

Expanding Reading Fun for you and your child

“Reading brings us unknown friends.” —Honoré de Balzac

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Fifth and Sixth grade reading is a period when children are reading more fluently and thinking more deeply about what they’re reading than ever before. They’ll be challenged to read independently and to consider plot and theme in novels.

Why is it important for students to read in different genres? Reading in different genres gives students opportunities to learn what types of books they enjoy. Fewer students are reading for fun, and that can start as early as 4th grade. Reading for enjoyment is directly linked with higher test scores in students, and reading different types of books can help keep reading fun and help students.

Here are some ideas to engage your growing reader:

- Cultivate a strong reading habit yourself -- There is no better way to convince a child to love reading than if you love reading yourself.
- Tie it to their interests and goals
- Make a habit of reading -- Set your home up to be a reading friendly environment, the habits of an independent reader often naturally follow.
- Choice -- Allowing your child to choose their own reading materials takes away the notion that reading is a chore and makes it more appealing. We have lists of great suggestions to help them get started.
- Choose Again -- Readers abandon books all the time. When your child is reading a book or that they don’t find enjoyable, allow them to abandon the book and make another choice. Choosing another book is absolutely fine and presents the opportunity to discover a new, more appealing one to read.
- Ask your child to describe their favorite books, so you can become familiar with your child’s independent reading choices. Ask them to read a favorite part aloud to you.
- Read the same fiction book together and discuss what challenge the main character experienced.
- Help your child enjoy vivid language by reading aloud with them. Ask your child to help you visualize dramatic descriptions in the book.
- Encourage the use of *metaphor* (a comparison between two seemingly unrelated subjects) in an everyday way by saying things like, “Are you cold? I’m an icicle!” or “The store was a zoo today!” Encourage your child to create metaphors too.
- Ask your child what they think the author wanted the reader to feel or think at the end of a book, to help them consider the story’s theme. Discuss their ideas together.

Activities to try together

- **Book to Movie** -- After your child has finished reading a book ask them to make a movie in their mind. Think that sounds crazy? It’s something your child may be doing already unconsciously. By “making a movie,” we mean imagining the story, frame by frame. What angle is the camera? What does the lighting look like? How about costumes and setting? Have them close their eyes and imagine six important parts of the book.
- **TeachingBooks** – check out this new resource from GLADL for activities, interviews with the author, and more. Access from our Library catalog, when you search for youth materials.

You Can’t Read too Much

The most important way you can support reading is to make sure your child has plenty of time and encouragement to read for pleasure. Having a life-long love for reading is the key to unlocking many magic doors in life.