

Read Around the World!

HKA 2016

Summer Reading Fun



(Image source: Goodreads)

Dear HKA Primary Students and Parents,

The long summer break is here, giving us lots and lots of extra (reading) time to enjoy. Will you join me on a special reading adventure this summer? Come and read with me around the world over the next nine weeks. Let me show you some wonderful places around the world through beautiful books and fun activities. As always during our summer reading, there are no rules and you are welcome to adapt the suggestions and ideas to suit your family's needs. Just keep reading and enjoying!

When looking at the title suggestions and selecting your books, please keep in mind that they represent a wide range of interest and text levels, from picture books to chapter books - but I hope no matter in what grade you are, you will discover books you enjoy.

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

It has been another wonderful year in our library and I want to thank you all for your enthusiasm and efforts in reading and inquiring, for your passion and love of good stories, and for your beautiful smiles.

With much gratitude and best wishes for a wonderful summer break,

Warmly, Tanja

Week 1: June 13-19, 2016

Pack Your (Reading) Bags!

Welcome to our reading adventure around the world! I am thrilled that you are joining me to continue to read and have fun over the next nine weeks. Let's use these first couple of days to get ready for the break and our summer reading journey. Here are some of the things you might like to prepare and pack in your (reading) bag/hand luggage. Can you think of anything else that might be handy on a reading journey?

1. Summer Reader's Notebook/Scrapbook

You all know that I keep a reader's notebook in which I record all the books I read during the year. For the summer break, I always get a separate journal that functions both as a reader's and as a writer's notebook. Check the library blog (*Capturing Summer (Reading) Memories*), to have a look at what my journal looks like and get additional ideas for your own. You could keep one all by yourself, or you could make one as a family, to which everyone contributes.

2. Reader's Passport

Create a reader's passport. What might it look like? Get creative and think how it might differ/might look the same as your regular passport. I think mine will definitely have my name in it, a photo (or drawing) of me, favorite books, favorite reading places... and other things I like as a reader. You can also print a template from the Internet if you have access.

3. Reading Map

If you like and have Internet access, download a world map so that you can mark the different places you will visit during your reading journey.

4. Miscellanea (whatever else you think you might need...)

For example, here are some of the things I always carry with me: a box of different colored markers with me, a glue stick, a bookmark, post-it notes, pencils and an eraser.

5. Reading Wish List

I love preparing for holiday reading! What a wonderful reason to go book shopping! I have already downloaded a number of books to my iPad - e-books to my Kindle app and audiobooks to the Audible and OverDrive apps. But I am sure I will be adding more and more as I always need a good selection to pick from. Create a list of titles you might enjoy to read during the break. You can explore the suggestions I have made on the library blog (you can download the file from the blog as well) or maybe ask a parent if they would take you to a bookstore or public library for some exploring.

Ok, all ready packed now? Then it's time to get excited about our upcoming travels and holidays by exploring and reading some books. Here are a few suggestions:

Travel guides for kids:

kidsGo! Series of travel guides (Mio Debnam):

kidsGo Hong Kong, kidsGo Bali, kidsGo London, kidsGo New York, kidsGo Phuket, kidsGo Sydney.

Leap & Hop interactive travel book series (Isabelle Demenge):

Leap & Hop Hong Kong, Leap & Hop Bali, Leap & Hop Paris, Leap & Hop Cambodia.

Sasek's classic children's travel series (Miroslav Sasek):

This is Hong Kong, This is Paris, This is New York, This is Venice, This is London, This is Munich, This is Australia etc.

Not For Parents travel books for kids (Lonely Planet):

Not For Parents : The Travel Book, Not For Parents : Rome, Not For Parents : London, Not For Parents : New York City, Not For Parents : Paris.

Other children's travel nonfiction:

If the World Were a Village (David J. Smith)

Me on the Map (Joan Sweeney)

Children's travel fiction:

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World (Marjorie Priceman)

Are We There Yet? (Alison Lester)

Are We There Yet? (Dan Santat)

Recipe For Adventure series (Giada De Laurentis)

Around the World in Eighty Days (Jule Vernes)

And here is another travel preparation you might like to take, The Reading Without Walls Challenge, initiated by the United States National Ambassador of Young People's Literature, Gene Luen Yang. It is a wonderful reminder about being open-minded as a reader:

1. Read a book about a character who doesn't look like you or live like you.
2. Read a book about a topic you don't know much about.
3. Read a book in a format that you don't normally read for fun. This might be a chapter book, a graphic novel, a book in verse, a picture book or a hybrid book."

