Summer reading skill losses are cumulative, creating a wider gap each year. Research suggests that children who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success!

**Las Virgenes Reads 2017**, a summer reading campaign, is for all students from preschool through high school. The program’s main goal is to create confident, capable readers. There are no reading logs, no quizzes, no tests, and no worksheets. All students do is “Just Read!”

Barbara Andrews, Reading Specialist, and Tina Johnson, District Library Media Specialist, have put together suggested titles of newer books that will keep students engaged with reading over the summer. Check out the video on the [district website](http://www.lvusd.org/) to join in with the fun and remember “Just Read!”
Beginning Readers
This category, which includes picture books, is for children who are non-readers or just beginning to read.

Raindrops Roll
by April Pulley Sayre
In a gorgeously photo-illustrated nonfiction book, readers learn about the wonders of rain, from the beauty of a raindrop balanced on a leaf to the amazing, never-ending water cycle that keeps our planet in balance.

Biscuit Goes to School (Series)
by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Despite not being allowed to attend, Biscuit decides to see for himself what school is about, but once in the classroom, he knows he better stay out of view of the teacher.

I Just Want to Say Good Night
by Rachel Isadora
Wanting to put off bedtime for as long as possible, young Lala, a little girl growing up in Africa, bids goodnight to the people and animals before saying goodnight to the moon.

The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra
by Marc Tyler Nobleman
A whimsical tale based on the legendary monster follows the experiences of three little goats who tire of living in fear of being eaten by a Chupacabra and decide to scare it.

Fox and the Jumping Contest
by Corey R. Tabor
A loveable, trickster fox and his animal friends compete in a jumping contest that Fox, a less-than-ideal jumper, schemes to win.

Hotel Bruce
by Ryan T Higgins
Returning from a southern migration trip with his goslings, a very tired and grumpy bear discovers that a trio of mice have turned his den into a hotel.

The Water Princess
by Susan Verde
This tale follows the experiences of a young girl who dreams of bringing drinking water to her African village as she rises early every morning and makes long journeys to the well with a heavy pot that she carries on her head.

Chicken Story Time
by Sandy Asher
Crossing the road to get to the library for story time, a chicken enjoys the story so much that it tells its friends, causing more chickens, to arrive to hear stories.

Rules of the House
by Mac Barnett
Ian follows the rules and his sister, Jenny, never does but when she angers some monsters while breaking all the rules of their vacation house in the woods, Ian realizes there should be a rule about protecting your sister from monsters.

There is a Tribe of Kids
by Lane Smith
This book traces a young boy’s encounters with a colony of penguins, a smack of jellyfish, a constellation of stars and other enchanting groups.

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Beginning Readers

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Teacup
by Rebecca Young
A boy travels across the sea in a rowboat in search of a new home, making a journey that is long and difficult—but also filled with beauty and hope.

This is Our Baby, Born Today
by Varsha Bajaj
A baby elephant's birth is celebrated by its loving herd in this sweet tale.

One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree
by Daniel Bernstrom
Combines read-aloud, lyrical text with culturally inspired illustrations in the story of a little boy who outsmarts a snake.

That's Me Loving You
by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
An picture book about the love shared between parents and children. Includes messages about how a parent's presence can be felt in the natural world, from a soft breeze to a shining star.

Wolf Camp
by Andrea Zuill
Heading to Wolf Camp for an exciting week, Homer the dog joins his fellow campers as they howl, track, hunt and eat bad food while managing feelings of homesickness.

Douglas, You Need Glasses!
by Ged Adamson
A dog has trouble because of his poor eyesight, from eating out of the wrong bowl to walking through cement, until his owner takes him to an eye doctor.

A Unicorn Named Sparkle
by Amy Young
Mail-ordering a pet unicorn that she imagines will be a beautiful companion with whom she can share magical adventures, Lucy is dismayed when a unicorn who looks suspiciously like a goat and has fleas arrives.

They All Saw a Cat
by Brendan Wenzel
In simple, rhythmic prose and stylized pictures, a cat walks through the world, and all the other creatures see and acknowledge the cat.

School's First Day of School
by Adam Rex
The best-selling author of Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich and the Coretta Scott King Honor-winning illustrator of Harlem's Little Blackbird present the story of how a school building shares jitters with the students on a first day of school.

Vincent Paints his House
by Tedd Arnold
Vincent's animal friends disagree on how he should paint his house, so Vincent comes up with a colorful solution.
Transitional Readers

This category is for students who are moving from primary books to early chapter books.

