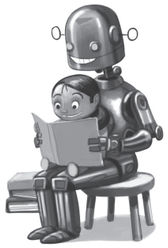
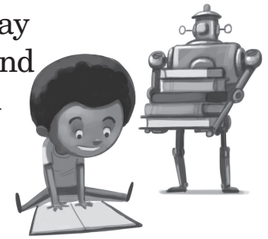
Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz's

Summer Reading Challenge



"I pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day on at least 40 days during the months of July and August. I will mark the calendar below with a check mark (✔) each day that I read by myself or with my reading buddy."



When you have marked at least 40 days on this calendar, you have earned an Excellence in Reading Certificate. Just send the marked-off calendar and the completed form to my office and your certificate will arrive in the mail.

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Special thanks goes to the NYS Education Department's Division of Library Development, the Albany Public Library and librarians across the state for their help.

Updated 4/14

Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz

Dear Friend,

When school lets out for the summer, we can encourage our kids to continue learning by picking up a book. Reading can be fun – books can immerse children in far-off worlds, new characters and thrilling narratives. This year, I'm sponsoring a Summer Reading Challenge, in coordination with the New York State Library, to inspire kids to read on a regular basis throughout summer break.

This year's chosen theme celebrates the world of science with "Fizz, Boom, Read!" selected as the motto for kids and "Spark a Reaction" for tweens. These topics may "spark" new interests for kids as they learn the exciting impact science and technology have in shaping our world. I've listed some book suggestions to get started, and you can head to your local library for more.

Here's how the challenge works: Mark the enclosed calendar for each day in July and August that your child reads with you, someone else or alone. Once you have marked off 40 days or more, please return the completed form to my office, and I will award your child with a New York State Excellence in Reading Certificate.

Thank you and happy reading!

Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz

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New York State Assembly
Excellence in Reading Certificate

Information form

Child's name ➡

School ➡ Email ➡

Parent/Guardian name ➡

Address 1 ➡

Address 2 ➡

Phone ➡

Number of days completed ➡

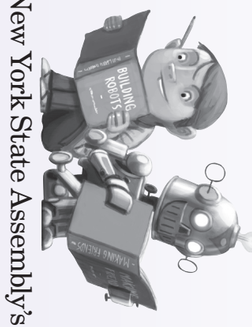
Favorite book read this summer ➡

Number of years participated in the Summer Reading Challenge ➡

To receive your certificate, please complete the above form and send it with the attached calendar to:

Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz
404 55th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

FIZZ BOOM READ



New York State Assembly's

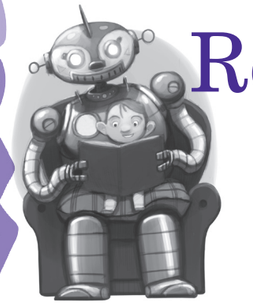
Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by
Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz
in cooperation with

Summer Reading AT NEW YORK LIBRARIES

www.summerreadingnys.org

The Summer Reading Challenge



"To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark."
Victor Hugo, author

Suggested Reading List

For more titles, visit: www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/explore.htm

Poetry

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom - by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Ages 1-4.

Falling Up - poems and drawings by Shel Silverstein. Ages 6-8.

Poetry for Young People - by Maya Angelou and editor Edwin Graves Wilson, Phd. Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue. Ages 8 and up.

Picture Books

My Name is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz - by Monica Brown and illustrated by Rafael Lopez. A bilingual storybook biography of the Cuban-born "Queen of Salsa." Non-fiction. Gr. K-3.

How the Meteorite Got to the Museum - by Jessie Hartland. This book chronicles the journey of a meteorite from outer space to Peekskill, NY, to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Non-fiction. Gr. K-4.

Feivel's Flying Horses - by Heidi Smith Hyde. A Jewish immigrant creates ornate horses for a carousel on Coney Island. Fiction. Gr. 1-3.

Mother to Tigers - by George Ella Lyon and illustrated by Peter Catalanotto. This is the story of the founder of the Bronx Zoo's animal nursery and its first zookeeper. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti - by Gerald McDermott, author/illustrator. This is a folktale from Ghana about a father spider and his six spider sons who work together to save him. Fiction. Grades K-2.

Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World - by Elizabeth Rusch and illustrated by Oliver Dominguez. A boyhood fascination with electricity leads to success in harnessing the power of Niagara Falls and a rivalry with Edison. Non-fiction. Grades 2-5.

Subway Story - by Julia Sarcone-Roach, author/illustrator. Jessie loved her job as a New York City subway car but sleek, new cars took over the tracks. This is the true story of recycling 1960s-era cars to create artificial reefs in the Atlantic. Fiction. Grades K-3.

Building Manhattan - by Laura Vila, author/illustrator. See the transformation of the island of Manhattan from a small island with its first animals and native peoples to today. Non-fiction. Grades K-4.

Early Readers

Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever - by Richard Scarry, author/illustrator. This is a fun beginning reader, which labels and defines everyday things in a child's world. Non-fiction. Grades preschool-2.

