



# ONCE "SCHOOL'S OUT, READING IS IN" FOR ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS!

## Four free books for students in K through rising 12<sup>th</sup> grades

APS students have four new books to include in their summer fun. APS invites families to join them in reducing summer slide—the academic loss students experience when school is out for the summer—by making reading a part of the summer fun. To help, APS will provide students in kindergarten through rising 12<sup>th</sup> grades with a backpack filled with books based on each student's grade level before the last day of school, May 22.

Parents participate by reading with their child, providing time for reading, and completing fun activities centered around the selected books.



### ABOUT "SCHOOL'S OUT! READING IS IN!" APS SUMMER READING INITIATIVE:

- APS is working not only to promote early literacy, but to foster a joy for reading and writing that extends beyond the classroom.
- 50,000 APS students will receive a backpack and four, grade-level appropriate books to read during the summer break.
- "School's Out! Reading is In!" will include opportunities for families to engage in reading activities in their communities such as local libraries and bookstores.
- During the summer, students and their families can track their student's progress and participate in fun activities that are centered around the selected books.
- Visit the Atlanta Public Schools website for more information at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/summerreading](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/summerreading).

### LITERACY FACTS:

- Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are three or four times more likely to drop out in later years. *(Source: 2001 National Adult Literacy Survey, (1002) NCES, U.S. Department of Education)*
- 60 percent of all U.S. fourth graders scored "below proficient" on the 2013 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) reading test, meaning that they are not reading at grade level.
- Only 20 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders read recreationally "almost every day." *(National Center for Educational Statistics. "The Condition of Education, 2009." U.S. Department of Education. Accessed February 24, 2015.)*
- Girls read 800,000 more words. Girls read more books than boys, in every grade, but boys are not that far behind girls from kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. It is beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade that reading habits really diverge by gender.

“The sweet spot” is 20 minutes a day: The good news is that the data also show that the more anyone reads, the more his or her reading ability improves over the course of a school year.



## 2015 APS SUMMER READING LIST

### GRADE LEVEL

### LITERARY BOOK TITLE

**K**

"Pete the Cat": Play Ball! by James Dean  
 "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies" by Laura Joffe Numeroff  
 "Growing Vegetable Soup" by Lois Ehlert  
 The Sun by Franklyn Branley

**1**

"The Party" by Barbara Reid  
 "Pete at the Beach" by James Dean  
 "We Like Summer" by Wiley Blevins  
 "Caterpillar to Butterfly" by Laura Marsh

**2**

"The Car Washing Street" by Denise Lewis Patrick  
 "Scooter in the Outside" by Anne Bowen  
 "Let's Talk Baseball" by Janice Behrens  
 "Fly Guy Presents: Space" by Tedd Arnold

**3**

"One Crazy Summer" by Rita Williams-Garcia  
 "Summer Vacation from the Black Lagoon" by Mike Thaler  
 "Pets at the White House" by Marge Kennedy  
 "Thea Stilton and Cherry Blossom Adventure" by Thea Stilton

**4**

"Invasion of the Road Weenies" by David Lubar  
 "Sleepover Squad" by P.J. Denton & Julia Denos  
 "Who Would Win: Hornet Verses Wasp" by Jerry Pallotta  
 "Mailing May" by Michael O. Tunnell

**Current 5/  
 \*Rising 6**

"Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul" by Jack et al Canfield  
 "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros  
 "Malcolm X" by Walter Dean Myers  
 "Crash" by Jerry Spinelli



### GRADE LEVEL

### LITERARY BOOK TITLE

**Rising 7**

"The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien  
 "A Child Called It" by Dave Pelzer  
 "Tangerine" by Edward Bloor  
 "Red Scarf Girl" by Ji Li Lang

**Rising 8**

"Knots in My Yo-Yo" by Jerry Spinelli  
 "Bad Boy: A Memoir" by Walter Dean Myers  
 "The Skin I'm In" by Sharon Flake  
 "Ego-Tripping and Other Poems for Young People" by Nikki Giovanni

**Rising 9**

"Monster" by Walter Dean Myers  
 "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou  
 "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding  
 "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

**Rising 10**

"The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green  
 "Macbeth: Modern English Version" by William Shakespeare, Maynard Mack Jr., Trina Robbins  
 "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck  
 "The Color of Water" by James McBride

**Rising 11**

"Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston  
 "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
 "Numbers" by Rachel Ward  
 "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain

**Rising 12**

"Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear: Three Tragedies" by William Shakespeare  
 "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelly  
 "The Rose that Grew From Concrete" (Selected Poems) by Tupac Shakur  
 "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen

\* Rising refers to the grade level student will start on August 5, 2015.