


Brain POP

Summer School Toolkit



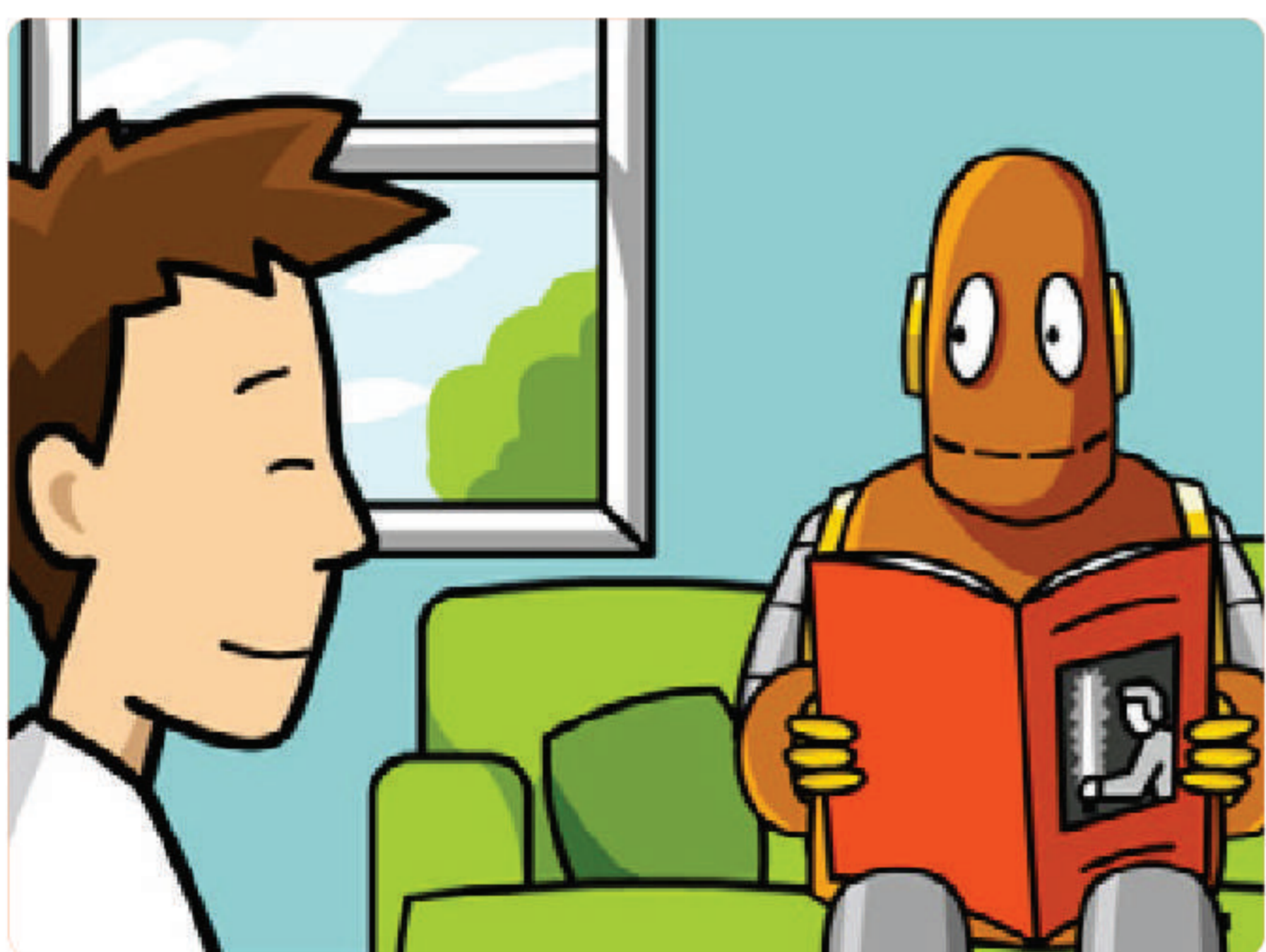
Adventures in reading



WATCH AND LEARN

Choosing a “just right” book that you can’t put down can be tricky to learn. To help your child find great books to read this summer, explore the [Authors](#) unit on BrainPOP Jr. and BrainPOP’s [Famous Authors](#) and Books collection. The short animated movies give a peek inside the life of the author and their work.

Does your child have a favorite book? Look to see if the author is in our collection. If your little one loves *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, for example, then be sure to watch the [Jon Scieszka](#) movie. If *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* tops your child’s list, then check out the [Roald Dahl](#) movie.



READ! READ! READ!

After learning about an author (or book), take a trip to the library. If your library is sponsoring a summer reading contest, encourage your child to enter. Then get reading! The long, lazy days of summer offer the perfect opportunity, whether sitting in the shade of a giant tree, lying on the beach, or hanging out at the air-conditioned library.

