



ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR MAY

Idea #1: Book Return Kits for End-of-the-Year Tasks

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Quit "KITTEN AROUND!" It's time to get those books gathered up "MEOW!" This lesson AND decor combo will help you get the job done -- with a little added humor! Before the final due date, use it to discuss where to search for lost books. Then, put the tools to work and save yourself precious time. (Not into kittens? There are two more book return kits at That Library Girl!)

(See this resource from [That Library Girl](#))



Idea #2: Share Some Summer Bookmarks

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Add some fun to your end of the year lessons with these Summer Bookmarks!

Your students will love the summer jokes & greetings. Print in color to give away, or put the black & white version in a coloring center.

Encourage summer reading and spread some end of the year joy!

(See these bookmarks from [The Trapped Librarian](#))

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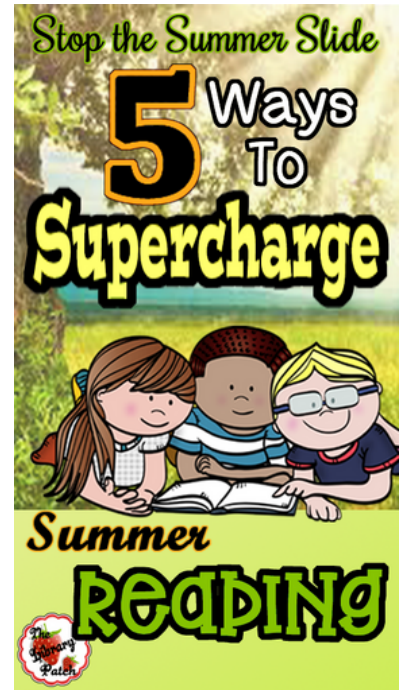
Idea #3: Stop the Summer Slide

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

As much as we all look forward to the summer, we know that the summer can sometimes be difficult educationally when students don't spend time reading and writing.

Here are five tried and true way to keep your kids off of the summer slide.

[Read the full article from The Library Patch](#)



Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



PICTURE BOOKS

- *Two Together* (Wenzel)
- *Water* (Fadeeva)
- *The Walk of the Field Mouse* (Robert)
- *Piper Chen Sings* (Soo and Doran)
- *Ahoy* (Blackall)

CHAPTER BOOKS

- *The Egg Incident* (Hanaor)
- *Orris and Timble: The Beginning* (DiCamillo)

UPPER ELEMENTARY GRADES

- *Shiny Misfits* (Zayid)
- *The Door Is Open* (Khan, et.al.)
- *Out of the Valley of Horses* (Orr)
- *Paige Not Found* (Wilde)
- *A Game of Noctis* (Fagan)
- *The Night War* (Bradley)
- *Three Summers* (Sabic-El-Rayess and Sullivan)
- *The Wrong Way Home* (O'Shaughnessy)
- *Amazing Immortals* (Williams)
- *The Monster and the Maze* (Lam)
- *Made in Asian America* (Lee and Soontornvat)
- *Wires Crossed* (Fantaskey)



ENJOY A SUMMER MUSIC PLAYLIST FROM "WE ARE TEACHERS"

"We are Teachers" has compiled an end-of-the-year summer playlist of 85 tunes to help you push through to the last day! (Check the lyrics before sharing with students, of course!)

Idea #4: Add New Dewey Shelf Labels

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



Your nonfiction section is usually the hardest area for students to navigate and find what they want. These sample signs help them to be more independent when looking for books!

Just print and laminate, then stick them on 4" wide magazine file boxes, or 4" binders. The large, bold numbers and colorful graphics make them easy to spot.

([Download them from Mrs J in the Library](#))

Idea #5: Share 35 Books About Summertime

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

Celebrate summer freedom, camping, and the beach with these 35 summer books for kids and teens!

Each title was hand-selected for the recommended grade levels. You can download and edit the free presentation in Google Slides or PowerPoint.

([Read this article from MrsReaderPants](#).)



DREAM OF THE OCEAN WITH SHORT VIDEOS

[National Geographic Kids' Everything Oceans page](#) has a great playlist of short videos. Learn about dolphins, krill, puffer fish, otters, and more!

Idea #6: Try a Summer Bingo Reading Challenge

by Cari White (Library Learners)

EDITABLE K-4 BUNDLE



SUMMER READING BINGO

by Cari White

Give your students a FUN summer reading challenge with these editable K-4 summer reading bingo boards!

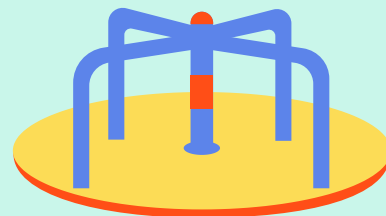
You can edit the bingo to include your state award books or your school's favorites.

([See it in the Library Learners TPT store](#))



OUR FAVORITE READ-ALOUDS ABOUT OUTDOOR PLAY

- *Ways to Play* by Lyn Miller-Lachman
- *Jump In!* by Shadra Strickland
- *I'm Not Small* by Nina Crews
- *The World Belonged to Us* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Bubbles...Up!* by Jacqueline Davies
- *Play Outside!* by Laurent Moreau
- *Run Wild* by David Covell
- *Explorers of the Wild* by Cale Atkinson
- *When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Peach Pie* by Erin Soderberg Downing
- *Sarah and the Big Wave* by Bonnie Tsui
- *Hot Dog* by Doug Salati
- *The Night Before Summer Vacation* by Natasha Wing
- *The Summer Vacation from the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler
- *Caterpillar Summer* by Gillian McDunn
- *How to (Almost) Ruin Your Summer* by Taryn Souders
- *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems
- *Summer is for Cousins* by Rajani LaRocca
- *My Stinky Summer* by S. Bug
- *World Belonged to Us* by Jacqueline Woodson



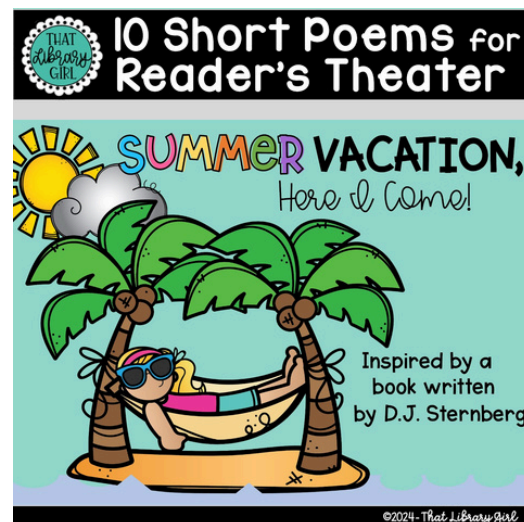
Idea #7 Teach about Reader's Theater

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Have you tried Reader's Theater with your students yet? It's a great way to encourage kids who don't like to read aloud.

This blog post describes a resource that teaches kids the basics! It also offers a limited-time FREEBIE with a set of 10 mini-scripts, inspired by the book *Summer Vacation, Here I Come!!*

[\(Check out the blog post at That Library Girl\).](#)



Idea #8: Encourage Summer Reading

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Each May we start looking ahead to our summer break – it is exciting!!

But we know the extended break from school routines can bring on the “summer slide.”

That’s why it’s important to promote summer reading in our libraries before school gets out for the break.

[\(Read this article from The Trapped Librarian\).](#)



Curated, engaging library curriculum
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



Idea #9: Build Your Own Summer Reading Program

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Don't plan an ordinary, track-your-minutes, summer reading activity!

Excite your students with this unique EDITABLE summer reading program.

Kids are encouraged to complete reading activities that will have them asking their parents to let them read this summer.

(See this Summer Reading Program from The Library Patch).



Idea #10: Connect with a Librarian Mentor or Mentee

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



If you're graduating from "library school," or a veteran educator who's new to the school librarian role, learning from another librarian will give you invaluable support during your first few years of teaching.

This article outlines 3 ways to find a librarian mentor (not a classroom teacher or art teacher or gym teacher) who can help you learn the practical day-to-day skills of being a librarian, AND help you grow your Professional Learning Network (PLN).

(Read more on Mrs. J in the Library).



JOIN A CANVA FACEBOOK GROUP

Do you use Canva to complete some of your administrative tasks in the library? I love it! I was so excited to find this Facebook Group full of tips and tricks for library users. There are also several free templates too!

Idea #11: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This Mexico Library Storytime is perfect for Hispanic Heritage Month, Mexico Independence Day (September 16), Cinco de Mayo, or anytime you want to highlight Mexico.

Includes Spanish words, an easy Spanish song, Mexico landmarks, sign language, and so much more!

(See this Mexico Storytime from MrsReaderPants).



Idea #12: Have Fun with Stickers!

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Sticker Fun in the School Library

Add some fun to your school library routine with something as simple and inexpensive as stickers!

(Learn more about Sticker Fun from Library Learners).



INSPIRE SOME SUMMER UPCYCLING PROJECTS

If your big kids are "done" as far as library lessons are concerned, share this webpage with them as a "maker ideas" lesson instead. You may just inspire some cool upcycling during summer 2024!

Idea #13: Start Your Summer Reading List

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Love reading books about books?! These five newish titles will immerse you in tales of fellow bibliophiles!

