

June 2023

Dear KES Parents,

Our teachers and students have worked hard all year to make great strides in reading and writing. As you may know, good readers and writers read and write daily. Summer is a great time for students to read books for pleasure, to nurture a love for reading and to maintain any gains made during the year. It is also a wonderful time for you to read to your children! Read alouds are a wonderful opportunity to work on comprehension skills and vocabulary and to generate further interest in books.

This coming summer, we will be promoting question prompts as a response to literature. The purpose of a response is to gain insight into text, reveal thinking and interact with literature in meaningful ways.

The question prompt sheet included in this packet will help stimulate the recall of prior knowledge, promote comprehension, and build critical-thinking skills. Answering these questions will help prepare your child for subsequent success with more difficult texts. Please have your child choose 3 books of his/her interest to read completely over the summer. When he/she is done, choose 3 responses on the next page and respond to those prompts in writing. Completed responses will be accepted in the school office in exchange for a prize in the first weeks of school, B'ezras Hashem.

Attached is a list of sample titles for suggested summer reading. We recommend choosing a book based on the "Five Finger Rule", which your child may remember from school. Have your children turn to any page in the book. For every word that they don't know, they should hold up a finger. Your child can use the following guidelines according to how many fingers they hold up:

0 or 1 – Most probably too easy for your child.

2 – A good choice that will give your child a reasonable challenge and allow them to learn new words.

3 – Your child might need some help, but still a good choice if they're up for a challenge.

4 – May be too difficult for your child to read on their own. If you are on hand to give them help or read along with them it can be suitable, but if they are reading on their own, choose a different book.

5 – Most probably a bit too advanced, best to try a different book unless your child really wants

to read it.



The content of these books has been approved by KES, however you may choose to use your discretion by reading the books on your own or using a list of approved books (with comments) on kosherbooks.org. Additionally, there are many excellent Jewish books available these days, either from libraries (using safe guidelines for borrowing) or through many bookstores and publishers such as Menucha Publishers, as well as Artscroll, Feldheim, and Israel Book Shop. The five finger rule can be applied to these books as well.

Your support in promoting literacy skills is especially crucial during the elementary years. We look forward to a continuous partnership that will foster growth and a lifelong love of reading.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

Dr. Gur Berman
General Studies Principal

Rabbi Noam Grossman
Boys Division

Mrs. Miriam Deitsch
Girls Division

Mrs. Dara Lubin
Literary Coach/Curriculum Coordinator

Summer Reading Responses

Non-Fiction:

- What did you know about the topic before opening the book?
- List three facts you've learned while reading the book.
- What is the author's purpose for writing the book?
- What information surprised you and why?
- What information do you question or think might not be correct? Why? How might you check it out?
- What is the most important information you've learned and why?
- What would you like to learn more about regarding this topic and why?
- Create a timeline of important events that you have read about so far.
- What features helped you determine that this book was non-fiction?
- Does the author include opinion and fact statements in the book? Find examples of each.

Fiction:

- Did you enjoy reading this book? Why or why not?
- Did anything about this book remind you of something that happened in your own life? Did a character remind you of someone you know? Explain.
- Are the characters realistic? Why or why not?
- Create a timeline of important events that you have read about so far.
- Describe a character you'd like to meet. List 4 questions you'd ask him or her.
- Describe the conflict and the solution.
- Describe the setting - time and place. Based on the details and events in the story, would you add anything to the setting? Why or why not?
- Compare and contrast two characters in the story.
- What is the theme of the story? Support your answer with evidence from the text.