

## LANGUAGE ARTS RESOURCES

### **Reading:**

Research clearly shows that daily reading is the best way for a student to build reading skills and vocabulary. Summer gives us extra reading time. Our summer reading assignments help students read, but there are many other options as well. Check out newspapers, websites and blogs. Public libraries have many audiobooks available for download, which are great for family listening! Remember, you use the same comprehension skills whether you listen or read!

Looking for other book ideas? Check out the suggestions on the *A Mighty Girl* website, at <https://www.amightygirl.com/>.

*The New York Times* has a great contest for older readers (ages 13-24) that includes both reading and writing—check it out at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/02/learning/the-ninth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Flearning&action=click&contentCollection=learning&region=r&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=sectionfront>

To build reading comprehension skills, practice these reading strategies with your daughter as she reads:

**PREDICT** what will happen next.

**CLARIFY** when something is confusing.

**PICTURE** what you are reading in your mind.

**ASK QUESTIONS** to learn more.

**SUMMARIZE** what has happened in the story.

**MAKE CONNECTIONS** between what you are reading and your own experience or other books you have read.

**ANALYZE** the language and structure of the book. Why does the author make those particular choices? How do those choices impact you as a reader?

### **Writing:**

Summer is also a great time for girls to do some writing, especially since they can choose their topics, audiences and formats. Here are some websites where middle-school students can share their writing and read writing by their peers. Check them out!

<http://newmoon.com/> (This site is specifically for girls!)

<http://storybird.com/>

<http://figment.com/>

<http://www.launchpadmag.com/>

Other websites have daily writing prompts. Try this one <http://visualprompts.weebly.com/middle-grades.html>

### **Grammar/Conventions/Spelling:**

<https://www.noredink.com/>

For practice learning grammar and conventions, some of our middle school teachers and students are using this website. Students can sign up for a free account; visit the “Rules” page, and choose from a lengthy list of topics to review and practice. The program adjusts its questions based on the student’s performance and indicates when a student achieves mastery of particular skill.

We use IXL in math, and it also has practice for different grades on grammar, conventions and spelling.

<https://www.ixl.com/ela/topics>

[http://www.funbrain.com/cgi-bin/getskill\\_s.cgi?A1=selects&A2=la&A4=0&A7=0](http://www.funbrain.com/cgi-bin/getskill_s.cgi?A1=selects&A2=la&A4=0&A7=0)

Includes several language arts games, including spelling and identifying parts of speech, organized by grade level

**<http://english-zone.com/index.php>**

Reviews grammar, writing, reading skills; paid membership is necessary to access some pages.

***The Basic, Not Boring Middle Grades Language Arts Book***, by Imogene Forte (6-8<sup>th</sup>)

This has a good section on spelling, as well as sections on reading comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar and usage. These sections can also be purchased separately if a student does not need the whole book.

***Daily Language Review (grades 5 & 6)***, published by Evan-Moor (grades 5-6)

The format of this workbook is much like the format of the writing mechanics section of the CTP 4.

***Summer Language Arts Review***, from Tri-C Publications (through high school prep)

This publisher also makes our recommended summer math skills sharpener; it includes sections on vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, writing, and punctuation.

**[http://www.summerskills.com/summerskillsbooks/language\\_arts\\_books](http://www.summerskills.com/summerskillsbooks/language_arts_books)**

### **Vocabulary:**

**<http://membean.com/>**

Multimodal learning of vocabulary; includes audio, video pictures, examples, study of roots. Click on “personal” and sign up for free use as an individual.

**<http://www.freerice.com/>**

Practice your vocabulary and earn grains of rice for the UN World Food Programme at the same time!

**<http://www.myvocabulary.com/>**

Reinforces a study of word roots through puzzles organized by levels of difficulty.

### **Analogies:**

**<http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/phonics/analogies/analogiesx.htm>**

**<http://www.quia.com/pop/84864.html>**