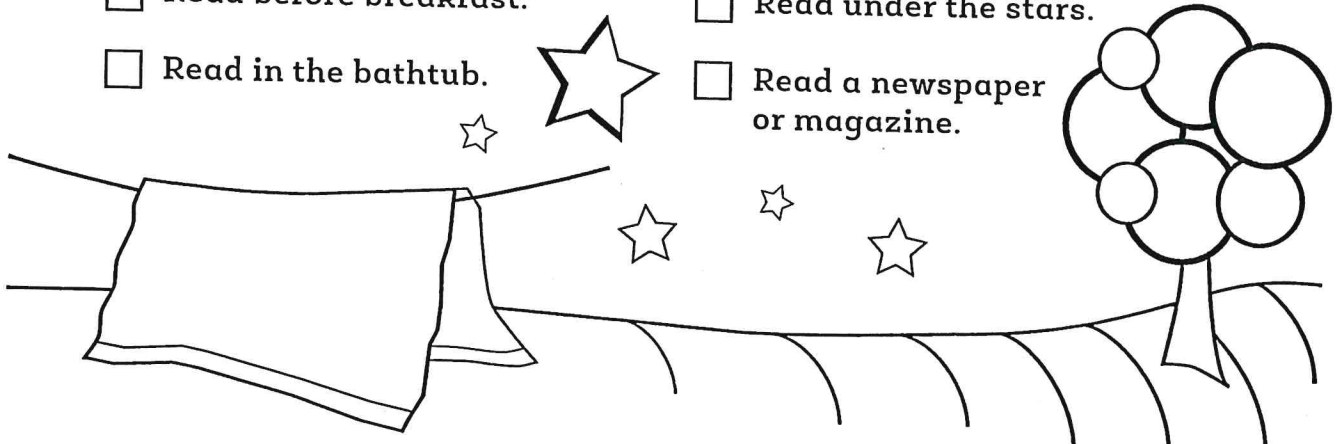
# READING CHALLENGE

WE ARE  
TEACHERS

Color as you go!

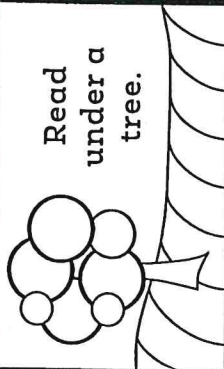


- Read under a tree.
- Read a non-fiction book.
- Read a book from the library.
- Read for an hour straight.
- Read a mystery.
- Read at the park.
- Read to a stuffed animal.
- Read an old favorite. ☆
- Read before breakfast.
- Read in the bathtub. ☆
- Read in your closet.
- Read out loud.
- Read a book you're unsure of.
- Read late at night. ~~~~~
- Read about animals or nature.
- Read a book your friend likes.
- Read under a blanket fort.
- Read a book about superheroes.
- Read under the stars.
- Read a newspaper or magazine.

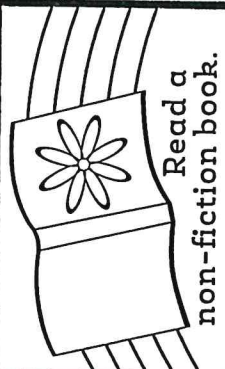


# READING CHALLENGE

Color as you go!



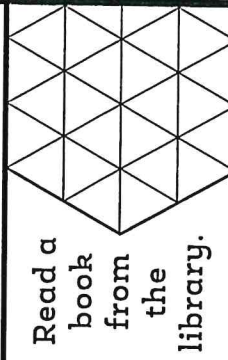
Read under a tree.



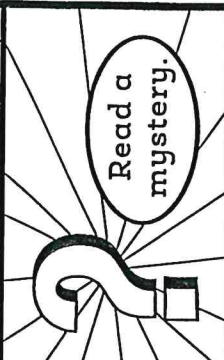
Read a non-fiction book.



Read for an hour straight.