We Found a Hat (Series)
by Jon Klassen
A conclusion to the celebrated trilogy by the Caldecott Medal-winning creator of This Is Not My Hat follows the hilarious efforts of two increasingly estranged, deadpan turtles to share a single hat between them.

Max at Night (Series)
by Ed Vere
A companion to Max the Brave finds Max unable to settle down to sleep when he is unable to say goodnight to a missing moon, a dilemma that prompts his journey to find the moon so that he can complete his nighttime routine.

Super Happy Party Bears Party Collection (Series)
by Marcie Colleen
Collects the fun had by the jolly bears from the Grumpy Woods as they party away their problems and dance along to a woodpecker’s loud and rhythmic pecking.

The Quickest Kid in Clarksville
by Pat Zietlow Miller
Growing up in the town of Clarksville, Tennessee, in the 1960s, Alta’s family cannot afford to buy her new sneakers—but she still plans to attend the parade celebrating her hero Wilma Rudolph’s three Olympic gold medals.

The Cookie Fiasco
by Dan Santat
The Caldecott Medal-winning creator of The Adventures of Beekle and the Caldecott Honor-winning creator of Knuffle Bunny present the story of four wacky animal friends who struggle to

Pete the Cat : Too Cool for School (Series)
by Kim Dean
Unable to decide which outfit will make him look cool at school, Pete the Cat considers the many colorful choices in his wardrobe before discovering that it is not what he wears, but how he wears his clothes that makes him cool.

Game Over, Super Rabbit Boy!
by Thomas Flintham
When the nefarious King Viking creates a robot army to spread No Fun throughout Animal Town and abducts fun-loving Singing Dog, video game character Super Rabbit Boy must use his speed and bravery to save the day.

The Notebook of Doom Collection (Series)
by Troy Cummings
When Alexander moves to Stermont he finds a notebook full of monster drawings, but the monsters are actually real and it is up to him and his new best friends to protect the town.

Hi! Fly Guy (Series)
by Tedd Arnold
While out on a search to find the perfect creature to bring to “The Amazing Pet Show,” a young boy encounters a friendly fly who is more than happy to lend him a hand, in an amusing tale about a very unlikely friendship.

Big Bad Detective Agency
by Bruce Hale
Accused of ransacking the houses of the Three Little Pigs, Wolfgang is given one day by the ruler of Fairylandia to find the real culprit, aided by a fourth pig.
Transitional Readers
This category is for students who are moving from primary books to early chapter books.

**Captain Pug: The Dog Who Sailed the Seas**
by Laura James
Embarking on a seafaring adventure that is challenged by his fear of the water, Pug, the canine best friend of Lady Miranda, takes a snack break in an empty picnic basket only to be picked up by an unsuspecting stranger.

**Actual Size**
by Steve Jenkins
Discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals.

**Messy Bessy (Series)**
by Vicki Cameron
When Bessy wakes up late for school, she rushes to get dressed, but she's having trouble since her clothes are scattered around her room.

**Waiting**
by Kevin Henkes
Five toy animal friends sit happily together on a windowsill, patiently waiting for anticipated weather changes that are orchestrated by their young human companion.

**Picture Day (Series)**
by Susan Nees
When her mother selects a boring outfit for picture day at school, Missy, an exuberantly creative little girl, teams up with her best friend, Oscar, and her trusty cat, Pink, to identify an alternate outfit that expresses her irrepressible character.

**Captain Awesome to the Rescue (Series)**
by Stan Kirby
Presents four stories in which Eugene McGillicudy takes on the role of Captain Awesome and, with the help of Nacho Cheese Man and the Sunnyview Superhero Squad, and works to defend Sunnyview from evil.

**Young Cam Jansen and the Lost Tooth (Series)**
by David A. Adler
Cam Jansen uses her amazing photographic memory to help classmate Annie find the tooth she lost at school, in a title of a popular series featuring the young sleuthhound.

**Oliver, Amanda, and Grandmother Pig (Series)**
by Jean Van Leeuwen
When Grandmother Pig comes for a visit, Oliver and Amanda learn just how much fun it is to have a grandmother in the house.

**Lulu and the Brontosaurus**
by Judith Viorst
Lulu's parents refuse to give in when she demands a brontosaurus for her birthday and so she sets out to find her own, but while the brontosaurus she finally meets approves of pets, he does not intend to be Lulu's.

**Completely Clementine**
by Sara Pennypacker
Clementine faces changes at the end of her third grade year and anticipates the birth of her family's new baby.

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Developing Readers

These selections are for growing readers who are building reading stamina as they become more capable readers.

