

HKA 2015

Summer Reading Fun

Dear HKA Primary Students and Parents,

Just like for the past two summers, I have put together for you some suggestions for fun activities around reading. Once again, they are just suggestions from which you can pick and choose whatever interest you. Feel free to adapt the ideas in any way to meet your and your family's needs – and keep reading, reading, reading!

For those of you with Internet access during the break, there are lots of additional online resources available through the [HKA Primary Summer Reading 2015 Symbaloo](#) on our [Primary Portal page](#).

The summer break might also be a wonderful opportunity to try out keeping a reader's journal, just like the one I keep. I am actually going with a slightly different format, starting this summer, after hearing about the idea during a conference. I have bought a bigger journal and now plan on making it more of a reader's note/scrapbook. So far, I have just written short responses after reading a book but that can get boring at times, right? Therefore, I will now include other ways to record what I am reading and my thoughts about the particular book. I might draw about it, create an ad, and add additional materials, like a special review about the book or a picture of me reading the book. If you don't want to do it on your own, how about making it a family (summer) reading scrapbook. Imagine all the beautiful memories that you will surely make this summer, going into this book, never to be forgotten? For more information on the summer reading scrapbook idea, go to [this blog post](#).

I thank you for all your enthusiasm and efforts in reading and inquiring during the past year, for your passion and love of good stories, for your beautiful smiles, and for making this another memorable year in our library.

With much gratitude and best wishes for a wonderful summer break, filled with special moments with family, friends and great books,

Yours,

Tanja

Week 1: June 15-21, 2015

How to Have the Best Summer Ever!

Just a few more days before school is out and then almost nine weeks of summer break. That's a really long time and to make sure you are getting the most out of it, its best to get started making plans. So here my suggestions for this first week of our Summer Reading Fun – make some lists with your plans and ideas for the summer in Alvin Ho style! Wondering where to write them down? How about starting a (summer) reader's note/scrapbook? If you would like some ideas on how to get started with it, check out the blog post in which I introduced what mine looks like.

Top 10 Things to Do This Summer

I find that looking forward to something and making plans is as much fun as living through the actual experience. Just like me, I am sure you have already many wonderful ideas of what you want to do, all these special things for which we often don't find enough time during the busy school year. Things on my list are lots and lots of reading (no surprises there, right?), sleeping late into the morning, chatting late into the night with favorite people, taking long walks, lying in a beautiful meadow and looking up into the sky as the clouds pass by, visiting someone I haven't seen in a long time... and more.

Top 10 Books to Read This Summer

To get ideas, explore the resources I put together for you in the downloadable Summer Reading Fun package and our Summer Reading Fun online resources through the Primary Portal. A visit to a bookstore and/or public library could give you additional ideas, if a parent has time to take you.

(And if you are curious to see what I am planning to read this summer as well as keeping track of what I read as the summer goes by, check out this Blendspace with [Ms. Tanja's Summer Reading 2015](#).)

Top 10 Ways to Enjoy Reading this Summer

You can include the things you want to read on this list (e.g. picture books, novels, magazines, comics etc.), when and where you want to read, with whom you want to read, how you want to read... How about inviting other family members to make the list with you, lets say while having a picnic together? You could make a list with the *Top 10 Ways to Enjoy Reading as a Family This Summer*.

And here 10 Picture Books About Summer to Start Your Holidays:

How I Spent My Summer Vacation (Mark Teague)

Magic Beach (Alison Lester)

Summer Days and Nights (Wong Herbert Yee)

A Camping Spree With Mr. Magee (Chris Van Dusen)

Sun Dance, Water Dance (Jonathan London)

Night of the Moon Jellies (Mark Shasha)

Pictures From Our Vacation (Lynne Rye Perkins)

Flotsam (David Wiesner)

Summer in the City (Marie-Louise Gay)

Summersaults (Douglas Florian)

Week 2: June 22 – June 28, 2015

Leap & Hop Around Hong Kong!

I continue to be amazed by all the wonderful things to do and see around Hong Kong and therefore want to encourage you this week, to explore the beautiful city we live in with the help of some wonderful fiction and nonfiction books.

***The Adventures of Lulu the Hong Kong Cat* (Ellen Leou)**

Visit Kennedy Town and/or Sham Shui Po, which are the settings of Lulu's first two adventures. Do you spot things from the illustrations in the books?

***Lost in Hong Kong* (Matthew Cooper)**

Take a ride on public transport you don't get to use often, like the tram, the Peak Tram or the Star Ferry. Think about how it is different from being on the MTR, bus or in a car.

