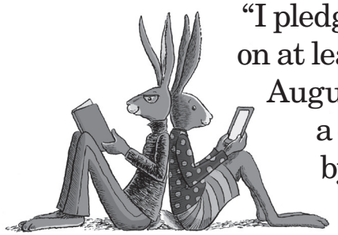
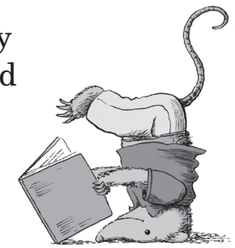
Assemblyman Matthew Titone's

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 in the marked-off calendar and the completed form to my office and your certificate will arrive in the mail.

July 2013

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 2013

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 4/13

Assemblyman
Matthew Titone

Dear Friend,

Summer's coming. It's the perfect time for kids to grab a book and dig into reading. In fact, studies show that children who continue to read during the summer perform better in school in the fall.

To encourage youngsters to get excited about reading, I am holding a Summer Reading Challenge, in coordination with the New York State Library. "Dig Into Reading" is this year's motto for children, and "Beneath the Surface" is the slogan for tweens, both headlining the opportunity to explore New York State's history, culture and diversity. I've listed some suggestions. 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. When you've marked off 40 or more days, your child has earned a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate. Fill out the back of this brochure and return it, along with the calendar, to me. I'll ensure that your child receives a certificate.

Thank you and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Member of Assembly

Assemblyman
Matthew Titone

853 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310
718-442-9932
titonem@assembly.state.ny.us

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:

Assemblyman
Matthew Titone
853 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310

New York State Assembly's

Summer Reading Challenge

Sponsored by
Assemblyman Matthew Titone

in cooperation with

Summer Reading AT NEW YORK LIBRARIES

www.summerreadingnys.org

The Summer Reading Challenge

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss. "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Suggested Reading List

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

Poetry

Sopa de frijoles/Bean Soup - by Jorge Argueta. Illustrated by Rafael Yockteng. How to make bean soup. Ages 4-8.

The Way a Door Closes - by Hope Anita Smith. Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. Life after losing a father. Ages 10-14.

Picture Books

City Hawk: The Story of Pale Male - by Meghan McCarthy. Based on the true story of "Pale Male," the red-tailed hawk who made his home on one of New York City's fanciest apartment buildings. Ages 5-8.

Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey - by Maira Kalman. A fireboat, launched in 1931, is retired after many years of fighting fires along the Hudson River, but is saved from being scrapped and then called into service again on Sept. 11, 2001. Ages 6 and up.

E is for Empire: A New York State Alphabet - by Ann E. Burg. Illustrated by Maureen Brookfield. Brief rhymes for each letter of the alphabet with history of the Empire State. Ages 6 and up.

Early Readers

Tenth Avenue Cowboy - by Linda Oatman High. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. Ben misses the West when his family moves to New York City in 1910, but is less homesick when he learns there are cowboys warning people of approaching trains.

Watch the Stars Come Out - by Riki Levinson. Illustrated by Diane Goode. A little girl learns how her great-grandmother immigrated to America.

Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade - by Melissa Sweet. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Story of puppeteer Tony Sarg.

Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos - by Lucia Gonzalez. Illustrated by Lulu Delacre. During the Great Depression in New York City, Puerto Rican librarian Pura Belpré introduces the public library to immigrants.

Elementary Readers

Exploring Our World

Triumphs of Engineering - by Nicolas Brasch. Readers explore engineering marvels of the world.

George Bellows: Painter with a Punch! - by Robert Burleigh. Looking at the work of artist George Bellows who lived in New York City.

Fantasy and Mystery

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow - by Washington Irving and Blake A. Hoena. Illustrated by Tod Smith. This graphic novel tells the headless horseman story.

From the Mixed–Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler - By E.L. Konigsburg. Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 12-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Friendship

Drita, My Homegirl - by Jenny Lombard. Ten-year-old Drita from Kosovo is teased in her new school in New York for not speaking English well by a popular student named Maxine. Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo. The two girls then become friends.

Ten Rules for Living With My Sister - by Ann M. Martin. Two sisters learn to get along with help from their grandfather.

Humor

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing - by Judith Blume. Fourth-grader Peter Hatcher has a terrible problem – his little brother Fudge! The first in a funny five-book series.

History

River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River - by Hudson Talbott. An illustrated account of the history of the Hudson River, discussing its strategic, economic, and cultural importance and including facts, timelines and maps.

Lady Liberty: A Biography - by Doreen Rappaport. An illustrated biography of the Statue of Liberty, describing who designed it and why, and how it came to become a symbol of the United States.

Meet Caroline, 1812 - by Kathleen Ernst. When her father is taken prisoner by the British, Caroline Abbott, a young girl living during the War of 1812, tries to help her family run their shipyard. (This is the first book in the "Caroline" American Girl series.)

Sports

Dad, Jackie, and Me - by Myron Uhlberg. In Brooklyn, in 1947, a boy learns about discrimination, tolerance and Dodgers first baseman Jackie Robinson.

The Legend of the Curse of the Bambino - by Dan Shaughnessy. A picture-book retelling of the legendary "Curse of the Bambino," when the Boston Red Sox traded Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1920.

Middle-School Readers/Tweens

Exploring our World

One–Handed Catch - by Mary Jane Auch. After sixth-grader Norman loses his hand in an accident in 1946, he uses hard work and humor to learn to succeed at baseball, art and other activities.

Rocky Road - by Rose Kent. Fashion-loving 12-year-old Tess moves with her deaf younger brother and impulsive single mother to Schenectady, New York, where they open an ice-cream shop and lead a campaign for urban renewal.

Fantasy and Mystery

The Seer of Shadows - by Avi. In New York City in 1872, 14-year-old Horace becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs.

The Lightning Thief - by Rick Riordan. Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, Greek god of the sea. At summer camp, he and friends set out to prevent a war between the gods.

Friendship

Okay for Now - by Gary D. Schmidt. As a 14-year-old who just moved to a new town upstate with no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library.

Waiting for Normal - by Leslie Connor. Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, N.Y.

Humor

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period - by Gennifer Choldenko. Kirsten's parents are barely speaking, her best friend has fallen under the spell of the school's queen bee. The plot thickens with wit and humor.

History

Blizzard! The Storm that Changed America - by Jim Murphy. Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snowstorm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

Riot - by Walter Dean Myers. In July of 1863, the worst race riots the United States has ever seen erupt in New York City. Fifteen-year-old Claire, the daughter of a black father and Irish mother, finds herself torn between two warring sides.

Sports

Meet Derek Jeter: Baseball's Superstar Shortstop - by Ethan Edwards. A book about the all-star, New York Yankees shortstop.