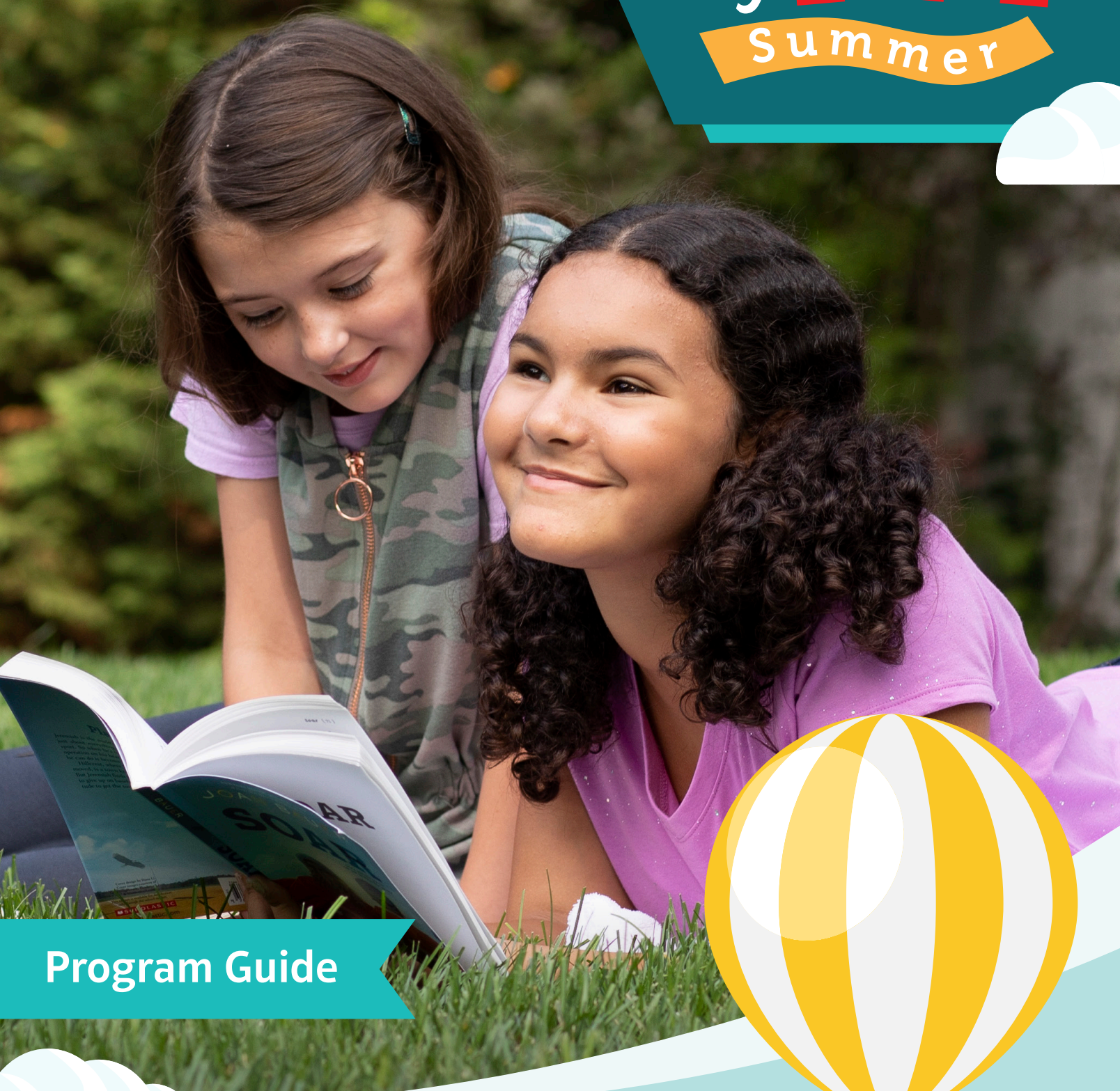




# My BOOKS Summer



Program Guide



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# Introduction

As educators, you are familiar with the challenges that teachers and students face when school resumes each fall after the summer break. Learning recovery is real. It costs teachers and students valuable time and energy as everyone scrambles to regain their academic bearings and reinvigorate the teaching and learning process.