***Black Rain Day* (Matthey Cooper)**

Go on a hike and take note of the different habitats you discover along the way. What animals, what plants do you spot and recognize? You might want to take a camera or sketch/notebook along.

***Chop Sticks* (John Berkeley)**

Go on a trip to Aberdeen and have brunch/lunch at the famous floating restaurant, which is also featured in John Berkeley's beautiful story. Can you find the dragons shown in the book?

***My Hong Kong* (Joanne O'Callaghan)**

***This is Hong Kong* (Miroslav Sasek)**

After reading one of these or both books, decide on one or more places you would like to visit. Make a plan when you want to go and what you want to take along.

***Three Years and Eight Months* (Icy Smith)**

This book is especially for older readers in grades 4 and 5. After reading about the occupation of Hong Kong during World War II, you might be interested in finding out more about the city's history. The History Museum is a fantastic place to explore, especially on a rainy or very hot day.

Leap & Hop Hong Kong (Isabelle Demenge and Emilie Sarnell)

You will discover many wonderful suggestions and ideas in this interactive guide to exploring Hong Kong. What interests you the most? Make a list of your top places to start with – or complete activities related to places you have already been to.

Kids Go! Hong Kong: Tell Your Parents Where to Go (Mio Debnam)

Just as the title says, tell your parents where to go! Explore the guide and then select a few places to suggest as family trips to your parents. You could already include what you think you might need to take along.

Week 3: June 29 – July 5, 2015

Oh the Places You'll Go... and the people you'll meet!

No matter whether you are going near or far during this summer, there is lots to find out about the people and places around you. You could start with questions such as:

How many people live in the town/city you currently visit?

What are some famous landmarks?

What is the history?

What are the customs and traditions of the place?

What are traditional tales told in the area?

Speak to a family member and/or visit a local landmark, museum and public library to find out more. And remember, books allow us to go to anywhere we want in the world, without having to actually travel there. So, if you are curious about a particular place or person, check whether you can find books that tell you more about them.

Books about Places

There are so many amazing nonfiction books about countries and places. Here just a list of some of our library's most popular series:

Country Explorers (published by Lerner Classroom)

National Geographic Countries of the World

World Alphabet (published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

A Child's Day (published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Cultural Traditions in My World (published by Crabtree Publishing Company)

If you have Internet access, you can also explore [World Book Online](#), [DK Find Out](#) and the [Kids National Geographic](#) website, in particular "People & Places" to learn more about places around the world.

Books about People

Grandfather Gandhi (Arun Gandhi)

Viva Frida! (Yuyi Morales)

The Iridescence of Birds (Patricia MacLachlan)

Bon Appetit! The Delicious Life of Julia Child (Jessie Hartland)

Enormous Smallness: A Story of E.E. Cummings (Susan Cheever)

The Pilot and the Little Prince (Peter Sis)

The Noisy Paint Box (Barb Rosenstock)

A Boy and a Jaguar (Alan Rabinowitz)

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus (Jennifer Bryant)

Emmanuel's Dream (Laurie Ann Thompson)

Week 4: July 6-12, 2015

How to Cook and See the World

Have you ever read or heard of the book *How to Bake an Apple Pie and See the World* (Marjorie Priceman)? It's such a fabulous story and whenever I read it, I wish I could go on such a journey, picking up all the ingredients I need for particular dishes in their place of origin.

Do you have a favorite dish? How about finding a recipe on how to prepare it? Ask an adult to help you in buying the ingredients. Before preparing the dish, explore the labels on your ingredients to find out where they originally come from. Maybe you feel inspired to write/draw your own variation of the story, for example, *How to Make Pizza and See the World*, *How to Make Sushi and See the World*, *How to Make Ice-cream and See the World*.

Here is a list of other favorite books around food. Read them and afterwards prepare the dish or one of the dishes mentioned in the book. You could invite a friend to join you for a story time lunch or make it a big family celebration.

Picture Books

The Popcorn Book (Tomie DePaola)

Thundercake (Patricia Pollaco)

Boy Dumplings (Ying Chang Compestine)

Cora Cooks Pancit (Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore)

Dim Sum For Everyone (Grace Lin)

Dragons Love Tacos (Adam Rubin)

Pumpkin Soup (Helen Cooper)

Noodle Magic (Roseanne Greenfield Thong)

The Lima Bean Monster (Dan Yaccarino)

The Little Red Hen (Makes Pizza) (Philemon Sturges)

Chapter Books

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Roald Dahl)

Granny Torelli Cooks Soup (Sharon Creech)

Dumpling Days (Grace Lin)

The Chocolate Touch (Patrick Skene Catling)

For more ideas on what to cook, explore the [Cooking tab](#) on our library's only2clicks page.

