

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

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Bennet Academy
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Book Picks

■ A Perfect Time for Pandas

Siblings

Jack and Annie visit China and meet giant pandas in Mary Pope Osborne's 48th Magic Tree House book. While on a quest to break a magic spell, their mission becomes more dangerous when a historic earthquake strikes.

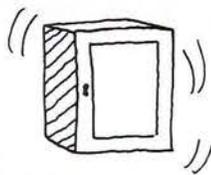


■ The Gollywhopper Games

Inside the fun-filled warehouse of a famous toy company, children compete for prizes in the Gollywhopper Games. Gil is more determined than most—if he wins, his family can afford to move and escape false rumors that his dad embezzled money. A tale of perseverance by Jody Feldman.

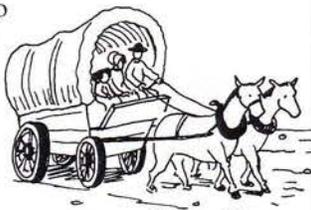
■ The Indian in the Cupboard

Omri is disappointed when he gets an old medicine cabinet as a birthday gift. But in this classic book by Lynne Reid Banks, the little boy turns a key and discovers the cabinet can bring his toy figurine to life. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ A Little House Traveler

Journal entries and letters from three of Laura Ingalls Wilder's trips across the country are collected in this book. Children who love the Little House series can read Wilder's diary entries and notes to learn about life in the early 20th century.



Boost reading stamina

As your child gets older, he will be asked to read for longer stretches of time. Suggest that he use his free time this summer to build his "reading stamina." These tips can get him started.

Find books you love

Getting lost in a book is a surefire way to enjoy reading for an extended period. Encourage your youngster to look for a series with characters who share his interests. For instance, if he's a sports fan, he might try Matt Christopher's Sports Classics. If he enjoys outdoor adventures, he could read the Everest trilogy by Gordon Korman.

Read for a reason

A child who has a specific purpose for reading will probably want to keep going. Perhaps your youngster would like to start a lawn mowing business or learn to do magic tricks. He might read a story about a young entrepreneur or a manual of magic tricks.



Work up slowly

Have your child gradually increase the amount of time he reads. Say he normally reads for 15 minutes a day. Let him set a goal of 30 minutes a day and eventually work up to 45 or 60 minutes.

Get comfortable

Staying focused on a book will be easier if your child has a comfortable, well-lit spot that's free of distractions. He could also try reading at various times of day to find which works best for him.

Writing experiments

Encourage your youngster to try different kinds of creative writing this summer. She'll go back to school with fresh ways to approach writing assignments.

● **Science fiction.** Have her keep a list of science-related topics. She might write an outer space tale inspired by a falling star she spots in the night sky or an underwater adventure about sea creatures she sees at an aquarium.

● **Postcard fiction.** Can your child fit an entire story on a postcard? Let her pick out postcards that interest her and write stories based on the pictures on the front. She can save them to refer to when she needs story ideas in class.