I Like Bugs - by Margaret Wise Brown, author/illustrator. A book of rhyming, repetitious patterns where bugs are beautifully described and illustrated in all their colors and shapes. Fiction. Grades preschool-1.

George Crum and the Saratoga Chip - by Gaylia Taylor, author/illustrator. The inventor of potato chips was an African American/Native American born in the 1830s. He created potato chips in response to a finicky customer's request. It's a story of culinary history and race relations. Fiction. Grades 1-5.

Elementary Readers

Hudson: The Story of a River - by Robert C. Baron and Thomas Locker. This book gives a lushly illustrated history of the Hudson River. Non-fiction. Grades 2-5.

Triumphs of Engineering - by Nicolas Brasch. Learn about the tallest, longest and most captivating engineering marvels in the world. Use your new knowledge to build models. Non-fiction. Grades 4 to 7.

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop - by Laban Carrick Hill, author/illustrator. Clive Campbell spun the records at a party in the South Bronx and had a new way of playing the music. He went on to become a DJ named Kool Herc, inventing hip hop, the term "break dance" and redefining a culture. Non-fiction. Grades 1-5.

Brooklyn Bridge - by Lynn Curlee, author/illustrator. The Brooklyn Bridge is celebrated as one of the greatest landmarks in New York City. Curlee describes the planning, construction and history of the bridge with full-color illustrations. Non-fiction. Grades 3-6.

Leo the Snow Leopard: The True Story of an Amazing Rescue - by Juliana Hatkoff, et al. Leo was six weeks old when orphaned in the snowy mountains of Pakistan. Rescued by a shepherd, Leo eventually came to the world-famous Bronx Zoo in New York. Non-fiction. Grades K-5.

Brother from a Box - by Evan Kuhlman and illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. Sixth-grader Matt gets a new brother when his computer-genius father creates a robot kid named Norman. Norman shares his feelings and ideas, plays, does chores and has to fight when he is chased by spies in New York City. Fiction. Grades 4-7.

The Kite That Bridged Two Nations: Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge - by Alexis O'Neill and illustrated by Terry Widener. This soaring and poetic picture book is based on the true story of an ordinary boy raised in Niagara Falls, NY, who won a kite-flying contest and how it led to building the first suspension bridge across the falls, linking two countries. Fiction. Grades 3-6.

Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City - by Janet Schulman and illustrated by Meilo So. This book is about the true story of a red-tailed hawk living in New York City, who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities. Non-fiction. Grades 1-4.

The Story Behind Glass - by Barbara Somervill. Find out how glass is made, when safety glass was invented and other facts and figures. Non-fiction. Grades 3-5.

Here Comes the Garbage Barge - by Jonah Winter and illustrated by Red Nose Studio. A true story, this is about a little town with a big problem: 3,168 tons of garbage and nowhere to put it! Fiction. Grades preschool-3.

Hope and Tears - by Gwenyth Swain. An original collection of voices, filled with hope and tears, chronicles the history of Ellis Island and the people it served. Non-fiction. Grades 3+ (ages 8-18).

Middle School Readers/Tweens

Hidden Roots - by Joseph Bruchac. Harold learns the truth of his family's heritage: They were part of the Abenaki tribe, which in the 1930s was forced to undergo sterilization. Fiction. Grades 5-9.

A Guide to Sounds: The Nighttime Sounds of 60 Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, and Insects - by Lang Elliot. Recorded in Ithaca, NY, Elliot narrates nighttime field recordings of animal noises. Illustrations accompany the hour-long CD. Non-fiction.

Meet King Kong - by James Fiscus. A special-effects New York movie classic, King Kong used stop-motion animation and glass mattes to create the effects that were amazing for their time. Readers will learn about what influenced the filmmaker's vision. Non-fiction. Grades 6-12.

My Side of the Mountain - by Jean Craighead George. Tired of living in New York City, Sam runs away to the Catskills in search of his great-grandfather's uninhabited land. Fiction. Grades 3-7.

Wild Girl - by Patricia Reilly Giff. When 12-year-old Lidie leaves Brazil to join her father and brother on a horse ranch in New York, she has a hard time adjusting to her new life, as does a new horse that has come to the ranch. Fiction. Grades 3-7.

Circle of Cranes - by Annette LeBox. Taken from her Chinese village and forced to work in a New York City sweatshop, 13-year-old Suyin is visited by cranes that reveal that she is the daughter of the Crane Queen. Fiction. Grades 5 and up.

How to Fake a Moon Landing - by Darryl Cunningham, author/illustrator. This graphic novel is an amusing introduction to the subject of science denialism. The author presents a fact-based assessment in a lively approach using comics, photographs and diagrams. Fiction. Grades 7 and up.

Skywalkers: Mohawk Ironworkers Build the City - by David Weitzman. These are ironworkers who risked death to construct some of the most famous bridges and buildings in the world. Non-fiction. Grades 6-10.