Week 5: July 13-19, 2015

Listen to the Rain...

This week I want us to celebrate listening: listening to an audiobook, listening to a read-aloud, listening to poetry, listening to a novel in verse, listening to music and songs.

Songs

Listen to a song, I mean, really listen not just to the melody but also to the words. Then draw a picture about the song. What is the song about? Who is in the song?

Audiobooks

Listen to an audiobook. (And to answer a question I often hear from students and parents: yes, listening to an audiobook is also reading!)

Over the past year and a half, I re-discovered my love for audiobooks. As a child, my siblings and I loved listening to records with favorite stories. Nowadays, it's so easy to get audiobooks and have them with us at all times on iPhones, iPads, iPods and other mobile devices. If you have Internet access, explore the [Audiobooks tab](#) on our only2clicks page for free online resources. Or check with your parents the offers and services companies such as Audible provide. You can also ask at your local public library if they have audiobooks you can sign out.

My advice if you consider buying an audiobook is listening to a sample first to find out whether you enjoy the narrator's voice.

Let someone read to you from one or more of the following books:

Books from famous children's poets such as...

Mary Ann Hoberman

Shel Silverstein

Allan Ahlberg

Jack Prelutsky

Roald Dahl

Kenn Nesbitt

Novels in Verse

Love That Dog and *Hate That Cat* (both by Sharon Creech)

Heartbeat (Sharon Creech)

Tofu Quilt (Ching Yeung Russell)

Like Pickle Juice On A Cookie – and other titles in the series (Julie Sternberg)

Words With Wings (Nikki Grimes)

Inside Out & Back Again and *Listen, Slowly* (Thanhha Lai)

Zorgamazoo (Robert Paul Weston)

Mountain Dog (Margarita Engle)

Brown Girl Dreaming (Jacqueline Woodson)

Serafina's Promise (Ann E. Burg)

Home of the Brave (Katherine Applegate)

Dancing Pancakes (Eileen Spinelli)

Toppling (Sally Murphy)

Week 6: July 20 – July 26, 2015

The Most Magnificent Thing

A week of tinkering, wondering, pondering and experimenting!

I recently discovered *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires, a most beautiful picture book. It tells the story of a young girl who is trying to build a very special something but runs into all kinds of difficulties. This week, I want to encourage you to spend some time tinkering, wondering, pondering and experimenting. Find materials around the house to make something exciting and new. Go and explore your natural surroundings, like a scientist. Draw and/or write about what you notice and what you wonder about. Maybe you even have a science museum nearby that you could go and visit.

Below are a few books that can help with inspiration.

Picture Books

Me... Jane (Patrick McDonnell)

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein (Jennifer Berne)

Mr. Ferris and His Wheel (Kathryn Gibbs Davis)

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos (Deborah Heiligman)

Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian (Margarita Engle)

The Amazing Discoveries of Ibn Sina (Fatima Sharafeddine)

Barnum Brown: Dinosaur Hunter (David Sheldon)

Earmuffs for Everyone: How Chester Greenwood Became Known As The Inventor of Earmuffs (Meghan McCarthy)

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos (Stephanie Roth Sisson)

The Pink Refrigerator (Tim Egan)

Chapter Books

Science Solves It series – written by various authors (Examples of titles: *Gotcha! Bugged! Ant Attack; A Slimy Story; Slow Down, Sara! The Creeping Tide; The Midnight Kid; The Case of Vampire Vivian; Bubble Trouble.*)

If you have Internet access, explore

[Wonderopolis](#)

[National Geographic for Kids](#)

[Science Experiments for Kids](#)

Week 7: July 27 – August 2, 2015**We Care!**

Service learning is an important part of what we do at HKA. Throughout the year, we are involved with organizations that care for those in need, for people, for animals and the environment. We also celebrated this during our Service Learning Fair. When we take action, we can make a big difference in someone else's life as well as in ours. Sometimes, however, we get discouraged, especially when we see the big projects others have organized, thinking we wouldn't be able to accomplish this. Start with baby steps, for example by putting a smile on someone's face this week.

