

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon's Summer Reading Challenge

"I pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day for 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."



Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

Dear Friend,

When school lets out for the summer, we can encourage our kids to continue learning by picking up a book or downloading an e-book on your tablet. Reading is fun! Books can immerse children in far-off worlds, new characters and thrilling narratives. To that end, I'm sponsoring a Summer Reading Challenge, in coordination with New York State libraries, to inspire kids to read on a regular basis throughout the summer break.

This year, we celebrate the leisure time of summer with, "On your mark, get set... READ!" selected as the theme. These books explore the joy of having time for summer adventures and to dream big and work toward goals. It's a time to play sports, to make new friends, to dance and play music and to visit worlds which can only be visited through books. I've listed some book suggestions to get started, and you can head to your local library or go online 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!

Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

341 Smith Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231
718-246-4889
simonj@nyassembly.gov

When you have marked at least 40 days on this calendar, you will earn 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 2016

| 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 2016

| 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 New York State Education Department's Division of Library Development and librarians across the state for their help.

Updated 4/16

New York State Assembly
Excellence in Reading Certificate

Information form

Child's name ↓

School ↓

Parent/Guardian name ↓

Address 1 ↓

Address 2 ↓

Phone ↓

Email ↓

Number of days completed ↓

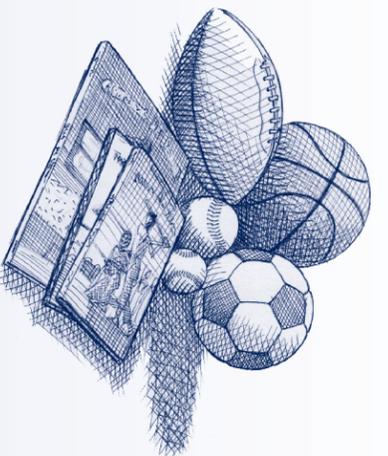
Favorite book read this summer ↓

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:

Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

341 Smith Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231



New York State Assembly's

Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by
Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

in cooperation with



The Summer Reading Challenge

“Summer was supposed to be about freedom and youth and no school and possibilities and adventure and exploration. Summer was a book of hope.”

— Benjamin Alire Sáenz, poet and novelist

Suggested Reading List

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

Poetry

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty

by Linda Glaser and illustrated by Claire A. Nivola. Free verse and illustrations tell the story of a woman and how her poem was chosen to be inscribed on the Statue of Liberty's base. Non-fiction. Grades preschool-3.

Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings

by Shel Silverstein. This collection of drawings and poems is both funny and profound. In this world, shoes fly, you wash your shadow, and a boy turns into a TV set! Fiction. Grades 1-3.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. This is a story about a pair of twins, both junior high basketball stars, their friends and their family. The entire book is written in prose: a mashup of hip-hop and poetry. Fiction. Grades 6-10.

Picture Books

Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man

by David A. Adler. This is the story of Lou Gehrig, star Yankees ballplayer, and his perseverance and character despite a diagnosis of ALS at age 36. Non-fiction. Grades 1-3.

Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution

by Don Brown. In 1775, a young man named Henry became a true hero by successfully moving cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, NY, to Boston in the dead of winter. Non-fiction. Grades K-4.

Maiden of the Mist: A Legend of Niagara Falls

by Veronika Charles. This is the Seneca legend of a heroine who saved her tribe from sickness by sacrificing herself through a canoe ride over Niagara Falls. Folklore/legend. Grades preschool and up.

Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President

by Ann Malaspina. This is the story of a woman who became a heroine by casting her vote for president before it was legal for women to vote. Non-fiction. Grades 1-4.

Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond Between a Soldier and His Service Dog

by Luis Carlos Montalvan and Bret Witter. This is the true story of how a soldier adjusted to life back home with the help of his service dog, Tuesday. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Molly by Golly: the Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter

by Dianne Ochiltree. Molly, an African-American cook for New York City's Fire Company 11, jumped into action when many volunteers were sick from the 1818 flu outbreak. Non-fiction. Grades 2-4.

Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood

by Carole Boston Weatherford. Harlem's Sugar Hill neighborhood is celebrated here with stories about the famous inhabitants that made it legendary: Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Thurgood Marshall, to name a few. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx - La Juez que Crecio en el Bronx

by Jonah Winter. Written in English and Spanish, this book captures the determination of young Sonia, who became the first Latina Supreme Court Justice of the United States. Non-fiction. Grades preschool-3.

Early Readers

Waiting by Kevin Henkes. Waiting is a big part of childhood—waiting in line, waiting to grow up, waiting for something special to happen—but in this book, a child sets the stage and pulls the strings. This picture book is about imaginative play, the seasons, friendship, and surprises. 2016 Caldecott Honor. Preschool and up.

Zero the Hero by Joan Holub. This rhyming, funny story introduces children to the mathematical principles of zero. Fiction. Grades 1-5.