According to research, giving kids access to books and reading-related materials is perhaps the most powerful way to keep students on track over the summer. Some studies have shown that, without regard to ethnic or socioeconomic level, kids who read five or more books over the summer perform better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who have read one or no books. Scholastic's My Books Summer, a summer reading program for Grades PreK through 12, is committed to providing books to kids for exactly that reason (Kim 2004).

But the good news is that we CAN successfully support learning recovery instruction. Scholastic's My Books Summer provides literacy support during the summer months. We hope that this program will help you lead the way to a summer leap!

**Our intention is straightforward.** We want students' literacy skills and their engagement with reading and writing to continue to grow over the summer. Our means are direct. We provide books and related materials for children to take home for the summer to keep and enjoy.

**Our ends are simple but essential.** We hope to have students return to school in the fall prepared to pick up where they left off at the summer break—perhaps even ahead of where they left off!

# How Does My Books Summer Benefit All Students?

***Because daily reading is a direct, simple, affordable, and effective way to address the loss of literacy skills over the summer break . . .***

My Books Summer gives kids grade-appropriate books to read, enjoy, and explore on their own time.

***Because it's more than just books . . .***

My Books Summer includes journals and Think Sheets that invite kids to express ideas, think about and rate the books they've read, and share books and activities with peers and family members.

***Because the degree of student involvement is adaptable to individual needs and abilities . . .***

The configuration of My Books Summer materials is at the discretion of the purchaser and of the teacher, who can elect to distribute the books in a variety of ways—in packs or via student self-selection. Students can be largely self-paced in reading and responding during the summer. For younger learners, parents and caregivers are invited to take part in support of their children.

***Because the program can interface with school, classroom, and student digital record-keeping systems . . .***

The program dovetails with the Scholastic Summer Reading program, a free online summer reading program for students, educators, libraries, community partners, and families ([www.scholastic.com/summer](http://www.scholastic.com/summer)).

***Because the program strengthens family engagement anytime, anywhere, on any mobile device . . .***

My Books Summer Think Sheets for Grades PreK–4 are now available through a mobile platform if your school has purchased BookConnect. BookConnect provides an easy and convenient way for families to explore collaborative conversations—at home, in the park, at the grocery store, practically anywhere! (See page 7 for more information.)



# The Components of My Books Summer

My Books Summer is organized by grade. The components and materials reflect the interests and skills of students at each level, as well as the corresponding College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards expectations for the coming year.

## Each set includes:

- For each student: one book pack each of fiction, nonfiction, and/or specialty titles (including STEM and others), depending on purchase
- For each book: a corresponding two-sided Think Sheet with book-specific writing activities, comprehension questions, and other text-based response activities
- For each student: a Summer Reading Journal for recording text-based responses and for tracking and rating books read
- For students and families: an optional mobile BookConnect feature (additional purchase)
- For each student: colored pencils to inspire creativity and imagination in the student journal
- For each student: a postcard to share their summer reading experience—a perfect way for teachers to learn about their new students' reading interests



## Book Packs

### Fiction Pack

- 5 books with corresponding Think Sheets

### Nonfiction Book Pack

- 5 books with corresponding Think Sheets

### Informational and Fiction Pack

- 6 or 10 books with corresponding Think Sheets

### Special Interest Pack

- 5 books with corresponding Think Sheets

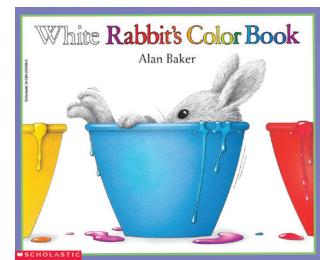
### Spanish Packs

- 5-pack fiction
- 5-pack nonfiction
- 6-pack fiction/nonfiction
- 10-pack fiction/nonfiction
- All with corresponding Think Sheets



## Think Sheets

- The two-sided Think Sheet for each book promotes higher-order thinking with text-based questions and activities, as well as prompts that allow readers to write or draw in response to the text.
- For PreK–5, Family Time prompts provide opportunities for students and families to engage with books together.



## Summer Reading Journal

The Summer Reading Journal is a place for students to respond to their readings in a personal way.

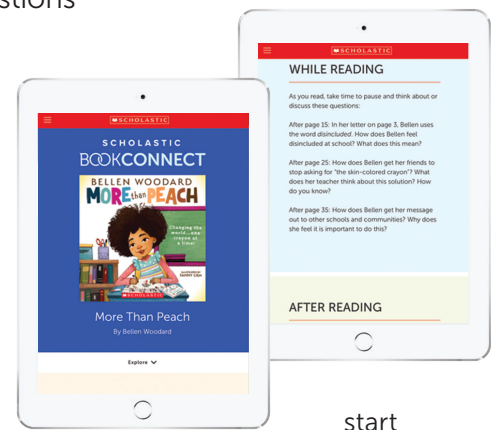
- The journal encourages readers to think broadly and even playfully about fiction and informational texts.
- Journal prompts are not title-specific; students choose which book to read before completing the journal page but are encouraged to cite textual evidence in their responses.
- Journal pages propose text-based questions that address grade-level CCR Standards, while sparking imagination and inviting creativity.
- Notes to families highlight ways to read together and interact with the text, and they encourage school-home connections. Notes also give caregivers information about CCR Standards expectations.



**BookConnect** is an easy-to-use mobile tool for families that pairs My Books Summer books with title-specific questions and conversation prompts. Families can use it on any mobile device, and the interface makes it easy to create a community of learning in households with multiple children.

How Does BookConnect Work?

1. Download a QR code reader.
2. Scan the QR code on the back cover of a BookConnect title.
3. Use BookConnect prompts to ask questions and conversations.



*BookConnect is available as an add-on to My Books Summer at an additional cost. See page 58 for the BookConnect message to families.*

**Grades 6 and Up** At these grades, the journal has evolved into a place for students to record opinions, observations, and insights about books and to cite specific evidence in their written responses to texts. Students understand that books have the power to open up areas of knowledge and imagination; by extension, students' own writing becomes a powerful tool. They are called upon to demonstrate independent critical thinking as they analyze texts through their writing, cite textual evidence, and grapple with themes and subject matter they encounter in their reading. Teachers and coordinators for these grades might want to:

- Encourage students to think of the journal as a place to exercise both skill and imagination as they write in response to reading.
- Emphasize the value of using the journal to pinpoint and clarify their ideas.
- Challenge students to use a distinct and honest writer's voice.



**Word Workout** This journal page can be customized to suit the skills and interests of each reader. Teachers can suggest that students:

- Challenge themselves to group words into various categories (words with Latin or Greek roots, technical words, synonyms, words that describe emotions, and so on).
- Address a specific, individualized "summer incentive" vocabulary assignment.
- Write their own story or poem using new vocabulary words.

**Summer Reading Log** Students can use this feature to record and rate all the books they have read, not just the books received through My Books Summer. Teachers can motivate students in Grades 6 and up to take advantage of the log by challenging them to:

- Read and log as many books as possible.
- Read and log more than one book by an author they like.
- Read and log more than one book on a topic that interests them.
- Use the rating option to think critically and independently about a specific literary quality or structural element—author's purpose and voice, narrative structure, clarity of presentation, and so on—for each book they read, and to give a rating of the book's merit for that feature.



# Quick Checklist for Administrators

## MID-SPRING: Start the Buzz

- ☐ Invite parents, caregivers, students, teachers, and school librarians to a school-wide “summer reading buzz” night to introduce My Books Summer.
- ☐ Describe the program.
- ☐ Promote daily reading and reading aloud.
- ☐ Display MBS book collections.
- ☐ Launch a summer reading poster contest.
- ☐ Establish daily classroom routines of reading and recording minutes on reading logs.
- ☐ Send out an MBS newsletter or post it on the school website.

