








Reading Tips

for Children Ages 9 to 12

Reading can be a great asset-building activity for people of all ages. It not only builds asset 25: Reading for Pleasure, but the right books can contribute to the development of many other assets, including 1: Family Support; 3: Other Adult Relationships; 6: Parent Involvement in Schooling; 14: Adult Role Models; 15: Positive Peer Influence; 20: Time at Home; 21: Achievement Motivation; 22: Learning Engagement; 26–31: the Positive-Values assets; 32–36: the Social-Competencies assets; 39: Sense of Purpose; and 40: Positive View of Personal Future.

Make it easy for children in the intermediate grades (4th to 6th) to get their hands on books that reflect their abilities and interests. Don't banish the picture books—they are old friends that remind young readers of their progress and prowess and provide food for thought in one satisfying sitting. If you want to raise a lifelong reader, encourage reading that is fun and satisfying. Here are some tips for helping children in the intermediate grades get the most out of reading:

-  **Turn off the TV.** Establishing a TV-free time of day or limiting TV watching will pay great dividends, since TV is the biggest distraction from active engagement with books *and* life. Limit other “screen time” (e.g., video and computer games) as well.
-  **Make books and reading a family priority.**
-  **Read aloud together as a family.** More and more activities will compete for time and attention as youth get older. Remember that reading together provides access to more difficult books, prompts discussions, and adds to closeness.
-  **Encourage teachers to read aloud to students every day.** Also advocate for regular silent reading times. Ask for summer reading lists. Encourage your child's school to stock classrooms with recreational reading material.
-  **Spend time at a library just hanging out.** Watch what kinds of books your child gravitates toward.
-  **Model the importance of reading for pleasure** by subscribing to magazines and newspapers or regularly checking out books from a library.
-  **Honor your child's preferences and also introduce new books,** such as series books, mysteries, humorous stories, fantasies, nonfiction, stories with happy endings, poetry, and books that help young people puzzle over everyday and real-world issues.