Summer Reading Parent Tips

Adapted from the American Library Association’s “Teen Reading Guide for Parents & Caregivers”

Did you know...
The average reader reads 300 words per minute. If a teen reads just 15 minutes per day, that adds up to 31,500 words per week. Studies show that for every 1,000,000 words read the reader’s vocabulary growth is 50%

What You Can Do:

• Lead by example: let your teen see you reading and visiting the library/bookstore often.
• Share books. Talk about what you read with your teen. Ask them about what they are reading.
• Keep plenty of books, graphic novels, magazines, and newspapers around your home.
• Empower your teens: let them select books that speak to their interests and hobbies.
• Read stories, poems, graphic novels, magazines or books out loud together.
• Provide time and space in your home each day for reading quietly.
• Don’t forget that reading should be fun as well as educational, for all ages. Let your teen choose some lighter reading that isn’t required for school.

Adapted from “Parent Tips: How to Get Your Teen Reading” from Colorín Colorado

Give your teen a lot of opportunities to read
If you have younger children or older relatives who can’t read, ask your teen to read out loud — everyone will enjoy it!

If your teen is multilingual, encourage reading in all languages
The important thing is for your teen to read. It's ok if your teen reads in her first language, second language, or both languages! If your teen prefers reading in Mother Tongue, for example, look for Mother Tongue books and magazines at the library. This will help her keep her Mother Tongue skills strong and give her more reading practice which will also help her English reading skills too.

Don't worry if your teen isn't always interested in pleasure reading
Sometimes, teens just aren't interested in reading. Maybe they are focused on their friends, activities, or schoolwork. That’s normal — give them some time, and keep lots of reading material around the house. They will pick it up when they are ready!
Questions to ask your teen reader

1. What did you enjoy about this book?
2. What have you read that is similar to this book?
3. What are some of the major themes of this book?
4. Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
5. Think about one of the minor characters in the story. Why did the author include him/her?
6. Is the setting of the story important to the book? In what ways?
7. Are you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not?
8. Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action of this novel?
9. Did you find this book a quick read? Why or why not?
10. What were your concerns about this book?
11. What scene do you remember best? Why do you think that is?
12. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast in the title roles?