



# SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

A toolkit prepared by the Ontario Library Association,  
with support from the Ministry of Education through the Parents  
Reaching Out Grant.

# WHY IS SUMMER READING IMPORTANT?

## The Summer Slide

For almost ten months of the school year, students complete homework, assignments, and lessons in various school subjects. Then, through fun in the summer sun, the summer slide happens and valuable knowledge gained throughout the school year is lost.

The Summer Slide is the tendency for students to lose academic and achievement gains they made over the summer months. It is estimated that over two months of reading skills are lost over the summer (Oxford Learning).

Luckily, parents can help fight the summer slide. Encouraging your child to read every day (either out loud or independently) can help to maintain (and even enhance) reading skills and interest.

## About the Toolkit

Use this Toolkit to discover engaging summer reading programs and keep your child reading this summer. We've centralized information and suggestions for summer reading opportunities. We've cultivated the best reading programs available, listed reading festivals across Ontario, and provided alternative reading suggestions and tips for reluctant readers.

In addition to the Summer Reading Toolkit, a helpful quiz has been created. Parents are invited to visit [www.accessola.com/summerreading](http://www.accessola.com/summerreading), where a 7-minute, confidential quiz will help you determine the best reading program for your child.

The Summer Reading Toolkit for parents was designed by the Ontario Library Association to help parents help their kids through the summer months. It was developed in partnership with Stacey Carcao and made possible by a generous Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant from Ontario's Ministry of Education.



# SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

## TD Summer Reading Club

0-13+ YEARS | FREE

June — September

The TD Summer Reading Club is the biggest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, all interests and all abilities. It is run in over 2,000 locations across Canada.

*Co-created and delivered by 2,000 public libraries across Canada*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TD SUMMER READING CLUB**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** OPEN

## Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge

0-13 YEARS | FREE

May 8 — September 9

The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge is a free, online and mobile reading program that helps kids discover the power and joy of reading during the summer. As kids log their reading minutes they will unlock weekly milestones, earn digital rewards and gain access to fun activities and more. The program allows students, families and teacher librarians to track and accumulate reading minutes.

*Scholastic*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** OPEN

## Barnes and Noble

3-TEEN | FREE

May — September

Each summer, Barnes & Noble's Summer Reading Program gives young readers the opportunity to earn a free book by reading three books and completing a journal about the books they've read.

*Barnes & Noble*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BARNES & NOBLE**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** OPEN

## First Nation Community Reads

OPEN | FREE

ongoing

First Nation Communities Read encourages family literacy, intergenerational storytelling, and intergenerational information sharing; increases awareness of the relevance and importance of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit writing, illustration, and publishing; promotes the publication, sharing, and understanding of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit voices and experiences; and increases awareness and sales of the titles it honours.

*First Nations public library community in Ontario*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST NATION COMMUNITY READS**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** NO

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT WRITING, ILLUSTRATION, AND PUBLISHING

## Canadian Children's Book Centre

0-14 YEARS | FREE

ongoing

The Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) has compiled a list of great Canadian books, for kids and teens of all ages, for the summer holidays. The books featured in this list are starred selections from the spring edition of best books for kids and teens.

*Canadian Children's Book Centre*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CCBC**

**READING LIST**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** PICTURE BOOKS EARLY

CHAPTER BOOKS JUNIOR &

INTERMEDIATE FICTION MIDDLE YEARS

FICTION (HI-LO) YOUNG ADULT FICTION

TEEN FICTION (HI-LO) GRAPHIC NOVELS

BIOGRAPHY, MEMOIR & SPEAKING OUT

FOLKTALES HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY &

CULTURE LANGUAGE ARTS SCIENCE



# ONLINE SUMMER READING LISTS

## PAID READING PROGRAMS

### Oxford Summer Learning

3 - 18 YEARS | FREE AND PAID

ongoing

Maintaining academic momentum over the summer prevents the summer slide, helps students remember the material they spent the school year learning, and keeps their brains in active learning mode so that they are ready to learn from the first day of school. Explore Oxford Summer Learning for opportunities in literacy and more.

*Oxford Learning*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OXFORD SUMMER LEARNING**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** NO

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** ENGLISH, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL), MATH, SCIENCE, STUDY SKILLS, COLLEGE PREP

### Kumon

0 - TEENS | PAID

ongoing

The Kumon Reading Program is designed to build the critical reading skills that will help your child develop a lifelong love of reading – and a solid foundation for academic success. Daily Reading Worksheets will take about 30 minutes to complete – in two sessions a week at a Kumon Center, and another five assignments completed at home. Your child will work at his or her own pace, mastering each new reading concept before moving on.

*Kumon*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT KUMON**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** NO

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** CRITICAL READING SKILLS

### ALSC Summer Reading Lists

0 - 14 YEARS | FREE

ongoing

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. From creative programming and best practices to continuing education and professional connections—ALSC members are innovators in the field of children's library service.