(Text source: <http://geneyang.com/the-reading-without-walls-challenge>)

You could repeat this challenge any time this summer. I hope you are having fun with it, discovering some amazing new stories.

Week 2: June 20 - June 26, 2016

Goodbye Hong Kong!

Hong Kong is such a fascinating place, with so much to see and discover, we cannot leave before having spent some time reading and appreciating a couple of (fiction) books set in Hong Kong. And should you still be in Hong Kong at this time, why not try to find one or more of the locations in the books? Wouldn't that be fun?

Here are the books and some ideas what locations to visit (you could draw a picture of yourself visiting the place or have someone take a picture for you to add to your summer journal):

Visiting Hollywood Road, checking out some of the antique stores just like Lulu the Hong Kong Cat;

Taking a ride on some of the public transport mentioned in Matt Cooper's *Lost in Hong Kong*;

Going on a hike over the Dragon's back after reading Theodora Whittington's book;

Having lunch at the famous Floating Restaurant in Aberdeen where John Berkeley's *Chop Sticks* takes place;

Enjoying some of the wonderful street food mentioned in *Hong Kong!* by chef Giada De Laurentis.

Picture Books

Lulu the Hong Kong Cat and the Hong Kong Time Machine (Ellen Leou) - or any of Lulu's other adventures.

Lost in Hong Kong and *Black Rain Day* (Matthew Cooper)

Chop Sticks (John Berkeley)

The Dragon's Back; The Sand Turtle and The Mermaid and the Pink Dolphin (Theodora Whittington)

Three Years and Eight Months (Icy Smith) - a picture book for older readers

Novels

Tofu Quilt and Bungee Cord Hair (Ching Yeung Russell)

Hong Kong! Recipe For Adventure #3 (Giada De Laurentis)

Music on the Bamboo Radio (Martin Booth) - a novel for older readers

Week 3: June 27 - July 3, 2016

Hello Africa!

The first stop on our reading journey around the world as we are heading east is the African Continent. Did you know that the African continent consists of 54 countries, covering a total area of close to 12 million square miles and having an estimated population of over a billion? It is therefore the second largest and second most populous continent.

Have a look at a map of Africa and select one country that interests you. If you have Internet access, use the resources on the Primary Portal to discover five fun/curious facts about the country. Otherwise, look for answers at your local library.

Here is my example. I have picked **Ghana**, the West African country I lived in for almost 19 years before moving to Hong Kong:

1. Ghana used to be called the Gold Coast because it is rich in gold and other natural resources.
2. Ghana is the second largest producer of cocoa beans (and therefore you can get delicious and healthy chocolate in Ghana).
3. While English is Ghana's official language, more than 250 languages and dialects are spoken in Ghana.
4. Ghana has rich storytelling traditions, Kweku Ananse, the trickster spider, being one of the best known and most loved characters.
5. Ghana has a space program since 2012, planning to launch its first satellite in 2020.

Here are some title suggestions of books written by African authors and/or set somewhere in Africa:

Picture Books

Jamela's Dress (Niki Daly)

Ananse and the Moss-Covered Rock (Eric Kimmel)

Mama Panya's Pancakes (Mary and Rich Chamberlain)

Emmanuel's Dream (Laurie Ann Thompson)

Galimoto (Karen Lynn)

Chapter Books

Akimbo and the Lion (Alexander McCall Smith)

Anna Hibiscus; The No. 1 Car Spotter (Atinude)

Journey to Jo'Burg (Beverly Naidoo)

The White Giraffe (Lauren St. John)

The Great Cake Mystery (Alexander McCall Smith)

Week 4: July 4-10, 2016

Hello Europe!

Our next stop takes us to Europe, which is theoretically not its own continent since it is connected with Asia. Modern day Europe consists of 50 countries, each with their own language and culture. It is the second smallest continent (Australia being the smallest). From a literature point of view though it is far from being small. Think of all the tales, stories, novels, and plays that have been and are still being written in Europe. Think of the Brothers Grimm or Shakespeare.

If you have Internet access, check out this great video with [25 Facts About Europe That Most People Don't Know](#) - really surprising!

