
2026 Required Summer Reading | ENTERING 1st Grade

Summer is a great time to relax, explore new adventures through books, and continue growing as a reader! Reading helps strengthen fluency, build vocabulary, spark imagination, expand knowledge, and maintain strong comprehension skills. To help prevent the “summer slide” that can happen during long breaks from school, students are required to complete a summer reading assignment prepared by their grade level (see below).

We have also included several reading resources and programs, many offering fun prizes and incentives to encourage students to keep reading all summer long!

→ Sign up for your local library summer reading program:

- The City of Copperas Cove Library summer reading program kicks off on Tues, May 26. Unearth a Story and earn prizes: <https://copperascove-tx.whofi.com/calendar/event/1318791>
- The City of Harker Heights summer library program kicks off May 27. Unearth a Story: <https://harkerheights.readsquared.com/>
- The Killeen Public Library summer reading program with prizes when completed. Check it out here: <https://www.killeentexas.gov/171/Libraries>

→ American Library Association summer reading lists: <https://www.ala.org/news/2026/04/alsc-releases-2026-summer-reading-lists>

→ MWR Library Summer Reading program. Sign up and check it out at Casey Memorial Library at Fort Hood. <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/libraries/summer-reading-program>

→ Pizza Hut Camp Book It! Meet your monthly reading goals and earn a free, one-topping personal pan pizza. <https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>

→ The Second Lady of the United States Summer reading challenge: Download the log. Read 12 books, earn a personalized certificate, an America 250th anniversary-themed bookmark, and a special link to receive a prize. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/read/>

Entering 1st Grade

First grade students are required to read Frog and Toad are Friends by the first day of the 2026-2027 school year (13 Aug 2026). If your student is unable to read this book, you may read it with them. Students must also draw, color, and label a picture of their favorite part of the book, and write a sentence describing their picture. This assignment will need to be turned in on the first day of the new school year as their first summative test grade (13 Aug 2026).

Additional Reading Options:

- > Elephant and Piggie
- > Scholastic Reading List - Level G
- > Henry and Mudge series

The Research is In!

Students who continue using IXL throughout the summer are more likely to maintain — and even improve — their fall assessment scores, including MAP results.

Read more about the research here: [IXL Summer Learning Research Blog](#)

Returning students will continue to have access to their IXL accounts all summer long. Just a little practice each week can make a big difference! Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep striving for excellence!