*American Library Association*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ALSC READING LISTS**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** OPEN



### Reading Rockets

0 - 12 YEARS | FREE

ongoing

Reading Rockets' annual summer booklist makes it easy to find great books kids will enjoy during the long, lazy days of summer. This list can be a springboard for helping your kids choose books on topics that pique their curiosity — that's what really motivates children to want to read! Reading Rockets is a national multimedia literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.

*WETA, Washington, D.C., is the second-largest producing station for public television.*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT READING ROCKETS**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** NONE



### Edutopia Summer Reading List

5- 14 YEARS | FREE

ongoing

Graphic novels are the perfect bait to hook the most reluctant reader. They provide the visual meal that 21st century students crave, while offering a less

# ONLINE SUMMER READING LISTS

intimidating textual platform

*Edutopia* - George Lucas

*Educational Foundation*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT EDUTOPIA**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** GRAPHIC NOVELS

**FOCUS:** CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, PICTURE BOOK, CHILDREN'S NON-FICTION, HISTORICAL FICTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, MYSTERY AWARD, SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY, TEEN BOOK.

quiz on what they've read, and earn prizes for their reading success.

*Sylvan Learning*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BOOK ADVENTURE**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** OPEN

## Canadian Children's Book Centre Award Winners

**0 - 12 YEARS | FREE**

**ongoing**

The Canadian Children's Book Centre is a national, not-for-profit organization and registered charity founded in 1976 to promote, support and encourage the reading, writing and illustrating of Canadian books for children and teens. With book collections and extensive resources in five cities across Canada, the CCBC is a treasure-trove for anyone interested in Canadian books for young readers. Explore the CCBC award winners over the summer months!

*Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC)*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT CCBC AWARDS**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

## Imagination Soup

**6 - 14 YEARS | FREE**

**ongoing**

Summer reading lists for each grade curated by mom blogger Melissa Taylor.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT IMAGINATION**

**SOUP**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** IMAGINATION SOUP'S FOCUS IS MAKING LEARNING FUN, ACTIVE, AND ENGAGING FOR KIDS. IT'S A PLACE WHERE PARENTS AND TEACHERS CAN FIND IDEAS, RESOURCES, AND COMMUNITY.

## Summer Reading Calendar

**0- 10 YEARS | FREE**

**June — August**

Every day there is a simple prompt usually for a book theme, a place to read, or even a specific author's book to check out. This calendar is geared toward children reading or having picture books read to them.

*No Time for Flashcards*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SUMMER**

**READING CALENDAR**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** OPEN

## Book Adventure

**3- 14 YEARS | FREE**

**ongoing**

Book Adventure is a fun, free way to motivate your child to read! Kids in grades K-8 can search for books, read them offline, come back to

## Feed Your Brain

**0-TEEN | FREE**

**June — July**

Read for at least 15 minutes each day for a month in June and July. (grown-ups may read aloud to kids who are still learning). Add up your

## ALTERNATIVE SUMMER READING INSPIRATION



### Gaming Guides

Prima Game Guides

Dark Horse

Indigo

### Comics / Graphic Novels

Summer Reading List

Drawn and Quarterly

### Magazines

Top 10 Teen Magazines

Top 10 Animal Magazines

Top 10 Kids Magazines

# ONLINE SUMMER READING LISTS

minutes and have your parent or guardian initial each week. Once you've read 300 minutes, turn in your reading log to earn \$5 HPB Bookworm Bucks for the month.  
*Half-Priced Bookstore*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FEED YOUR BRAIN**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** OPEN

## Forest of Reading program

**ALL | VARIES**

**ongoing**

The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their School and/or Public Library. All Ontarians/Canadians are invited to participate via their local public library, school library, or individually.

*Ontario Library Association*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOREST OF READING**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** YES

**FOCUS:** CANADIAN LITERATURE

## OLA Best Bets

**0-TEEN | FREE**

**ongoing**

The OLA's Best Bets Committee selects books on the basis of their literary/artistic merit as well as their appeal for children and young adults. Text and illustrations are of equal importance in picture books and information books.

*Ontario Library Association*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BEST BETS**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** NO

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** CANADIAN LITERATURE

## SYNC

**13+ | FREE**

**April — August**

SYNC is a free summer audiobook program for teens 13+. SYNC gives away two complete audiobook downloads a week; pairs of high interest titles based on weekly themes. In 2016, 30 titles were given away over 15 weeks.

*SYNC is sponsored by AudioFile Magazine and titles are delivered through the OverDrive app.*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT SYNC**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** TEEN LITERATURE

## Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)

**ALL | FREE**

**ongoing**

CELA is a national not-for-profit organization run by public libraries for public libraries. Our collections and services are available to patrons with print disabilities who are members of a public library funded to receive our services, either by their province/territory or through a local library subscription. Eligible patrons of CELA member libraries have access to more than 300,000 items in accessible formats including audio, braille, and electronic text. More than 600 public library systems across Canada are currently members of CELA.

*CNIB (the Canadian National Institute for the Blind) is the service provider of CELA services for CELA Library Members and their customers, including providing alternative format production and delivery services and support.*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT CELA**

**DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITIES:** YES

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** NO

**FOCUS:** CANADIANS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES

[www.accessola.com/summerreading](http://www.accessola.com/summerreading)