## LATE SPRING: Set It in Motion & Set Goals

- ☐ Distribute program materials to teachers.
- ☐ Post student summer reading posters in halls and in classrooms.
- ☐ Send out follow-up parent and student letters (see sample letters, pp. 33–38).
- ☐ Establish class and school goals for summer reading, and communicate these to parents and caregivers.
- ☐ Visit classrooms in person to introduce My Books Summer to students and parents or caregivers.
- ☐ Set up a student-managed MBS table at an end-of-year event, such as a school play, band concert, bake sale, or walkathon.
- ☐ Host a Scholastic Literacy Event to kick off summer.
- ☐ If you have purchased the family engagement BookConnect mobile tool, hold a tutorial for families at a summer reading kick-off event.
- ☐ Hold a tutorial for teachers so that they can set up class, parent, and student interfaces.

## OVER THE SUMMER: Keep Up the Momentum

- ☐ If possible, keep the school library open one day a week over the summer.
- ☐ Partner with the local library for readings, book clubs, reading partnerships, story hours, and/or special booklists.
- ☐ If your school is participating in the Scholastic Summer Reading Program, post on the school website or marquee weekly updates of minutes recorded.



---

My Name

This summer, my goal is to read every day  
for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

My goal is to read \_\_\_\_\_ books before  
the end of summer vacation.

# Mi promesa de lectura de verano

---

Mi nombre

Este verano, tengo como meta leer todos los días  
por \_\_\_\_\_ minutos.

Mi meta es leer \_\_\_\_\_ libros antes de que  
finalicen las vacaciones de verano.



# **This Summer Reading Certificate**

**is awarded to**

---



**on**

---

Date

**for a job well done.**

---

Teacher Signature

---

Principal Signature

# Certificado de lectura de verano

**Se otorga este certificado a**



**el**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha

**por su buen trabajo.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firma del maestro/a

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firma del director/a

# Sample Letter to Families (PreK–Grade 2)

**Dear Parent or Caregiver,**

My Books Summer has been designed to help you and your child enjoy reading books together over the summer break, a time when many students fall behind in important reading and writing skills. We hope that you will sit down with your son or daughter and share the books we have sent home to add to your child's home library.

There are many ways to share books and help your child grow as a reader. You might want to page through the book first, looking at the illustrations. You can read aloud to your child or listen as your child reads aloud to you. If your child is ready to read independently, you might want to read the book on your own in order to ask and answer questions with your child.

If your child is just learning to read, run your index finger along the line as you read, so that your child understands that print is read from left to right and from top to bottom. You might want to ask your child to look in the book for high-frequency words (*the, on, a*), listen for rhyming words (*bat, cat*), listen for the beginning sounds of words (*me, my, many*), and look for challenging words (*kitchen, dinosaur*).

If your child is reading a book independently, encourage him or her to share the book by retelling favorite details, reading aloud favorite passages, or discussing interesting ideas.

Help your child respond to questions, list new words, and log books read—all featured in the Summer Reading Journal that is his or hers to use for the summer and share with next year's teacher in the fall.

We hope that you will help your child make a habit of reading every day and enjoying books. It will help greatly to smooth the transition to the next school year.

**Sincerely,**



# Ejemplo de carta para las familias (Prekínder–Grado 2)

## **Estimado padre, madre o cuidador/a:**

El programa My Books Summer está diseñado para que usted y su niño/a disfruten juntos de la lectura durante las vacaciones de verano, una época en la que muchos estudiantes se atrasan en la lectura y la escritura. Esperamos que compartan y disfruten los libros que le enviamos a su hogar y que luego los incluyan en su propia biblioteca.

Hay muchas maneras de compartir los libros y ayudar a que su niño/a se convierta en un lector o una lectora. Antes de leer un libro, pueden hojearlo juntos y mirar las ilustraciones. También puede leerle el libro a su niño/a o dejar que él o ella se lo lea a usted. Si su niño/a puede leer independientemente, deje que lea el libro por su cuenta y después coméntelo con él o ella. Si quiere, usted también puede leer el mismo libro y hacerle preguntas a su niño/a, o contestar las que él o ella tenga.

