

# ELL SUMMER RESOURCES

## **Listening & Speaking:**

- 1) Interact with other children who speak English
  - A fun summer camp that our 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Ms. Mohrbacher directs (offered June 28-Aug 18): <https://www.campgallagher.org/>
  - Forest Ridge fun summer classes (offered July 8-August 23): <https://www.forestridge.org/student-experience/summer-experience>
  - Find a camp or other experience in China with students from many countries
- 2) Listen/watch some English-speaking TV programs, movies and documentaries (using English subtitles)
  - <https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/> and <http://www.pbs.org/video/>
  - <http://www.history.com/>
  - [Netflix.com](https://www.netflix.com/)—you have to pay a monthly fee for a subscription but there are many good shows, movies and documentaries on it
- 3) Listen to audiobooks and/or podcasts in English
  - All students have used Overdrive to download audiobooks for free from the King County library system

## **Reading:**

Research clearly shows that daily reading is the best way for a student to build her reading skills and vocabulary. Reading also exposes students to a variety of ways to structure sentences and to organize ideas, which is reflected in her writing. Any way that you can encourage your daughter to read over the summer will make a difference. She can read broadly from the grade-level summer reading lists, in addition to other genres and print material.

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?

- Consider reading or listening to the same book—the conversations you have about it are authentic and will promote thinking, without feeling like you're quizzing each other.
- Remember, listening to a book can be a great road trip option, and all of the same comprehension skills apply!

## **Writing:**

Summer is also a great time for girls to do some writing, especially since they can choose their topics, audiences and formats. Stories, journals and letters are all great options—even sending postcards of summer adventures. For something more structured, this website provides daily writing prompts and exercises:

<http://www.pw.org/writing-prompts-exercises>

Below 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/>

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

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

For practice learning grammar and conventions, some of our middle school teachers and students have been exploring this website. Students can sign up for a free account; visit the “Rules” page, and choose from a lengthy list of mechanics tasks 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.

[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 be purchased separately if the whole book is not needed.

***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 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>