Europe is also known for its fine and very diverse cuisine. So in addition to reading some books from Europe this week, I want to encourage you to try out some recipes, either online or with the cookbooks you have at home. Find a recipe from a European country and with the help of an adult, prepare a yummy meal for you and your family. Maybe make Italian pizza, Greek souvlaki, Irish stew, or French crepes. (This is a great website to start with [Kids Cooking Activities](#).)

Here are some title suggestions of books written by European authors and/or set somewhere in Europe:

Picture Books

The Red Apple. (Feridun Oral)

Little Bird (Germano Zullo)

The Paper Dolls (Julia Donaldson)

Milo and the Magical Stones (Markus Pfister)

Dolphin Boy! (Michael Morpurgo)

Chapter Books

The Spaghetti/Pasta Detectives (Andreas Steinhöfel) - Germany

The Thief Lord (Cornelia Funke) - Italy

Mikis and the Donkey (Bibi Dumon Tak) - Netherlands

Adventures with Waffles (Maria Parr) - Norway

Emil in Lonneberga (Astrid Lindgren) - Sweden

Week 5: July 11-17, 2016

Hello Americas!

This week we are stopping on not just one, but two continents: North America and South America (you get some extra book suggestions as a bonus ;) I have to admit that I did not know until recently where the name of these two large continents came from: from the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. Isn't that surprising, considering the fact that Christopher Columbus was the first to land in what is today America?

Somehow, when I think of America, I think of music, radios and television, maybe because as a child, this is where our technology in Germany came from. I got my first Walkman (a portable cassette player, kind of your iPod today) from a friend in the United States. Many of the movies I loved to watch when I was younger were produced in the United States, either by Disney or one of the big Hollywood studios. So, in addition to reading books set in America or written by an American author, I want to suggest the following activities:

Listen to an audiobook.

Watch a movie of a book you have read.

Here are some title suggestions of books written by authors and/or with settings from the Americas:

Picture Books

Last Stop on Market Street. (Matt de la Pena)

Dreamcatcher (Audrey Osofsky)

Mango, Abuela and Me (Meg Medina)

Crouching Tiger (Ying Chang Compestine)

Come on, Rain (Karen Hesse)

Up and Down the Andes (Laurie Krebs & Aurelia Fronty)

A Pen Pal for Max (Gloria Rand and Ted Rand)

The Magic Bead Tree: A Legend From Argentina (Nancy Van Laan & Beatriz Vidal)

Ada's Violin (Susan Hood)

Biblioburro: A True Story From Colombia (Jeanette Winter)

Chapter Books

26 Fairmount Avenue - and other books in the series (Tomie dePaola)

Fish in a Tree (Lynda Mullaly Hunt)

Brown Girl Dreaming (Jacqueline Woodson)

The Last Fifth Graders of Emerson Elementary (Laura Shovan)

Ruby Lu (Lenore Look)

Wonderstruck (Brian Selznick)

Duke (Kirby Larson)

City of the Beasts (Isabel Allende)

The Skirt (Gary Soto)

The Dreamer (Pam Munoz Ryan)

Week 6: July 18 - July 24, 2016

Welcome to the Caribbean!

I know, the Caribbean islands are not a continent but rather a part of the Americas... but who does not love this part of the world? It's such a beautiful and vibrant place, consisting of 28 island nations and more than 7,000 individual islands. Some of the bigger and better known islands are Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. I hope you don't mind that I decided to put in an extra stop before we are heading to our next continent.

If you have Internet access, look up some photos from the Caribbean, for example on the [National Geographic website](#).

Over the past couple of years, I have come to love and appreciate the writing of two Cuban authors in particular: **Alma Flor Ada** and **Margarita Engle**, and I therefore want to highlight their beautiful books this week. Both have written and continue to write a variety of genres in picture book and novel format: memoirs, biographies, realistic and historical fiction. Many beg to be read out loud.

Here just a few title suggestions:

Alma Flor Ada

I Love Saturdays y domingos (realistic fiction, picture book)

The Three Golden Oranges (folktale, picture book)

Love, Amalia (realistic fiction, novel)

Home Dancing (realistic fiction, novel)

Island Treasure: Growing Up in Cuba (memoir)

Margarita Engle

Drum Dream Girl (picture book, biography)

The Sky Painter: Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist (picture book, biography)

Orangutanka: A Story in Poems (literary nonfiction, picture book)

The Wild Book (historical fiction, novel in verse)

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings (memoir)

Week 7: July 25 - July 31, 2016

Hello Australia!

