

Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

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Moore Public Schools
Title I Reading



Book Picks

■ *Heartseeker* (Melinda Beatty)

What if you could “see” lies? In this novel, an eleven-year-old girl named Only Fallow can! Now she must help a king determine who is loyal to him. Along the way, she learns some uncomfortable truths about the kingdom.



■ *National Geographic Kids Brain Games: The Mind-Blowing Science of Your Amazing Brain* (Jennifer Swanson)

Youngsters will explore the human brain in this book of fascinating—and often surprising—facts. It’s full of brainteasers and challenges for your child to try and includes an



explanation of the science behind each activity.

■ *The BFG* (Roald Dahl)

In a land of scary giants, the Big Friendly Giant (BFG) is special. Follow the BFG and a little girl named Sophie as they try to stop the not-so-friendly giants from getting up to no good. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White* (Melissa Sweet)

This scrapbook-style biography introduces readers to the author of classics like *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte’s Web*. See photos of animals that White’s stories were based on, writing samples from his childhood, rough drafts of his manuscripts, and more.



Strategies for summarizing

“What was that book about?” Listening to your child summarize a book shows her teacher (or you) how well she understood it. And the act of summarizing builds comprehension. Suggest these ideas.

Start with questions

Pretend to be a reporter, and ask your youngster the “5W” questions (who, what, when, where, and why) about her book. She can use her answers to give a brief summary. *Example:* “tiger cub” (who), “adopted” (what), “2018” (when), “India” (where), “orphaned” (why). Her summary could begin, “An orphaned tiger cub was adopted by another mother tiger in India last year.”

Rank importance

Can your child convince you to read a book she enjoyed? Record her making a commercial about it. The catch? She has a 60-second time slot, so she must stick to what matters most. Ahead of time, suggest that she list details, then number them from most to least relevant. For instance, clues that helped a detective



solve a mystery belong in her summary, but a description of the detective’s clothing probably doesn’t.

Draw a picture

A colorful graphic organizer lets your youngster visualize her summary. She might draw an ice cream cone labeled with the book’s title and add a different color scoop for each story element: characters, setting, problem, and solution. Now she could fill in details and look at her cone as she summarizes the story. (“A young girl from a small town moved to a big city. She had to learn how to fit in.”) 📖

Write a how-to guide

What’s a fun way for your child to practice his writing *and* help someone out? He can write a how-to guide for something he’s good at!

Let your youngster choose a topic (say, drawing portraits) and list numbered steps. *Example:* 1. Gather supplies. 2. Find a model. 3. Draw an outline. 4. Refine the outline.

5. Add features. Then, he could expand on each step to explain it thoroughly. “Add features” might become “Add facial features, such as eyes, a nose, and a mouth.”

To see if his instructions work, he should follow them step by step. If they don’t, he may need to add steps or be more specific. 📖

