

Be a Partner and help your student become a better reader

Teachers and parents partner to instill a love of reading and writing and to make good reading practices a part of everyday life. Here are a few easy and enjoyable suggestions for parents:

Applaud your young reader.

Encourage reading at every age. You can show your interest in many ways: help your child pick out books, take regular outings to the library, ask your child to read to you, and discuss what your child is reading by asking questions and offering your own thoughts.

Tell family stories.

Children love to hear about their own history. Share funny or memorable stories and discuss with them. Suggest books on the same topic or time in history. Let your child know your favorite books from your childhood. Have fun with follow-up discussions.

Create a book together.

This can be a fun activity for students of all ages. Start with a topic or story of interest to your child, and encourage him/her to develop a story and draw illustrations. Use this opportunity to point out relationships between words and art. Then fold and staple the paper together to form a book.



We asked educators to offer reading tips and recommend good books for K-12 students:

Grades K-3:

Reading Tips

- Talk with your child about stories, using the notions of the beginning, middle, and end of the story to organize thinking.
- Read books with chapters and talk about what is happening in each chapter of the story.
- Encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next and connect characters or events to those in other books.
- Talk with your child about favorite stories and authors and why your child likes them.
- Take turns reading a story with your child. Don't interrupt to correct minor mistakes.
- Talk about the meaning of new words and ideas introduced in books.

Reading recommendations

- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
- Recommended by a teacher in Northgate Education Association
- *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin
- Recommended by a custodian in Midd-West Education Association
- *Flat Stanley Series* by Jeff Brown
- Recommended by a teacher in Whitehall-Coplay Education Association
- *Hands Are Not for Hitting* by Martine Agassi
- Recommended by a paraprofessional in Danville Education Association
- *Harold & the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- Recommended by a teacher in Erie Education Association
- *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
- Recommended by a teacher in Erie Education Association
- *The Biggest, Best Snowman* by Margery Cuyler
- Recommended by a reading specialist in Unionville-Chadds Ford Education Association

Name (please print): _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Email Address (Required): _____

Are you or were you previously employed in the field of education? YES NO

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Grades 4-6:

Reading Tips

- Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar book. How are the characters alike or different? Do the stories take place in similar settings?
- Ask what part of the story or book your child liked best and why.
- Ask your child what type of mood a story or chapter creates. Ask how the author created the mood. Was it with words? Pictures?
- If your child has read more than one book by the same author, ask how the books are similar or different.

Reading recommendations

- *Magic Treehouse Series* by Mary Pope Osborne
 - Recommended by a teacher in Big Beaver Falls Education Association
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
 - Recommended by a teacher in Connellsville Education Association
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis
 - Recommended by a teacher in Seneca Valley Education Association
- *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
 - Recommended by a teacher in Red Lion Education Association
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
 - Recommended by a librarian in Bensalem Twp. Education Association
- *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka
 - Recommended by a teacher in Lakeview Education Association

Middle School and High School: Tips for helping students pick out books

- Talk to your students about their interests, so you can help them find books they will want to read.
- Librarians and English teachers work hard to learn about the interests and reading levels of their students and have helpful recommendations. Ask them!
- Look for Newberry Award winners.

Reading recommendations:

Middle School

- *The Kingdom Keeper Series* by Ridley Pearson
 - Recommended by a teacher in Northampton Education Association
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
 - Recommended by a teacher in Oswayo Valley Education Association
- *Treasure Island* by Robert L. Stevenson
 - Recommended by a teacher in Northgate Education Association
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
 - Recommended by a teaching assistant in Hanover Public Education Support Professionals Association
- *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
 - Recommended by a teacher in Iroquois Education Association
- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
 - Recommended by a teacher in Springfield Education Association

High School

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
 - Recommended by a teacher in Wyoming Valley West Education Association
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
 - Recommended by a teacher in Tussey Mountain Education Association
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
 - Recommended by a teacher in West Chester Area Education Association
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
 - Recommended by a teacher in Council Rock Education Association
- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
 - Recommended by a teacher in Seneca Valley Education Association
- *Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara
 - Recommended by a teacher in Laurel Highlands Education Association

About Partners for Public Education

PPE's mission is to provide parents, community leaders, elected officials, and educators with information and resources they need about public education in Pennsylvania, so we can work together to ensure the success of every child.



August 2014



ENROLLMENT FORM

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