



# Independent Reading is Key

Independent reading means giving students choice, it allows students to discover books that capture their interest and imagination. They are empowered to share what they have read and learned with parents, peers, teachers, and the world if they want to. Independent reading taps student's curiosity and creativity.

Your child's education support and encourages independent reading to build your child's verbal fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. It also instills a lifelong love of reading and learning. Independent reading is key to your child's academic and social development that will ensure success throughout their life.

Summer is not over yet! To help encourage independent reading and prevent summer reading loss, check out these tips:

## Motivate, Motivate, Motivate!

- Studies suggest that children who read as few as **six books** over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success.
- When children are provided with **10 to 20 self-selected** children's books at the end of the regular school year, as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains.

## 11 Easy Ways Parents Can Support Summer Reading

1. Visit your local public library or visit Family Night at Wellsville Middle School or elementary school.
2. Enroll your child in a summer reading program. Many public libraries support reading by offering a summer reading program for students of all ages. Sometimes there are incentives to keep them reading all summer long. Register your child – it's free.
3. Have your child record their books. Pick up a "Summer Reading List" for students to track what they have read. If your child is young, it can be helpful for him to record the books he has read. Not only will it help to track his progress, the tracker sheet can provide a source for conversation.
4. Tech savvy students – have your child write a book review of what they have read on our online catalog, **Destiny**. Students sign into their accounts, select the book they have read and write a review. Reviews are only seen by students and faculty with WMS Destiny school accounts. With parental permission, students can also sign up for free accounts at these online sites:
  - Good Reads - <http://www.goodreads.com/>
  - Library Thing - <https://www.librarything.com/>
  - Shelfari - <http://www.shelfari.com/>
5. Read aloud. Children of all ages love read alouds. Read alouds build verbal fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Choose a book to read aloud together. For younger children, picture books and short chapter books are a great choice. For older students, longer selections are suitable. Stuck on what to read – try reading books recently made into movies like: ***The Fault in Our Stars*** by John Green, ***The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch*** by Joseph Delaney (the movie release is 2015 titled: Seventh Son) or another popular series; John Flanagan's ***Ranger's Apprentice*** which is in development. Read alouds are a great way to build relationships and encourage conversation with children of all ages! Check out our **Books to Movies** list on Destiny!

# Independent Reading is Key

6. Encourage Vocabulary & Word Learning. A broad vocabulary is important for effective speaking, listening, reading and writing. In addition, vocabulary influences verbal fluency, comprehension, and student achievement. Build vocabulary orally through everyday activities and dialogue. Talk, talk, and talk some more. You can also write those words so that your child continues to make the connection between listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Create a vocabulary wall, put word magnets on your refrigerator, or create a vocabulary journal.

7. Post-it! Encourage your child to use Post-it notes to mark up a book and tag their favorite quotes, passages or something really funny. You can also tag new vocabulary words that are new and write down the definition to reinforce vocabulary skills. Post-it notes are a great way to find something easily to share with others. Parents should try it too!

8. Model. When children see a parent read, they become encouraged to read as well. It can open dialogue about what you each like about reading (or some things you don't like – be honest – it's okay to not like everything you read!).

9. Check out a few book lists for students. To get you started, from the Destiny Quest online catalog check out the Resource Lists (under the Public List tab). Lists to view: **Books to Movies or Librarian's Lore List (MS)**.

Other resources:

The Nerdy Book Club: <http://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/>

The Big Summer Read: <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/summer>

Teen Reads: <http://www.teenreads.com/>

10. Magazines: check out what the school library or public library have. Magazine articles are perfect to get reluctant readers started about a topic they are interested in and then gravitate towards books. This is also a great way to hook students into nonfiction books!

11. Digital tools. Our kids are growing in a digital age with many free apps and online tools that support reading, and writing and digital literacies. Digital Storytelling is an innovative and creative way for students to share what they have read which they can keep private, share with a certain audience or share with the world!

List of free Web 2.0 tools: <http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/Writing+Tools>

Digital storytelling tools online: <http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2012/06/list-of-best-free-digital-storytelling.html>

Microsoft: for computers installed with a Windows Operating System (OS) and Microsoft software there is a free download for PhotoStory3. This link is a safe download: [http://download.cnet.com/PhotoStory-3-for-Windows/3000-12511\\_4-10339154.html](http://download.cnet.com/PhotoStory-3-for-Windows/3000-12511_4-10339154.html)

Happy Reading

