Garfield School District
Summer Reading Program 2026
Students Entering Grades 3-5

"Prevent the summer slide and read!"

Unearth a Story™ underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings and that every person and every community have stories waiting to be found and shared – through books, programs, and local knowledge.

Garfield Public Schools **34 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026**
Dawn Rotio **973-340-5000**
Curriculum Supervisor

May 7, 2026

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to thank you for the consistent effort you put forth this school year. Your child has worked so hard and maintaining the skills he/she has acquired is extremely important. Enclosed in this packet are the required reading assignments for the upcoming school year. This should be done throughout the summer to make reading a part of your daily routine.

To foster a love of reading, students should choose books of high interest to them. Online platforms, the local library, and bookstores can assist you in finding the books necessary to meet the reading requirements. Also included is an optional summer reading bingo board to help support consistent reading during the summer!

In addition to summer reading, Dr. Tomko is thrilled to launch the **1st Annual Superintendent's Reading Challenge** for students entering grades 2–8! Students who complete this summer packet will earn credit toward the Superintendent's Challenge while enjoying an exciting opportunity to stay engaged, inspired, and motivated all summer long. It's a fun and rewarding way to encourage reading at home, spark imagination, and celebrate a love of learning beyond the classroom! Stay tuned!

Upon returning to school, students will hand in their completed activities to their teacher. The elementary schools will each recognize those students for their extra hard work and dedication to reading by bestowing upon them a reward for their participation in the program as well as giving credit towards their reading grade.

All information can be accessed on www.gboe.org by clicking on the summer reading link. Forms for assignments can be recreated by photocopying, downloading off the school website, using a word document, or handwriting it on a separate piece of paper.

Once again, thank you for your continuous involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,

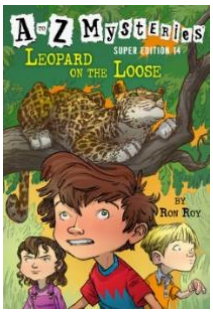
Dawn Rotio

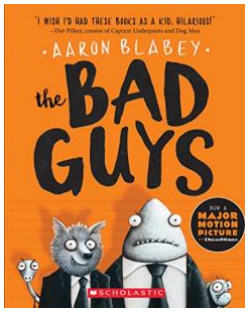
Dawn Rotio
Curriculum Supervisor

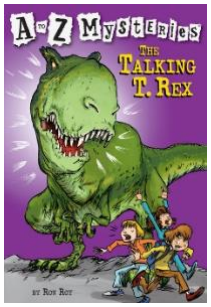
All Incoming Grade 3-5 Students

Students should choose 5 books of their choice that interest them. Students must read at least 1 nonfiction book.

Recommended Fiction Series:

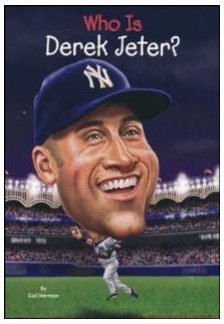


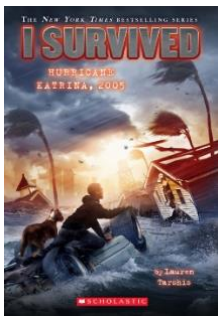




Ivy & Bean
My Weird School
The Bad Guys
Judy Blume
Judy Moody
Ranger in Time
A-Z Mysteries

Recommended Nonfiction Series:





Who Is / Who Was series*
I Survived series
StoryWorks Article

All books with an asterisk can be found for free on Open e-books.

Requirements:

- Students are expected to read at least **five** "just-right" books, one being a nonfiction book
- Complete the questions for **two books** (fiction and nonfiction)
- Complete the summer reading log provided.

Upon completion of the summer reading assignment, students should continue to read 20 minutes per night.

Name:_____

Fiction Book Question 1

1. **Who is the main character? What are some character traits that describe this character? Give examples from the story that support your answer. Write in complete sentences. Use vivid adjectives (Ex. Generous instead of nice or humorous instead of funny)**

Name:_____

Fiction Book Question 2

2. Did your character learn a lesson in the story? What was it? Use details from the story. Write in complete sentences.

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Name:_____

Nonfiction Book Question 1

1. What was the main idea of your book? What are some facts that support your answer?

Name:_____

Nonfiction Book Vocabulary

Write three new words you have learned in your nonfiction book and their meaning. Use each word in a sentence. Remember to use context clues to help you!

1._____

Meaning:_____

_____

Sentence:_____

_____

_____

2._____

Meaning:_____

_____

Sentence:_____

_____

_____

3._____

Meaning:_____

_____

Sentence:_____

_____

_____

Name_____Grade 2026-2027_____

Reading Log Form for students entering Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade

Books I've read this summer....

Book Title	Author	Parent/Guardian Signature

Summer Reading Bingo

Read books to fill up as many squares as you can.

A book by your favorite author	A fiction book	A book about summer	A book with an animal on the cover	Read after dinner
Read with a friend	Read to a family member	A non-fiction book	A book with a sun on the cover	A book about animals
A book recommended to you	A book about the outdoors		Read in your pj's	A book in a week
A book with a color in the title	A biography	Read outside	A book by a male author	Read while having a cold drink
Read on the weekend	A funny book	A book about history	Read under a tree	A book by a female author

NAME: DATE FINISHED: