

Parent Guide to

LUCKY

Grades 2–3 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your independent reader

June
2009

Get your
Parent Guide to Lucky
Every Month
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Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Lucky June Book Club flyer.

The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids: Werewolves Don't Go To Summer Camp by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton

Who It's For:

Fans of the series; kids who like funny, not-too-scary chapter books.

Why We Chose It:

The series is created by two teachers—they really understand kids' humor and capabilities.

What Parents Say:

"This is perfect summer reading—a funny ghost-story-like subject and good for reading practice, too."

Ready, Freddy! Camping Catastrophe by Abby Klein

Who It's For:

Fans of the Ready, Freddy! series; kids who like sharks; chapter book readers.

Why We Chose It:

Author Abby Klein really understands the challenges of an ordinary childhood.

What Parents Say:

"Freddy reminds me of our kid—which is why we enjoy reading it together."

Planet Earth: Wild Amazon

Who It's For:

Kids with an interest in the rainforest and the environment.

Why We Chose It:

The text is well done and at the right level for many Lucky readers; the photos are stunning.

What Parents Say:

"We like this book as much as our kid does—it's great for browsing!"



Keep Literacy Skills Sharp This Summer

When school's out, it's important to provide plenty of learning opportunities at home to assure that your child continues developing vocabulary, early reading, and writing skills. Try these literacy-building tips.

Fill your home with reading. Whether it's another title in his favorite series, hobby magazines, the sports pages, or even comic books, any kind of daily reading is good for his brain. The more pleasurable, the more likely he is to think of reading as natural, so he won't be intimidated by school reading.

Play writing games together. Save the kids' crosswords, anagrams, or cryptograms from the newspaper. Pull them out in those "I'm bored!" moments (rainy days, long car rides, etc.) for a fun stretch of thinking skills and vocabulary.

Pack a traveler's reading kit. Before you go on vacation, give your child books about your destination, a map, and a writing journal so he can keep track of sights he sees. After the trip, he can add pictures and souvenirs to the journal.

Turn off the TV. Unplug at least one night a week and share other types of literacy-boosting entertainment: playing board games, telling stories, or just reading together.

Cool off with a reading pool. When it's just too hot to run around, your child can chill out in a small inflatable pool. After he climbs in, place a crate of books (no library books or family heirlooms, though — inexpensive paperbacks are best!) nearby so your reader can enjoy a book while he lounges.

Wherever the summer takes you, the best way to encourage your child to read is to be a role model. When he sees you enjoying a book, newspaper, or magazine, it reinforces the idea that reading is fun.

Ask an Expert

I can't seem to get my 9-year-old daughter interested in reading. I let her choose the books she wants, but she always reads a few pages then says it's boring. Any suggestions?

First of all, keep doing what you're doing — visiting the book store and library to encourage her to choose her own books. Also, keep reading to and with her. You can read more difficult material than she can read on her own. You can try joining or starting a mother/daughter book club. Remember: reading is everywhere. Get your daughter to read more by encouraging newspaper reading, helping her pick recipes out of a cookbook, or playing word games. Discuss your daughter's reading achievement with her teacher. Be sure that the problem is a motivational one and not one of reading difficulties. If she doesn't feel successful, she will continue to resist reading.

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander, a former teacher, is vice president and chief academic officer at Scholastic.



Did You Know?

May 16 is Biographer's Day. Help your child script and film a short documentary about a family member's life.

15 Weeks of Fun in the Sun and Cool Reading Ideas

Keep your child's brain from melting with our summer-long activity guide.

June 1–June 7

Start a summer journal! Draw pictures and copy key words that describe summer adventures.

June 8–June 14

Plant a garden together. Find inspiration in books such as *In the Garden* and *I'm a Seed*.

June 15–June 21

Make Dad a super-sized poster card for Father's Day (June 21) with a list of things you love about him.



June 22–June 28

The Statue of Liberty is 123 years old this year. Read *Liberty* by Lynn Curlee, which features great pictures of the famous statue.

June 29–July 5

Celebrate Superman's birthday on June 30. Make up a story about his latest daring adventures.

July 6–July 12

Continue the Independence Day celebration with great reads, such as *Hats Off for the Fourth of July*.

July 13–July 19

Read a baseball book, such as *Zachary's Ball* or *The Field Beyond the Outfield*, before this week's All-Star Game.

July 20–July 26

Send a letter to a relative. Start it: "What I love about summertime is . . ."

July 27–August 2

Use a magician's guide to learn a wizardly trick in honor of Harry Potter's birthday!

August 3–August 9

Go fly a kite! Find simple plans at www.scholastic.com/parents.



August 10–August 16

Take a hike! plan a long walk together with your child, perhaps along a trail or bike bath. Don't forget the gorp!

August 17–August 23

What's the hottest day of the week? Fry Day! Find more laughs for Joke Day this week in your favorite joke book.

August 24–August 30

Take a walk through the park with an illustrated nature guide. Try to identify the plants and trees you see.

August 31–September 6

Kick off Library Sign-Up Month this September by getting your own card and checking out new books for fall!

Beyond Books

June is Aquarium Month! Take a field trip to check out some sea creatures. Read the display signs to learn new words.

Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit www.scholastic.com/classroomscare to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message -- kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.



Daily Reading Fun

Hitting the pool or beach? Remember the sunscreen and the reading material. Fill a bag with a variety of options: storybooks, picture books, an illustrated guide to sandcastles, or a puzzle book to share with friends.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Parent Guide to Lucky
Your Parent Guide to Lucky is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit www.scholastic.com/read.