Get inspiration from reading from these books:

Fiction Picture Books

Because Amelia Smiled (David Ezra Stein)

Rose's Garden (Peter H. Reynolds)

Wanda's Roses (Pat Brisson)

Rose Meets Mr. Wintergarten and *A Bus Called Heaven* (Bob Graham)

A Chair for My Mother (Vera B. Williams)

Plant a Kiss (Amy Krouse Rosenthal)

Each Kindness (Jacqueline Woodson)

Hug Machine (Scott Campbell)

CitizenKid Series

The Red Bicycle (Jude Isabella)

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference (Katie Smith Milway)

Mimi's Village: And How Basic Healthcare Transformed It (Katie Smith Milway)

Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together (Herb Shoveller)

The Good Garden: And How One Family Went From Hunger to Having Enough (Katie Smith Milway)

Razia's Ray of Hope (Elizabeth Suneby)

Week 8: Aug 3-9, 2015

Share Your Memory, Be The Story!

Do you remember our Literacy Week last March, when *Share Your Memory, Be The Story* was our theme? We all enjoyed so much sharing reading memories and favorite books with each other. I think at this point of the summer break, with just two more weeks to go, it is a perfect time to record and share some of your favorite memories of the summer. It could be about a favorite day, a favorite event, a favorite story heard or book read or a combination of all of this. I want to give you a few ideas on how you could go about it and examples of what it could look like. No matter which format you decide to use, I hope you will share it with someone.

Wordless Picture Books

Flora & The Flamingo (Molly Idle)

Flotsam (David Wiesner)

Rainstorm (Barbara Lehman)

Wave (Suzy Lee)

Chalk (Bill Thomson)

Picture Books With Words

Owl Moon (Cynthia Rylant)

Are We There Yet? (Alison Lester)

Twilight Comes Twice (Ralph Fletcher)

The Meteor (Patricia Polacco)

Knuffle Bunny (Mo Willems)

Personal Narratives/Memoirs in Words Only

Knucklehead (Jon Scieszka)

Marshfield Dreams (Ralph Fletcher)

Tofu Quilt (Ching Yeung Russell)

Comic Strip/Graphic Novel

Bird and Squirrel on Ice (James Burks)

Adventures in Cartooning: How to Turn Your Doodles Into Comics (James Sturm)

Unicorn on a Roll: A Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure (Dana Simpson)

The Adventures of Polo (Regis Faller)

The Zoo Box (Ariel Cohn)

Benjamin Bear in Fuzzy Thinking (Philippe Coudray)

Benny and Penny in the Big No-No (Geoffrey Hayes)

Babymouse (Jennifer L. Holm)

Zita, the Space Girl (Ben Hatke)

Amulet (Kazu Kibuishi)

And here a few more ideas if you want to use technology in creating your story:

Create a photo story with apps such as ComicBook

Make an iBook with apps such as BookMaker

Record an audiobook on Garageband

Make a video with iMovie or Powtoon

Week 9, August 10-16, 2015

How To Survive The First Day Of School

It's hard to believe, but the summer is almost over. Your teachers are actually already back in school this week, preparing everything for your start on Wednesday, August 19. I hope you had a wonderful time and now look forward to the start of a new school year. We began this summer reading program with writing lists and my suggestion is, let's end it in the same way.

Here are ideas of lists you can write/draw to get ready for the start of school next week:

Top 10 Things I Did This Summer

Top 10 Things You Should Know About Me

How to Survive The First Day of School

How to Survive Fifth/Fourth/Third... Grade

Can you think of other lists?

Make sure to enjoy some more reading time in your favorite reading spot this week!

Ms. Tanja's Top 10 Picture Books About School

The Kissing Hand (Audrey Penn)

First Day Jitters (Julie Danneberg)

Chu's First Day of School (Neil Gaiman)

Seamonster's First Day (Kate Messner)

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To School (Davide Cali)

Suki's Kimono (Chieri Uegaki)

Once Upon an Ordinary School Day (Colin McNaughton)

A Pirate's Guide to First Grade (James Preller)

The Exceptionally, Extraordinarily, Ordinary First Day of School (Albert Lorenz)

My New Teacher and Me (Al Yankovic)

Ms. Tanja's Top 10 Picture Books to Read at the End of Summer

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore (William Joyce)

Once Upon An Alphabet (Oliver Jeffers)

The Book With No Pictures (B.J. Novak)

Zen Shorts (Jon J Muth)

Oliver & Patch (Claire Freedman)

Loves As Strong As Ginger (Lenore Look)

Fly, Eagle, Fly! (Retold by Christopher Gregorowski)

The North Star (Peter H. Reynolds)

I Wish You More (Amy Krouse Rosenthal)

I Will Take A Nap (Mo Willems)

And if you still have time, how about putting a PDK (Personal Disaster Kit, according to Alvin Ho) for your first day of school together? Find inspiration by going back to the first *Alvin Ho* book: *Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things* (Lenore Look).

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Ms. Tanja