The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto by Natalie Standiford. This book tells the story of an Alaskan sled dog that leads a team of dogs through subzero temperatures to deliver medicine. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat. This is the first in a series of detective stories in which the hero, Nate, eats pancakes, leaves a note for his mom and heads out to solve mysteries for his friends. Fiction. Grades 1-4.

Elementary Books

I Am Helen Keller by Brad Meltzer. The inspiring story of Helen Keller, who learned to read and write despite being deaf and blind, and became an activist who fought for social justice. Grade 1-3.

The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage by Selina Alko. This is the story of how Mildred and Richard Loving fell in love, and got married in Washington, D.C. But when they moved to Virginia, they were arrested for violating that state's laws against interracial marriage. They fought the unfair law all the way to the Supreme Court — and won! Grades 2-4.

El Deafo by Cece Bell. Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But doing that while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! A funny, poignant graphic novel memoir chronicles the author's experience growing up with hearing loss. Grades 4-6.

Hold Fast by Blue Balliett. The story of a girl who falls into Chicago's shelter system, and from there must solve the mystery of her father's strange disappearance. The story takes readers on an unforgettable hunt for deep truths and a reunited family. Grades 3-5.

Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride by Marsha Amstel. In 1777, 16-year-old Sybil volunteers to gather her father's troops to prevent the British from marching into New York. Non-fiction. Grades 2-4.

When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest. A 13-year-old orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother, immigrates to New York City and works for three years earning money to bring her grandmother to the U.S. Fiction. Grades 1-4.

If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights by Anne Kamma and Pamela Johnson. This is a collection of short biographies about Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt. Non-fiction. Grades 2-5.

Carmelo Anthony by Sloan MacRae. This book tells the story of Anthony's life, from his childhood to his ascent to the NBA. The book includes action photos. Non-fiction. Grades 2-5.

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by Michelle Markell. This is the true story of a young immigrant girl's role in the 1909 women laborer's strike protesting unfair working conditions in the garment district. Non-fiction. Grades preschool-3.

Astrophysicist and Space Advocate: Neil DeGrasse Tyson by Marne Ventura. This book explores DeGrasse Tyson's life, including his childhood in the Bronx, academic career and scientific expertise. Non-fiction. Grades 2-4.

P.S. Be Eleven by Rita Williams-Garcia. This is a story about sisters growing up in Brooklyn in the late 1960s amid Vietnam turbulence, poetry and Black Panther pride. Fiction. Grades 3-7.

Susan Marcus Bends the Rules by Jane Cutler. Raised in the Bronx, 10-year-old Susan moves to Missouri with her family in 1943 and discovers a world of prejudice, including Jim Crow laws. Cultural differences abound, and Susan pushes the limits of the laws. Fiction. Grades 4-6.

Middle School Readers/Tweens

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt by David A. Adler. Rough rider, monopoly-buster, conservationist and President, Theodore Roosevelt left a large mark on both the country and his native New York. Non-fiction. Grades 5-9.

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson. In 1776, sisters Isabel and Ruth are sold to loyalists in Manhattan. Isabel spies on her owners who know details of British plans for invasion. Isabel seeks freedom for herself, New York and her country. Fiction. Grades 5-10.

One-Handed Catch by Mary Jane Auch. Sixth-grader Norman loses his hand in an accident and learns to use hard work and humor to live with his disability and succeed at baseball, art and other activities. Fiction. Grades 5-9.

Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina by Michaela DePrince and Elaine DePrince. This memoir chronicles the author's remarkable journey from orphan in war-torn Sierra Leone to principal dancer with the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Non-fiction. Grades 6 and up.

Sophisticated Ladies: The Great Women of Jazz by Leslie Gourse and illustrator Martin French. This collective biography of singers begins in the 1920s with Bessie Smith and Ethel Waters and ends with current performers Cassandra Wilson and Diana Krall. It contains a full-page portrait of each singer and references jazz clubs in Harlem. Non-fiction. Grades 7 and up.

David Karp: The Mastermind Behind Tumblr by Karen Latchana Kenney. This is the story of the creator of Tumblr. Non-fiction. Grades 4-8.

Hero by Mike Lupica. Zach is a 14-year-old who learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the President's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him. Now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way. Fiction. Grades 5-10.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. Percy Jackson, 12, learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. He attends a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends begin a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Fiction. Grades 3-8.

Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein by Susan Goldman Rubin. Despite his father's disapproval, Leonard Bernstein, premier composer and conductor of 20th century America, pursued his passion. Non-fiction. Grades 5-9.

Extraordinary Women from U.S. History: Readers Theatre by Chari R. Smith. Includes scripts about famous women in history, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Susan B. Anthony, Nellie Bly and Harriet Tubman. This can be performed or read. Non-fiction/drama. Grades 4-8.

March by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin; Illustrated by Nate Powell. Through the medium of the graphic novel, U.S. Congressman John Lewis recounts his life growing up in the segregated South, his awakening to the civil rights movement, and his leadership of the historic march From Selma to Montgomery. Grades 5-9.