READING ALOUD DOESN'T HAVE AN AGE LIMIT

Reading aloud is a great way to spend quality time with your child. No matter their age, children are never too old to be read to. Reading aloud is a chance for you to model fluent reading and expand your child’s vocabulary by pausing to discuss words and storylines. In fact, studies find that reading aloud is one of the greatest predictors of reading success--even with older kids! On top of all that listening to a story read aloud is just plain fun!



PRODUCE A BOOK TRAILER

Everyone has their favorite genre. What's yours? Watch BrainPOP's [Literary Genres](#) movie as a family. Then have each person read a book of a different genre. After reading, family members each use [Make-a-Movie](#) to produce a book trailer... like a movie trailer! Begin with a letter that asks about the book. Then build the trailer scene by scene, adding backgrounds, images, animations, text, transitions, and record narration and other sounds to bring the trailer to life. Will your trailer convince everyone in the family to read the book?

BOOK GROUP

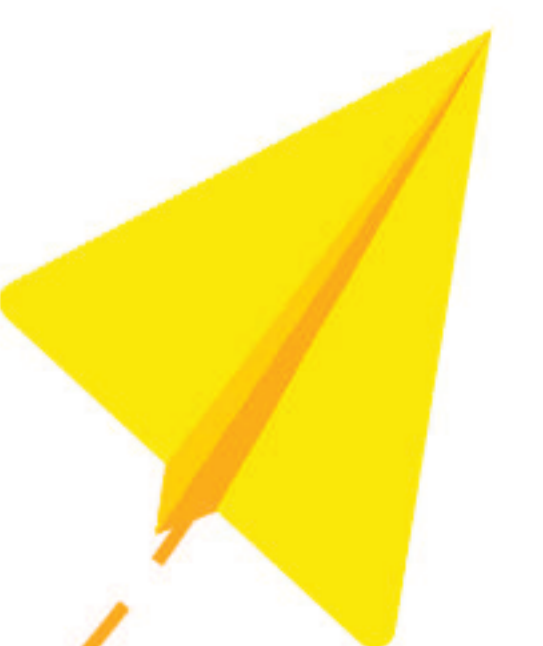
Create a book group with friends that includes grown ups and kids. At the start of the summer, get together to brainstorm a few books to read over the next couple months. Set a realistic goal, such as one or two books a week. For younger children, you might want to do this as a read aloud with a different adult reading the book to the group each week. Choosing a variety of genres—mystery, biography, adventure, sci-fi, etc. It's a great way to get a taste of a genre you've never read before. For snacks, serve something associated with the book in some way. For example, if you read *James and the Giant Peach*, serve peach pie! Or, green eggs and ham for Dr. Seuss's famous story.



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! (AND WRITE ABOUT IT!)

Books are just one way to get in summer reading. Don't forget about newspapers and magazines. Keeping up with current events is important and allows your child to practice important reading skills and discover new vocabulary. Explore the [Reading Nonfiction](#) topic on BrainPOP Jr. and BrainPOP's [Reading a Newspaper](#) movie. Try reading one to two news stories each day with your child and discuss what they're about.

Feeling inspired? Encourage your child and their friends to produce a neighborhood newspaper featuring reviews of local summer events, interviews with community members, crossword puzzles, news stories, ice cream shop reviews, and more. For help with interviewing, have them watch the movie [Conduct an Interview](#).





WORLD TRAVELER

Going away this summer? Whether you are traveling out of town or simply going to the beach, have your child become an expert on your destination. Borrow books from the library about your vacation spot and pick up brochures from a local travel agency. Invite your child to 'read up' on what there is to see and do where you are going. When you arrive, your child can be the tour guide.

Not going away? No problem! Your child can become an expert on a place they hope to visit one day!

GAME ON!

Designate a family game night each week during the summer. If you've got a reluctant reader, games are a fun way to get your child to read more. From game cards to instructions, reading is key to playing. Wordplay games like Boggle and Scrabble are good choices for literally getting kids to play with their words!



CALLING ALL FOODIES

From recipes to menus, reading is central to the culinary world. Designate one night per week this summer when your child is responsible for deciding the menu for a meal. You can help with the shopping and cooking, but finding and reading the recipe can be your child's job.

LITERACY VOLUNTEER

Communities around the country have opportunities for volunteer readers. This usually involves reading to children in waiting rooms, hospitals, homeless shelters, and more. Being a reading volunteer is a double bonus—your child practices their own reading while bringing the magic of books to someone else.



ACT UP!

Have your child get together with some neighborhood kids to produce and perform a play this summer. They can re-enact a favorite book, make up an original story, or anything else they dream up. From researching ideas and writing the script to reading lines and putting on the show, plays are chock full of literacy skills that help prevent summer slide. For inspiration, have them watch BrainPOP's [Drama](#) movie.

Every BrainPOP Jr. topic offers a feature called Word Play in which kids choose a word to draw, write, and create a skit about!