

Making a Reading Plan

Thriving readers plan their reading lives. They capitalize on vacations by stocking up on reading material and setting aside blocks of time to read. Engage kids in plotting some extended reading times on a calendar and identifying what they will read.

Preparation

Teach this lesson several days before a school vacation to give kids time to enact their plans. For modeling purposes, figure out what you will read during break.

1 Connect and Engage

Gather kids around you comfortably. Project a quote about planning as a springboard for discussion, such as, “Fortune favors the prepared mind” (Louis Pasteur) or “It takes a lot of unspectacular preparation to get spectacular results” (Roger Staubach). Ask, “Why is it important to make plans? What kinds of things do you plan for, and why?” Elicit examples and share your own. Last-minute holiday shoppers are plagued with full parking lots, long lines, and meager selection; successful dieters slice and bag healthy fruits and vegetables, etc.

2 Model

Like all healthy habits, reading needs to be planned for and scheduled. One of the things I love most about being in Maine over the holidays is the chance to read by the fire with no interruptions. Just as we plan our meals in advance and take special foods with us because there’s no grocery store nearby, we plan what we’re going to read and make sure we have copies so we’re not empty-handed in prime reading time!

*I usually choose books for work and for pleasure. (Although to me, professional reading is pleasurable!) I include magazines so I have choices depending on my mood and energy level. Hold up and describe your selections. My daughter wants me to read her favorite series, and she’s lending me the first book, *A Court of Thorns and Roses*. I got the second book from the library in case I finish the first. I’m excited to read the new edition of a favorite professional book, *The Reading Zone*, and I’ve downloaded it on my iPad since I’m trying to read e-books. I subscribe to *Bon Appetit* and *Food and Wine*, and I’ve set aside the latest issues for the trip.*

Project and mark up the reading calendar to show the specific times during vacation that are ripe for reading and those that are too busy. *We're driving to Maine on December 27, but since I can't read in the car without getting carsick, that day is a wash. We'll be by ourselves on the 28th and the 29th, so that's when I'll dig into the fantasy series. Relatives come for my birthday dinner on the 29th, so realistically I won't get any substantial reading done until they leave on the 31st.*

3 Guide

Have kids refer to their next-up lists and chat with partners about what they are excited to read and how they'll procure copies. Ask a few partnerships to share their selections and sources. List sources on the board as kids mention them: classroom library, school library, public library, borrow from friend, bookstore, download, and so on.

4 Practice

Hand out blank calendars (you can find a blank template at scholastic.com/ThriveResources) and give kids time to plot their vacation schedules and reading plans. Prompt them to schedule trips to the library if they plan to borrow books. Circulate, confer, and note intriguing examples.

5 Share

Invite kids to share their plans, making sure to include kids who aren't traveling to glamorous destinations. If kids don't mention sources of reading material, be sure to elicit suggestions from the class. *Jason would like to read The Trials of Apollo, but he doesn't have a copy. Does anyone have one to lend?* Make this lesson fun and festive.

Vacation Reading Plan		
I plan to read . . .		
Text	Source	Notes
<i>The Court of Thorns and Roses</i> (Maas)	Mimi lending to me	Since fantasy is a new genre to me, I need to give myself a big block of prime reading time to get into it.
<i>A Court of Mist and Fury</i> (Maas)	Mamaroneck High School library	I checked this out in case I love the series (but if not, I can return it without losing an investment).
<i>The Reading Zone</i> (Atwell and Merkel)	Purchased online	I'm excited to see the new edition. I'm going to practice reading and annotating electronically.
<i>Bon Appetit, Gourmet</i>	I subscribe	Magazines are my guilty pleasure. My sisters and I swap and read each other's at the cabin.

Vacation Calendar With Reading Moments						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20 Make reading plans with students	21 Class meets in library	22	23 Last day of school	24 Christmas Eve—cook and wrap!	25 Christmas	26 Organize, shop for food, and pack. Get videos from library.
27 Drive to Moose Lodge.	28 Stack firewood on porch. Begin <i>Court of Thorns and Roses</i>	29 My birthday! Read <i>Court of Thorns and Roses</i> . Make lobster mac and cheese for family dinner	30 Family time. Ski, snowshoe, hike	31 Family departs. Clean up. Read <i>The Reading Zone</i> . Practice electronic annotations. Happy New Year!	1 Sleep in. Make big brunch. Hike, then read by the fire. Begin packing up.	2 Drive home. Get organized for tomorrow.
3 Back to school						