Si su niño/a está aprendiendo a leer, cuando le lea, señale las líneas con el dedo para que su niño/a se dé cuenta de que el texto se lee de izquierda a derecha y de arriba abajo. Puede pedirle que busque en el libro palabras que aparecen con frecuencia (*el, un, una*), que identifique las palabras que riman (*gato, pato*), que escuche el sonido inicial de las palabras (*mi, mamá, muy*) o que busque palabras que sean difíciles de leer (*árbol, dinosaurio*).

Si su niño/a ya lee independientemente, animelo/la a comentar los libros que ha leído con usted y que le cuente sus partes favoritas, lea sus fragmentos preferidos o mencione algunas ideas interesantes.

Ayude a su niño/a a responder preguntas, a hacer listas de palabras nuevas y a anotar los libros que lee en su Diario de lecturas de verano (*Summer Reading Journal*) que podrá compartir con su nuevo/a maestro/a cuando regrese a la escuela.

Esperamos que pueda ayudar a su niño/a a desarrollar el hábito de la lectura diaria y a disfrutar de los libros. Su ayuda es muy valiosa y facilitará la transición al próximo año escolar.

**Atentamente,**

# Five Basic Reading Practices (PreK–Grade 5)

Here are five simple ways to help your child become a better reader and student.

1

## **Read Aloud**

Read aloud to your child every day.

2

## **Be a Reading Role Model**

You are your child's first teacher. If your child sees you reading, he or she will also want to read.

3

## **Give Books as Gifts**

When it's time to give your child a gift, give him or her a book. When kids have books at home, they often do better in school.

4

## **Support Literacy**

Encourage older children to read to younger children at home, school, or in a volunteer program. Be a volunteer yourself! Read at a school, library, or community center.

5

## **Turn Reading Into Family Fun**

Create a family book club to talk about books you've read together. Talk about books when you get together for a meal or for a ride. Have an "unplugged" night at home, with no TV or computers—just read, read, read! Remember, family involvement can help raise your child's reading achievement.

# Tips for Reading With PreK–K

1

Discover a place in your home that can be an inviting parent-child reading nook, a cozy place just for reading together.

2

Read aloud with expression and excitement. Make each story come alive. You and your child may enjoy taking turns reading parts of the story aloud, or your child can join in on words that repeat. For example, in *The Three Little Pigs*, your child can chime in on “I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house down.”

3

Read and reread favorite books. Kids love listening to and looking at books over and over, especially if the books rhyme, are funny, or have repetition. Listening to stories more than once helps expand your child’s vocabulary, too. A growing vocabulary is important for success in reading.

4

Play rhyming games with your child. Begin with simple rhymes, such as cat and hat. Together, come up with rhymes for words you see in books or words you use when speaking (*giggle* and *wiggle*). Making up words for rhymes is also fine (*giggle* and *piggle*).

5

Help your child understand what happens in a story. Go through a familiar story and point out the most important events. Talk about the order of the events.

6

When you are out, look for familiar words on signs. Your child will be delighted to realize that he or she is already able to read a stop sign, a sale sign, or a street sign! This game is a good one for boosting your child’s confidence.

7

Read aloud from a newspaper or magazine. You might even read aloud the ads and talk about what each ad wants the reader to do or buy. Your child will enjoy hearing new words.

8

As you read aloud with your child, point to the words. Your child will connect the words you say with the words on the page. Move your finger across the page to help show how we read: from left to right, and from the top of the page to the bottom.

9

Create a word card game. Make cards for simple words, such as *house*, *lake*, *bed*, and *dog*. Then paste photos from old magazines to make corresponding picture cards. Lay them out randomly and challenge your child to match them.

10

Label household items, pieces of furniture, food, and areas in your home. You can also work together on labels for your child’s room and things.