**Bad Kitty Takes the Test** (Series)  
by Nick Bruel  
When the Society of Cat Aptitude rules that she is quite a bad cat, Kitty is challenged to redeem her feline status by taking a test with the help of Cat School instructor Chatty Kitty and Uncle Murray.

**Inspector Flytrap** (Series)  
by Tom Angleberger  
A series starring a disabled mystery-solving Venus flytrap, who investigates a mysterious glob on a recently discovered da Vinci painting.

**Here’s Hank** (Series)  
by Henry Winkler  
Frightened by a monster movie that gives him nightmares in the days leading up to Halloween, little Hank is reassured by claims that zombies are not real until the people around him begin acting strangely.

**Book Scavenger** (Series)  
by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman  
After Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to figure out the secrets of an odd book they find before the men who attacked Emily’s hero solve the mystery or come after the friends.

**Caveboy Dave: More Scrawny than Brawny**  
by Aaron Reynolds  
A young caveman named Dave must complete a dangerous rite of passage with his peers.

**The Great Mouse Detective** (Series)  
by Eve Titus  
Sleuth Basil investigates the mousenappings of a pair of twins after mastering his detective skills in the cellar of the great Sherlock Holmes.

**Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere**  
by Elise Gravel  
Discovering a grumpy, fussy creature in her garbage can that she names after herself, young Olga befriends and studies the eccentric Olgamus in ways that introduce the scientific method, and other scientific concepts.

**Don’t Wear Polka Dot Underwear with White Pants**  
by Allison Gutknecht  
Struggling to manage a life that has been complicated by the arrival of new twins, her feud with an irritating nemesis and an fashion gaffe, 8-year-old Mandy looks forward to a school pageant.

**The Poet’s Dog**  
by Patricia MacLachlan  
A dog with unusual communication talents loses his owner before rescuing two children trapped in a snowstorm and leading them to the shelter of the owner’s cabin, where the children explore the memories there.

**Revenge of the Dragon Lady** (Series)  
by Kate McMullan  
After accidentally killing a dragon, Wiglaf hopes his friends at Dragon Slayers’ Academy will be able to help him when he faces that dragon’s mother, Seetha, the Beast of the East.
Developing Readers

These selections are for growing readers who are building reading stamina as they become more capable readers.

**Shark School (Series)**
by Davy Ocean
The adventures of Harry the hammerhead shark, including a class trip that almost ends in disaster, a documentary in which Harry dreams of starring, an encounter with a hungry squid, and a mistaken report of a great white shark.

**Stella Batts (Series)**
by Courtney Sheinmel
When her class wins a sleepover at the library, Stella participates in a pajama scavenger hunt and finds a book by an author who shares her name, a discovery that is complicated by an unexpected visitor and Stella’s fears of the dark.

**Dog Man (Series)**
by Dav Pilkey
Petey the cat’s criminal curiosity is taking the city by storm and it’s up to Dog Man to unleash justice on this feline ruffian to save the city and prevent Petey the cat from getting away with the purr-fect crime!

**My Fox Ate My Homework**
by David Blaze
Jonah Johnson is in the 6th grade and his whole world just got turned upside down by a talking fox that keeps getting him into trouble. And there's a mean old chicken that throws rotten eggs. To top it all off, he has to deal with the school bully.

**Song Lee and the "I Hate You" Notes (Series)**
by Suzy Kline
The nicest girl in the class, Song Lee, is upset and nauseous when she begins receiving "I hate you" notes, but she decides it’s time to stop being so nice and to fight back.

**Timmy Failure : Mistakes were Made**
by Stephan Pastis
Resolving to earn money for his mother’s bills, eleven-year-old Timmy launches a detective business with a lazy polar bear, but finds their enterprise challenged by a college-bound spy and a four-foot-tall girl.

**Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot vs. the Mutant Mosquitoes from Mercury (Series)**
by Dav Pilkey
Series of adventures starring an young mouse who, along with his giant flying robot best friend, heroically battle to keep diabolical foes from taking over the world.

**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda (Series)**
by Tom Angleberger
Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

**The Bad Guys**
by Aaron Blabey
The Bad Guys, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha, want to be heroes, and they decide that the way to do it is free the 200 dogs in the city dog pound—but their plan soon goes awry.

**The Chocolate Touch**
by Patrick Skene Catling
When John Midas acquires a magical gift, everything his lips touch turns into chocolate.

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Independent Readers
These selections are for stronger readers who can easily tackle a 150+ page book and successfully digest the content.

