Reading is the foundation upon which almost all subsequent learning takes place. It is one of the most challenging achievements we ever accomplish and one of the most important. It is our goal at Ojai Valley School to build a foundation for learning and to open windows and doors for our students.

Vacation is the perfect time for reinforcing the joy of reading, and summer reading can be a wonderful family pursuit. While we certainly expect your children to enjoy themselves and relax during the summer months, it is also imperative that they keep their minds engaged and active in order to retain the skills developed during the school year. No matter the age of your children, encourage them to read daily. Let them know you value reading, and let them see you reading too!

Following, you will find both helpful suggestions and the requirements that are expected by the classroom teachers for summer reading. Our goal is to motivate and promote a love of independent reading and to encourage children to make their own choices from suggested titles. Completing the required reading will enhance your child’s experience and provide background as he or she transitions into the new core programs in the fall. Teachers will hold “Book Teas” in order to give students the opportunity to discuss their readings.

We hope your children will feel excited by the summer reading program, and that it will provide your family with opportunities to nurture a life-long love of reading.

Regards,

The Library and Literacy Committee

**Required Summer Reading – Grades 3-8**

New and returning students entering grades 3–8 in the fall are REQUIRED to read the following books over the summer. Each novel is linked to the fall curriculum, and students should be prepared to discuss and write about these books when classes begin in September. Additional summer writing assignments will be provided by classroom teachers.

**Grades 3-8**

3rd grade: *Frindle*, Andrew Clements
4th grade: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, Kate DiCamillo
5th grade: *A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple*, *Mayflower, 1620*, Kathryn Lasky
Or: *Blood on the River*, Elisa Carbone
6th grade: *So B. It*, Sarah Weeks
And *Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen
7th grade: *The Sea of Trolls*, Nancy Farmer
And *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*, Karen Blumenthal
8th grade: *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Epic Gold at the 1936 Olympics*, Daniel James Brown
And *Animal Farm*, George Orwell
8th Honors: *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Epic Gold at the 1936 Olympics*, Daniel James Brown
And *Animal Farm*, George Orwell

“The Politics of the English Language,” George Orwell

Additionally, please encourage your children to read daily throughout the summer. Help them to find at least one book of their own choosing. Here are some great websites where you will find quality titles to choose from:

- [http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal)
- [http://www.udel.edu/ETL/RWN/ReadingLists.html](http://www.udel.edu/ETL/RWN/ReadingLists.html)
- [http://www.ala.org/alsc/compubs/booklists/summerreadinglist](http://www.ala.org/alsc/compubs/booklists/summerreadinglist)
Recommended Summer Reading – Grades PK-2
We have created a list of books that your children might enjoy over the summer. Here are a few suggestions to help enhance the reading experience. Allow your child to hold the book and turn the pages. Go over the title and author before reading. Let your child look through the pictures and make predictions about the story. Talk about the story as you read. Share different parts of the story after you finish reading. Most of all, enjoy the stories and have fun!

Pre-K - K
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type, Doreen Cronin
Curious George, H.A. Rey
Danny and the Dinosaur, Syd Hoff
We Are in a Book!, Mo Willems
Frog and Toad Are Friends, Arnold Lobel
George and Martha, James Marshall
Green Eggs and Ham, Dr. Seuss
How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? Jane Yolen
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura J. Numeroff
Madeline, Ludwig Behelmans
Martha Speaks, Susan Meddaugh
My Father’s Dragon, Ruth Chrisman Gannett
Owen, Kevin Henkes
Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes, Eric Litwin
Strega Nona, Tomie de Paola
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, William Steig
Where the Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak
Children Make Terrible Pets, Peter Brown
Interrupting Chicken, David Ezra Stein
Press Here, Herve Tullet
For our youngest readers, the following website provides many more wonderful titles:
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal

Grades 1-2
A child’s reading ability at this level may vary considerably. What is manageable for one reader may be still frustrating for another. Beginning chapter books provide a transition to more challenging reads. With this in mind, we have provided the following selection of books that can be read as a series, or individually. First grade students should choose from a variety of phonics readers that are appropriate to their current reading level. Your child should read at least one book from a series, or all of them if they wish!
Horrible Harry, Suzy Kline
Arthur, Marc Brown
Bailey School Kids, Debbie Dadey
Black Lagoon Adventures, Mike Thaler
Henry and Mudge, Cynthia Rylant
Young Cam Jansen, David A. Adler
Frog and Toad, Arnold Lobel
Annie and Snowball, Cynthia Rylant
Magic School Bus, Joanna Cole
Magic Tree House, Mary Pope Osborne
Secrets of Droon, Tony Abbott
I Survived, Lauren Tarshis
The Princess Fairies, Daisy Meadows
The I Can Read series are also wonderful books for children entering first grade. They can be obtained from the following website:
http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/I+Can+Read