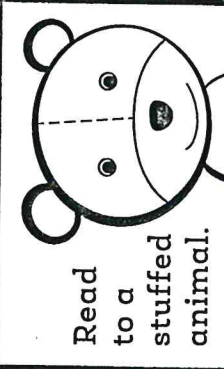
Read a book from the library.



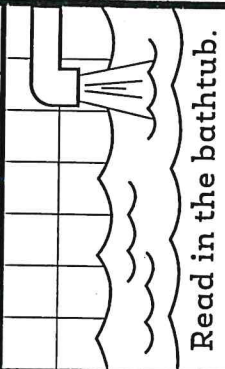
Read a mystery.

# READING CHALLENGE

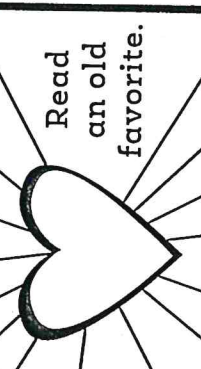
Color as you go!



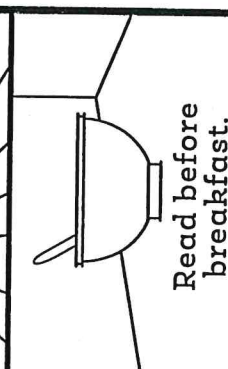
Read to a stuffed animal.



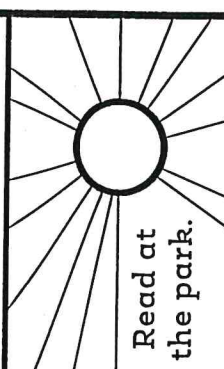
Read in the bathtub.



Read an old favorite.



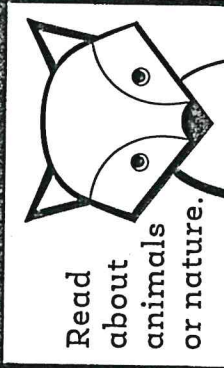
Read before breakfast.



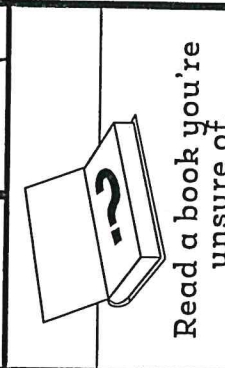
Read at the park.

# READING CHALLENGE

Color as you go!



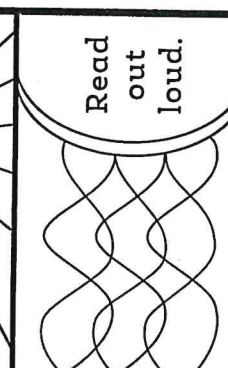
Read about animals or nature.



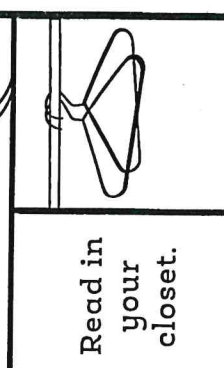
Read a book you're unsure of.



Read late at night.



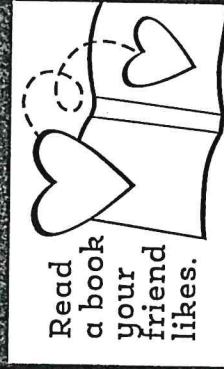
Read out loud.



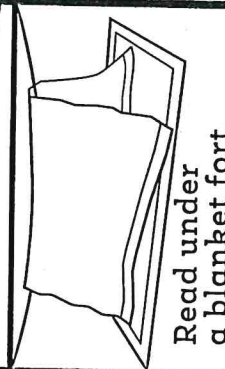
Read in your closet.

# READING CHALLENGE

Color as you go!



Read a book your friend likes.



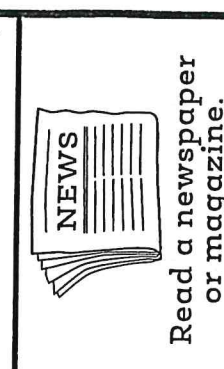
Read under a blanket fort.



Read a book about superheroes.



Read under the stars.



Read a newspaper or magazine.