While I have never been in person to Australia, I am dreaming of the day I will be able to visit. Through the many books I have read, written by Australian authors and about Australia, I am totally curious to see everything for myself. Well, maybe not everything. I am not a big fan of critters and snakes and wouldn't want to meet up with any of those (and I hear there are lots...).

Most Australians love the outdoors so I want to encourage you to do (and write and draw about) some fun outdoor activities this week. Organize a picnic or barbeque, go camping (I loved camping in our backyard when I was a kid), go on a hike, wherever you are in the world right now and write, sketch and draw about the things - little and big - you see along the way.

Here are some title suggestions of books written by Australian authors and/or set somewhere in Australia:

Picture Books

Thunderstorm Dancing (Katrina Germein)

Possum Magic (Mem Fox)

My Grandma Lived In Gooligulch (Graeme Base)

The Eagle Inside (Jack Manning Bancroft)

My Farm (Alison Lester)

Chapter Books

The Cleo Stories (Libby Gleeson)

Rain May and Captain Daniel (Catherine Bateson)

Where in the World (Simon French)

The 65-Storey Treehouse (Andy Griffiths)

Hitler's Daughter (Jackie French)

Boy Overboard (Morris Gleitzman)

Week 8: Aug 1-7, 2016

Welcome (Back) to Asia!

We have been reading and traveling together for seven weeks already and are now on our homestretch, back in Asia. While we started exploring books about Hong Kong at the beginning of our journey, I want to highlight some stories from other parts of Asia this week. There are so many exciting things to see and talk about on this continent, which consists of 48 countries, and is the largest of the seven continents.

I have always admired the arts and crafts coming out of Asia and therefore want to suggest some additional activities related to that, in addition to the book titles from Asia and by Asian authors.

Do some origami this week (the Japanese art of folding paper).

Try out some Chinese calligraphy. If you are already in Hong Kong, you could get the original ink stone and brushes to work with.

Here are some title suggestions of books written by Asian authors and/or set somewhere in Asia:

Picture Books

Kamishibai Man (Allen Say)

Monsoon (Uma Krishnaswami)

The Trip Back Home (Janet Wong and Bo Jia)

Cherry Tree (Ruskin Bond and Allan Eitzen)

Fly Free (Roseanne Thong)

Ruby's Wish (Shirin Yim Bridges)

The White Nights of Ramadan (Maha Addasi)

Chapter Books

Rickshaw Girl (Mitali Perkins)

Alvin Ho: Allergic to the Great Wall, the Forbidden Palace and Other Tourist Attractions (Lenore Look)

The Grand Plan to Fix Everything (Uma Krishnaswami)

Secrets of the Terra Cotta Soldiers (Ying Chang Compestine)

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (Grace Lin)

The Big Wave (Pearl S. Buck)

Week 9, August 8-14, 2016

Welcome Back Home – Time to Unpack!

The long summer break is slowly coming to an end. Teachers will be returning to school on Tuesday and you, the students, will join us next week. It is the perfect time for you to unpack what you have brought back from your (reading) journey and travels. Start this week by browsing through your summer reader's notebook and/or look at photos you and your family might have taken, or if you haven't, simply spend some time thinking and reliving the exciting moments of the past eight weeks. Write down one or more lists that highlight some of your holiday fun. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

My Top 3 Moments This Summer

My Top 3 Places Visited This Summer

My Top 3 Activities This Summer

My Top 3 Foods Eaten This Summer

My Top 3 Books Read This Summer

Make sure to make the most of your remaining holidays by sharing some special read-alouds with someone in your family or a friend. Here are a few picture books I love sharing with others:

Last Stop on Market Street (Matt de la Pena)

The Fox and the Star (Coralie Bickford-Smith)

Imagine a Day (Sarah L. Thompson)

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

The Three Questions (Jon J Muth)

... and any Piggie and Gerald book - I absolutely adore them as read-alouds - and, of course, I could never leave my all-time favorite out: *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* (William Joyce).

If you still have time to spare, how about drawing a picture of yourself as a reader, maybe surrounded by some of your favorite books. You could also make a collage, adding text to it and anything else that shows who you are as a reader, what you like, what you are passionate about and more.

Ms. Alison and I will be getting the library ready for you this week and look forward to seeing you next Tuesday. Enjoy your last week off!