

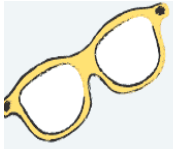


**Welcome VCS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families ! My prayer is that you are having an amazing summer. It is so important that we keep reading during the summer to avoid summer slide and keep our minds strong.**

**You have a summer reading book report that will be due Friday August 15, 2025. If you enroll after July 31<sup>st</sup>, then your due date will be Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>. It is important that you complete the book report because we will be using our reports in class to complete an oral book talk about the book we chose to read.**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [stornberg@victory.com](mailto:stornberg@victory.com). Enjoy your summer. Looking forward to seeing you soon!**

**Mrs. Tornberg**



## WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE SUMMER SLIDE?

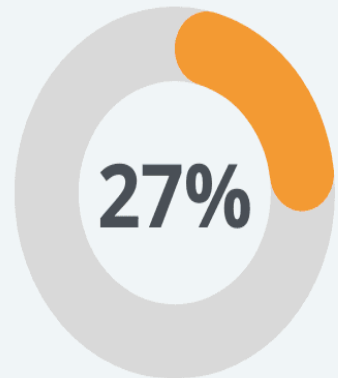
Come summer break, students may "turn their brains off" and lose some of the gains they made during the school year.

In a study, students in 3rd-5th grade lost an average of **20%** of reading gains and **27%** of math gains over summer vacation.

READING GAINS LOST



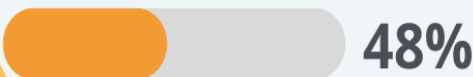
MATH GAINS LOST



START OF SUMMER



Only around **48%** of parents have heard of "summer slide".



END OF SUMMER



Sources: <https://www.csipreads.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/CSLP-Summer-Reading-White-Paper-2015.pdf>  
<http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/press-release/new-national-research-childrens-reading-released-scholastic>



**Choose 1 of the following 7 book choices for your report. If there is a movie, please base your report on the book.**

**Ruby Holler** by Sharon Creech

"Trouble twins" Dallas and Florida are orphans who have given up believing there is such a thing as a loving home. Tiller and Sairy are an eccentric older couple who live in the beautiful, mysterious Ruby Holler, but they're restless for one more big adventure. When they invite the twins to join them on their journeys, they first must all stay together in the Holler, and the magic of the place takes over. Two pairs of lives grow closer and are changed forever.

**Frindle** by Andrew Clements

Is Nick Allen a troublemaker? He just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the Frindle.

**Because of Winn Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo

One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries—and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about *everything* that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George

Sam Gibley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever.

## **The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate Dicamillo

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish.

## **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

## **Summer of the Monkeys** by Wilson Rawls

The last thing fourteen-year-old Jay Berry Lee expects to find while trekking through the Ozark Mountains of Oklahoma is a tree full of monkeys. But then Jay learns from his grandpa that the monkeys have escaped from a traveling circus, and there's a big reward for the person who finds and returns them.

His family could really use the money, so Jay sets off, determined to catch them. But by the end of the summer, Jay will have learned a lot more than he bargained for—and not just about monkeys.





What was your favorite part of the story?

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What was your least part of the story?

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If you could change anything about the story, what would you change?

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Would you recommend this book? \_\_\_\_\_

Why or Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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How many stars would you give this book 1 being not great and 5 being amazing?

