

Parent Guide to

ARROW

Grades 4–6 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your preteen

June
2009

Get your
Parent Guide to Arrow
Every Month
at www.scholastic.com/read.

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your
June Book Club flyer.

The Big Wave by Pearl S. Buck

Who It's For:

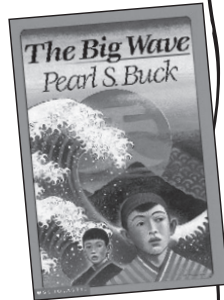
Kids interested in climate change and tsunamis; fans of Pearl S. Buck.

Why We Chose It:

This classic novel by a Pulitzer Prize winner really gives the reader a sense of what natural disasters are like.

What Parents Say:

"I remember this book from my childhood. It's great to share it with my kid and compare reactions."



Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars

Who It's For:

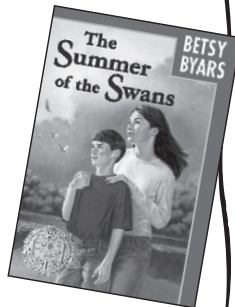
Kids on the brink of adolescence; kids who liked *Rules*.

Why We Chose It:

This Newbery Medal-winning classic is a compelling story about growing up.

What Parents Say:

"Stories like this one are one good way to teach kids what's really important."



Meet the Kreeps: The Mad Scientist by Kiki Thorpe

Who It's For:

Fans of the series; kids who love the Bailey School Kids.

Why We Chose It:

This is the 4th book in a popular new series.

What Parents Say:

"This series really is funny—when I read it along with my kid, I laughed out loud!"



Keep Literacy Skills Sharp This Summer

When school's out, it's important to provide plenty of learning opportunities at home to assure that your child continues developing vocabulary, early reading, and writing skills. Try these literacy-building tips.

Fill your home with reading.

Whether it's another title in his favorite series, hobby magazines, the sports pages, or even comic books, any kind of daily reading is good for his brain. The more pleasurable, the more likely he is to think of reading as natural, so he won't be intimidated by school reading.

Play writing games together.

Save the kids' crosswords, anagrams, or cryptograms from the newspaper. Pull them out in those "I'm bored!" moments (rainy days, long car rides, etc.) for a fun stretch of thinking skills and vocabulary.

Pack a traveler's reading kit.

Before you go on vacation, give your child books about your destination, a map, and a writing journal so he can keep track of sights he sees. After the trip, he can add pictures and souvenirs to the journal.

Turn off the TV.

Unplug at least one night a week and share other types of literacy-boosting entertainment: playing board games, telling stories, or just reading together.

Cool off with a reading pool.

When it's just too hot to run around, your child can chill out in a small inflatable pool. After he climbs in, place a crate of books (no library books or family heirlooms, though — inexpensive paperbacks are best!) nearby so your reader can enjoy a book while he lounges.

Wherever the summer takes you, the best way to encourage your child to read is to be a role model. When he sees you enjoying a book, newspaper, or magazine, it reinforces the idea that reading is fun.

Ask an Expert

Even as kids grow, you can use stories to stay connected. Summer is a critical time not only to strengthen your connection to your child through books but also to take it in a new direction. Let him read what he wants to read. Instead of worrying, ask your child why he likes the books he's chosen. Do the characters remind him of people he knows? Does he think they're true to life? If so, tell him about some of the series you read as a child, and why they appealed to you. Furthermore, don't assume he's too old for read-aloud time. Kids often pick up more from a book when you read to them. And as you approach the tumultuous adolescent years, it's even more essential to nurture closeness through reading. Finally, remember that a great book doesn't have to end once you've turned the last page. Use the theme of a book, its location, or something a character did as a springboard for a family trip or activity.

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander, a former teacher, is vice president and chief academic officer at Scholastic.



Did You Know?

Novelist John Hersey was born on June 17, 1914. His 1954 Time magazine article about the dullness of grammar school readers was the inspiration for *The Cat in the Hat!*

15 Weeks of Fun in the Sun and Cool Reading Ideas

Keep your child's brain from melting with our summer-long activity guide.

June 1–June 7

Catch the summer reading buzz with cool activities, games, contests, and must-read book picks at www.scholastic.com/summerreading.

June 8–June 14

Celebrate Flag Day with *The American Flag* by Debra Hess.

June 15–June 21

Make Dad a super-sized poster card for Father's Day with a list of things you love about him.

June 22–June 28

Plant a garden together. Find inspiration in books such as *Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Books* by Sharon Lovejoy.



June 29–July 5

Celebrate Superman's Birthday on June 30. Make up a story about his latest daring adventures.

July 6–July 12

Keep the Independence Day spirit alive with great reads such as *So You Want to Be President?* by Judith St. George.

July 13–July 19

Read a baseball book, like *Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Mochizuki, before this week's All-Star Game.

July 20–July 26

Hey campers! Time to send letters to your friends, your folks, and your grandparents.

July 27–August 2

Relive the magic of Harry Potter, even if you've already read all seven!



August 3–August 9

Go fly a kite! First, learn to build one. Find easy-to-follow instructions at www.scholastic.com/parents.

August 10–August 16

Throw a luau to celebrate the day Hawaii became part of the USA: August 12, 1898!

August 17–August 23

What's the hottest day of the week? *Fry Day!* Find more laughs for Joke Day this week in your favorite joke book.

August 24–August 30

Take a walk through the park with an illustrated nature guide, and try to identify the plants and trees you see.

August 31–September 6

Kick off Library Sign-Up Month this September by getting your own card and checking out new books for fall!

Daily Reading Fun

Hitting the pool or beach? Remember the sunscreen and the reading material. Fill a bag with a variety of options: storybooks, picture books, an illustrated guide to sandcastles, or a puzzle book to share with friends.

Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit www.scholastic.com/classroomscare to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message -- kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.



Beyond Books

June is Aquarium Month! Take a field trip to check out some sea creatures. Read the display signs to learn new words.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/youreader.

About Your Parent Guide to Arrow

Your Parent Guide to Arrow is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit www.scholastic.com/read.