

A few thoughts directed to the reader, from those of us who have been reading great books for many years:

Our team of adults who love to read spent many hours building these lists for you. We hope you love these selections as much as we do. Good books offer us many things, including new ideas to mull over, occasions to go on an adventure without leaving home, and opportunities to see another's point of view.

These lists contain a variety of genres, in hopes that the **right book** is waiting for you. How will you know when you find that book? You won't want to put it down – at the end of every page, the author's writing convinces you that you *must* turn the page to discover what happens next!



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**Clovis Christian
Schools:**

Summer

**Family Literacy
Project**

Entering 8th Grade

*Train a child in the way he should go.
When he is old, he will not
turn away from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

Students entering 8th Grade

Dear Parents:

What comes to mind when you think about summer with your children? Swimming? Summer camp? Barbecues? Music in the park? This year, why not make sharing books part of your family's summer fun? Summer can be a season full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that children experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? There's actually a name for it. It's called "the summer slide" (and that isn't the one at the park).

So what can you do as a parent to prevent the summer slide? Here's one simple solution! Studies show that children who read books over the summer do better on reading tests in the fall than those who read only one or no books over the summer. For this cause, we are providing our students with three high-interest books with which they will continue their academic experience throughout the summer.

As we strive to implement rigorous curriculum here at Clovis Christian Schools, we feel a summer reading program is the next step in providing the best education for your student. These books have been specially chosen to provide your child with a well-rounded literary base for our teachers to build upon in the coming year.

Reading is not every student's favorite thing to do, and we have not trained our students to be active academically in the summer months, so how can you, the parent, help? Be involved.

Some suggestions: read the books with your child, read to your child out loud, have your child read to you, or read independently of one another and race to see who wins on the number of chapters read in a particular day.

Other suggestions: start a "Book Club." Gather a group of students in your child's class; assign five chapters a week, and every week get together with refreshments to discuss the book. To spark interest in a sluggish reader, try to find the book in graphic novel format, (the public library has many classics in graphic novel format,) or rent an accompanying movie. (A caution with these techniques-make sure your student then reads the book as well. A graphic novel or movie does not take the place of the experience with the original text.) When on long road trips in the summer, rent or purchase the book on audio and listen in the car as a family. The public library has a large selection of audiobooks, so does Hastings, and if you have an eReader, you will have a wide access to audiobooks as well. The best thing to do to help your child is to be his or her cheerleader. Positive words and positive beliefs in abilities are the greatest motivators.

This brochure includes titles for independent readers to read and enjoy. Some titles could be for you to read to your student or listen to on an audio recording. How will you know which ones are for your child to read independently and which ones work best for you to read aloud? That question depends on the reading level and the specific interests of each individual. See FAQs (online at CCS website) for our recommendations regarding readability levels. If your child needs to read materials that are not at grade level, please feel free to select books that are at his/her independent reading level.

Selections:

Rising 8th grade students

Bless Me, Ultima - Rudolfo Anaya

The Diary of A Young Girl - Anne Frank

The Pearl - John Steinbeck

Eighth grade students, please choose **2 books** from the list to read or read two books of your choice .

So, what is due for 8th grade Summer Family Literacy Project when school begins? **Nothing!** If your child chose to keep a Reading Log (pdf available on our website), we would like to see that, but it is not required. If your child chose from the book list above and would like to take a quiz for extra credit to start off the new school year ahead, you have that option. We can't wait to share Book Conversations with your child in the fall!