As Brave as You
by Jason Reynolds
Leaving Brooklyn for the first time to visit their grandparents in the Virginia countryside, Genie and his big brother, Ernie, discover that their grandfather is blind and ask countless questions about how he copes before realizing that he never leaves the house.

Ghost
by Jason Reynolds
Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school's track team, a gifted runner finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with a violence-prone father, in a debut entry of a series about four teammates from very different backgrounds.

Last Man Out
by Mike Lupica
Learning about teamwork and bravery from his Boston firefighter dad, 12-year-old Tommy, the toughest kid on his football team, faces the most difficult challenge of his young life in the wake of a devastating fire.

The Gallery
by Laura Marx Fitzgerald
The story of Martha, a kitchen worker in the home of an eccentric heiress who communicates with the world through her paintings and who may not be secluded by choice.

Sea Change
by Frank Viva
Follows a young boy who is sent to spend the summer in a remote part of Nova Scotia. The hero forges solid friendships with other kids in the small fishing community and is changed forever by the experience.

What Elephants Know
by Eric Dinerstein
Found in the care of a pack of wild dogs in the Nepalese Borderlands jungle, young Nandu is raised by the wise manager of the king's elephant stable and by an affectionate female elephant whose home Nandu risks everything to protect.

When Friendship Followed me Home
by Paul Griffin
A misfit foster kid bonds with a abandoned dog and a new friend, before confronting the dual challenges of his adoptive mother's death and his friend's returning cancer.

Wishing Day
by Lauren Myracle
Following a town tradition, Natasha makes three wishes at the willow tree on Wishing Day, and after one comes true, she holds out hope that her second wish--that her mother, who disappeared, is alive--will as well.

The Crimson Skew
by S. E. Grove
While Sophia endeavors to solve the mystery of her parents while reuniting with Theo, War Cartologer Shadrack learns about a devastating weapon that transforms its victims into bloodthirsty killers.

The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game called Life
by Kwame Alexander
An inspirational guide for middle-graders on how to succeed on the court of life in accordance with the wisdom of such role models as Nelson Mandela, LeBron James and Michelle Obama.
Independent Readers
These selections are for stronger readers who can easily tackle a 150+ page book and successfully digest the content.

Chester and Gus
by Cammie McGovern
An aspiring service dog who fails his certification test is adopted into a family where he becomes a companion to a 10-year-old boy with autism, who initially challenges the dog by requiring a different kind of friendship.

The Wild Robot
by Peter Brown
Initializing for the first time on a remote island where she is all alone, Roz the robot learns survival strategies from the island’s hostile animals and finally gains acceptance when she cares for an orphaned gosling.

The Seventh Wish
by Kate Messner
Feeling shunted aside by her mother’s new job, her sister’s college life and everything else that seems more important, Charlie catches a floppy fish while ice fishing that requests its freedom in exchange for wishes that end up going awry despite Charlie’s best intentions.

Ryan Quinn and the Rebel’s Escape
by Ron McGee
This book follows the experiences of a boy who discovers that his missing parents are secret agents and that he must undertake a perilous mission to rescue them.

Nothing but Trouble
by Jacqueline Davies
Maggie, a budding scientist, and Lena, a mischief-loving artist, team up to pull epic pranks all over town.

Threads
by Ami Polonsky
Discovering a desperate note for help hidden in a purse in a department store, a young girl reeling from the death of her adopted sister struggles to convince the adults in her life that a young worker in a Beijing sewing factory needs their help.

The Warden’s Daughter
by Jerry Spinelli
Living with her warden father in an apartment above a 1950s county prison, Cammie struggles to come to terms with the mother who died to save her from harm while interacting with some of the reformed inmates, including one who makes a staggering sacrifice.

Ms. Bixby’s Last Day
by John David Anderson
Loving their gifted teacher, who makes them feel like the indignity of school is somehow worthwhile, three boys are dismayed when the teacher leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories and journey across town together.

Storm Runners (Series)
by Roland Smith
Twelve-year-old Chase Masters travels the country with his father, a “storm runner,” but he is tested in ways he never could have imagined when he and a new friend are caught in a hurricane near St. Petersburg, Florida.

It Ain’t So Awful, Falafel
by Firoozeh Dumas
When her family once again moves and lands in California’s Newport Beach in the late 1970s, Zomorod Yousefzadeh takes a new name in the hope of fitting in as tensions rise between America and her native Iran.

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Young Adults

This category of books is for experienced high school readers who possess the maturity to tackle young adult and politically sensitive issues. Parents are encouraged to review these titles. Consideration should be given to difficulty, subject matter and content.

Loving vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case
by Patricia Hruby Powell
A tale inspired by the landmark 1955 civil rights case follows the relationship between two young people who challenged segregation, prejudice and injustice to pursue a relationship.

We Are the Ants
by Shaun David Hutchinson
Abducted by aliens periodically throughout his youth, Henry is informed by his erstwhile captors that they will end the world in 144 days unless he stops them.

A List of Cages
by Robin Roe
Landing a coveted elective to serve as an aide to the school psychologist, Adam, a student struggling with ADHD, is assigned to track down a troubled freshman he discovers is the foster brother he has not seen in five years.

The Sun is Also a Star
by Nicola Yoon
A scientifically minded girl who avoids relationships to help keep her family from being deported and a dutiful student who endeavors to live up to his parents' high expectations unexpectedly fall in love and must determine which path they will choose in order to be together.

When We Collided
by Emery Lord
Resigning himself to another summer of just getting by, a young man overwhelmed by family responsibilities meets a vibrant, beauty-loving girl whose zest for life turns dangerous when she pursues high-risk adventures.

I am Number Four: The Lost Files: Zero Hour (Series)
by Pittacus Lore
Collects three novellas that fill in missing parts of the Lorien story, including a view of the invasion from a girl in New York and the perspectives of three different Mogadorians.

Symptoms of Being Human
by Jeff Garvin
A gender-fluid teen who identifies as a boy or girl on different days—and whose challenges are complicated by a new school and a conservative politician father—is encouraged by a therapist to write an anonymous blog that goes viral.

The Last of August
by Brittany Cavallaro
A much-needed winter break in Sussex is challenged by Jamie Watson and Charlotte Holmes' growing feelings for one another as well as the disappearance of a beloved uncle.

The Female of the Species
by Mindy McGinnis
Living a life in the shadows after violently retaliating against the killer who walked free after murdering her sister, Alex unexpectedly befriends Jack and Peekay, who must navigate Alex's darker nature throughout their senior year.

Scythe
by Neal Shusterman
Forced to become trained killers in a disease-free world where people can only die if eliminated by professional assassins, Citra and Rowan reluctantly train under a master reaper who informs them that the one who successfully kills the other will become his apprentice.
Young Adults

This category of books is for experienced high school readers who possess the maturity to tackle young adult and politically sensitive issues. Parents are encouraged to review these titles. Consideration should be given to difficulty, subject matter and content.

Reckoners (Series) by Brandon Sanderson
At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners—the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny.

The Way I Used to Be by Amber Smith
Shattered when she is raped by her best friend’s brother, high school student Eden navigates the terrible pain of trauma and broken friendship while finding the courage to reveal what happened.

Life in a Fishbowl by Len Vlahos
Becoming a prisoner in her own home when her cancer-patient father and their family become the stars of a cutthroat reality series, 15-year-old Jackie struggles with estrangement from her mother and sister while worrying about her father’s heath before resolving to end the show.

Nowhere But Here (Series) by Katie McGarry
While reluctantly staying with her biological father, a member of a motorcycle club, sheltered seventeen-year-old Emily falls for the youth her father asked to protect her from a rival club with a score to settle.

Radio Silence by Alice Oseman
A studious girl and a quiet, straight-A boy start a controversial podcast together that challenges their courage and forces them to confront issues in the form of backlash and censorship.

Phantom Limbs by Paula Garner
Still reeling from the death of his little brother and the sudden departure of his first love Meg, Otis throws himself into swim training with Dara, until Meg returns for the summer and Otis tries to rekindle their relationship.

The Hundred Lies of Lizzie Lovett by Chelsea Sedoti
Unable to resist the missing-persons case of Lizzie Lovett, Hawthorn Creely formulates a theory that is disregarded. Hawthorn immerses herself in the missing girl’s life, taking Lizzie’s job and boyfriend, to determine what happened.

Trouble is a Friend of Mine by Stephanie Tromly
After meeting misfit Philip Digby, Zoe soon finds herself in a series of hilarious and dangerous situations as they investigate a local teenage girls kidnapping that may be related to the disappearance of his kid sister eight years ago.

The Outliers by Kimberly McCreight
When Wylie’s drama-prone friend Cassie appeals to her for help through a text message followed by a series of cryptic clues, Wylie realizes that her friend is in far more serious trouble than she realized as she ventures deep into the Maine woods to uncover deadly secrets.

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon
A girl confined to her house by rare and profound allergies falls hopelessly in love with her new neighbor, in a story told through vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists and illustrations.