(See these [books about books](#) from [That Library Girl](#))

Idea #14: Read Intergalactically on May the Fourth

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Star Wars Booklist: May the 4th Be With You!

Your young Jedi apprentices will love these fun books.

They make great read-alouds and they'll be popular checkouts!



(See this [reading list](#) from [The Trapped Librarian](#))

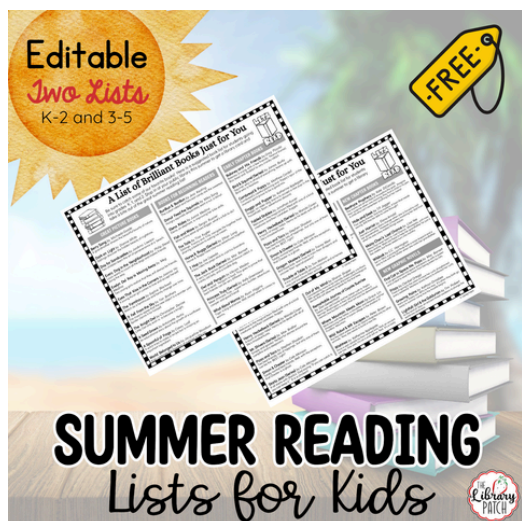


"GET WIMPED" WITH JEFF KINNEY

Jeff Kinney's website is so much fun! Invite your students to follow the "Get Wimped" button to create a wimpy family of their own!

Idea #15: Give Out Some FREE Summer Reading Lists

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



If you are anything like me and you get asked all of the time for book recommendations for your summer readers, then this editable summer reading list is exactly what you need!

There are two lists ... one for kids in grades K-2 and another for kids in grades 3-5.

(Download these FREE reading lists from The Library Patch)

OUR FAVORITE VIDEO LINKS!

Each month we feature some favorite videos for the library. Some videos are from us, and others are from other librarians, authors, or publishers. You can click the image to watch the video on YouTube.



Collette from Mrs. J in the Library was a recent guest on the Leading from the Library podcast with Shannon McClintock Miller.

Listen as they chat about mentoring for school librarians, and how to find a mentor, or start mentoring yourself!

My students love ALL of the directed drawings guided by the team at Art for Kids Hub.

This collection of summer inspired drawings are perfect to pair with your summer read aloud!



Idea #16: Make a School-Wide Sticker Puzzle

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

I can't be the only one who was thrilled to hear that StickTogether is back as part of Demco, right?

My students loved working together on a StickTogether puzzle, especially when the whole school did it together. Students can also make their own pixel art with the extra stickers and graph paper.

This low-prep center is what I use to set behavior expectations and keep the stickers organized.

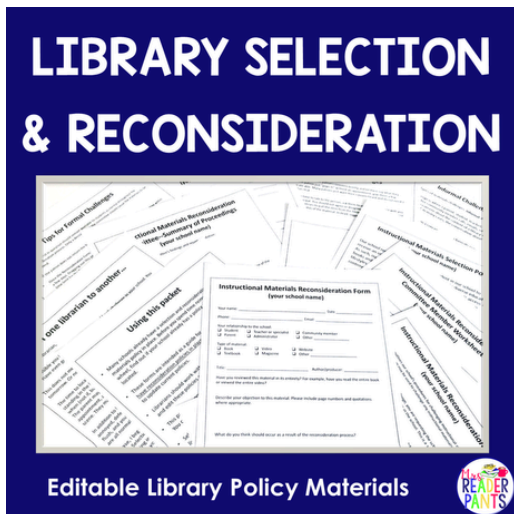
There's a lesson plan included as well, aligned to AASL and Common Core Standards.



See it on [Librarians Teach](#) or on [TPT](#).

Idea #17: Get Ready for Next Year's Challenges

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Librarians, you need Book Challenge Policies!

Summer is a great time to review your school's Selection and Reconsideration Policies - and get changes approved for the new school year.

If your school doesn't have policies, these FREE, editable Selection and Reconsideration policies are a fabulous place to start.

([Download these FREE Selection and Reconsideration policies from MrsReaderPants](#))



A SUMMER READ-ALOUD FROM THAT LIBRARY GIRL

Need a last-minute sub lesson? Listen to That Library Girl read The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle, a biography by Anne Renaud and Milan Pavlovic. Click the link above to go to YouTube.

IDEA #18: Send Home Some FREE Coloring Bookmarks

by Cari White (Library Learners)

When you send home a summer reading challenge for your students, include some fun bookmarks to color.

Or have students make a list on the back of these bookmarks of titles they'd like to read this summer.

(Download these FREE coloring bookmarks from Library Learners)



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