



JUST READ, FLORIDA!

2016 SUMMER LITERACY ADVENTURE

Florida's First Lady Ann Scott and the Florida Department of Education have partnered with the Florida Lottery and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to announce the 2016 **Summer Literacy Adventure**.

Literacy experts and educators agree that children of all ages need to be read to, read by themselves and talk about the books they have read during the summer. Your student's summer reading and book discussions will help maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency and provide the opportunity to learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime. According to research by Richard Allington (2007), by the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement. Researchers also conclude that two-thirds of the ninth-grade reading achievement gap can be explained by summer learning loss. Let's work together to help students in Florida stay on track and not lose valuable ground in reading.

The 2016 **Summer Literacy Adventure** is geared to help children stay on target, motivated and excited about reading and literacy. During summer vacation, it is important for students of all ages and reading levels to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis.

To make reading even more exciting, we are challenging all of our state's students to pledge to read as many books as possible throughout the summer break, and I hope that you will encourage all of the teachers, students and parents in your school to participate. Each student can fill out his or her pledge on the *Just Read, Florida!* website by searching **FL DOE Summer Literacy Pledge** on the internet. Following the summer break, the department will recognize the top 10 schools with the highest percentage of participation. The school whose students read the most books will receive a surprise visit from First Lady Ann Scott.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT, PARENT AND TEACHER RESOURCES:

Students:

- The **Just Read, Florida!** website provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
- **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Program** is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://www.floridamediaed.org/>

Teachers and Parents:

- **Florida Public Libraries** <http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/florida-information/libraries/florida-libraries/public-library-homepages/#Public>
- The **Just Read, Florida!** website provides a list of suggested summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>
- **Just Read, Florida!** parents site <http://www.fl doe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/parents.shtml>
- **Just Read, Families!** <http://www.justreadfamilies.org>
- **Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Program** is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://www.floridamediaed.org/>

