

SUMMER SERIES:

Read or Write Something Interesting



Summer is here! When is the last time you picked up a book to read in the summer? Maybe you wanted to, but outdoor activities always took precedence over anything you would otherwise do. Sure, reading could be saved for the winter months, but with COVID-19 you may want to reconsider. Use technology to help you tap into what is trending. You could also attempt to write that short story or screen play you have always wanted to write. You have the time, so try it! Here are some activities to get you started:

Pick a book: Everyone in the family can pick a book they've never read and read it. Then everyone can come back to the family book club to report what they liked about the book.

Family reading time: Read one chapter from a classic book out loud every night and ask everyone to listen. Some books and poetry were meant to be heard, not only read to oneself. Think Shakespeare's monologues or Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches.

Book/movie combo: Read the book, then watch the movie, then discuss the differences. ("Harry Potter," "Clueless"/"Emma," etc.)

Head to Hogwarts: Listen to a chapter of "[Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#)" together, and then do a [Chapter Challenge](#) to collect house points.

Write a book: Write the book you've always wanted to read, about your family together. It can be short! Then have a book reading/signing. **Your kid's story:** Have your kids write and illustrate a book about the day they were born. (They can interview you or not).

Hit the road: Read a book about the next place you want to visit.

Raising girls and boys: For those raising girls, "[Strong Is the New Pretty: A Celebration of Girls Being Themselves](#)" by Kate T. Parker is a beautiful photo essay to support our girls being strong. "[The Heart of a Boy: Celebrating the Strength and Spirit of Boyhood](#)" is her equally lovely photo book about boys.

Broaden your worldview: Read your kids age-appropriate books about cultures different than yours and theirs (whatever that may be). We are isolating more so we need books that stretch us more. Not sure where to start? Try [Jambo Books](#) for ideas.

Baby books: Read your children a short book from their toddler time to remind them (and you) of how adorable they were as little ones. Our favorites include "My Little Polar Bear" by Claudia Rueda, "And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson and Pete Parnell, and "The Book with No Pictures" by B.J. Novak.

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