Parent Guide to SeeSaw

Grades K–1 **Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your beginning reader** June 2009

Get your Parent Guide to SeeSaw Every Month at www.scholastic.com/read.

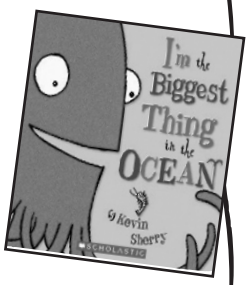
Editors' Picks of the Month

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

The Night Before Summer Vacation by Natasha Wing

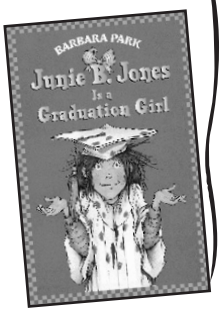
Who It's For:
Kids who like funny rhymes and pictures; fans of the Night Before series.
Why We Chose It:
It's a funny twist on the classic poem.
What Parents Say:
"As we get ready for vacation, it's nice to have appropriate (and funny) reading!"

I'm The Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry



Who It's For:
Little kids who want to be BIGGER.
Why We Chose It:
The *New York Times* called it "a simple, infectious delight, with wonderful comic timing."
What Parents Say:
"The repeating phrases help my child read along."

Junie B. Jones Is a Graduation Girl by Barbara Park



Who It's For:
Junie B. Jones fans; kids who like to laugh.
Why We Chose It:
This timely story is "a great book for those young readers who, like Junie B, are afraid of moving on."—*Children's Literature*
What Parents Say:
"We have our kids point out Junie B.'s usage errors. It's great that they know what's wrong."

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. Favorite stories, nonfiction picture books, posters with words, audio recordings and follow-along books — put them all within reach. Then read aloud together every day.

Practice writing outdoors. With a stick as his writing instrument, the beach, sandbox, or soft earth becomes your child's writing pad. Have him come up with his own words, or trace or copy something you write out. Or he can practice with colored chalk on your driveway or sidewalk.

Pack a traveler's reading kit. Before you go on vacation, give your child illustrated books about your destination and a journal in which she can glue photos, drawings, ticket stubs, and paper mementos from the journey. Add short sentences so you can read the book together after she's finished.

Did You Know

Daniel Carter Beard, founder of Boy Scouts of America, was born on June 21, 1850.

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 reading together.

Cool off with a reading pool. Fill up an inflatable pool and pull out those old waterproof bath books. These simple, brightly colored stories are the perfect way to reinforce key vocabulary while your child enjoys a lazy afternoon lounging.

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

How do I select books for my children, ages 6 and 8, to read this summer?

Think of selecting books at these ages according to how they might be used. Bear in mind that summer reading should be fun! Read-aloud books should always be well above your child's independent reading level because you are the one in control of the reading. Generally, read-with books should be at or slightly above your child's independent reading level. As your child reads aloud to you, you can offer help as needed with difficult words or phrases. And read-alone books should be easy enough for your child to read on her own, perhaps at night after spending time with a read-aloud earlier in the day. For book recommendations, games, contests, and more, don't miss Summer Reading Buzz at www.scholastic.com/summerreading.

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

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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 write phrases that describe summer adventures.

June 8–June 14
Make Dad a super-sized poster card for Father's Day (June 15) with a list of things you love about him.

June 15–June 21
Plant a garden together. Find inspiration in books such as *In the Garden* and *I'm a Seed.*

June 22–June 28
The Statue of Liberty is 122 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
The Summer Olympic Games are in full swing this week. Read more about your favorite athletes at www.scholasticnews.com.

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.

Find More Titles in Kids' Favorite Series

Now, you and your child can find more titles in your favorite book series online – at the Scholastic Book Clubs Series Headquarters. From Clifford to the Magic School Bus and beyond, the Series Headquarters puts all kids' best-loved characters all in one place – and all at low Scholastic Book Clubs pricing. And books are delivered right to the classroom, just like always! Visit www.scholastic.com/serieshq.

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 1 MILLION 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.

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 SeeSaw
Your Parent Guide to SeeSaw 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.**