Track your reading, play fun educational mini-games, and find missions full of activities. Discover HCLS eResources along the way. Earn points and unlock badges!

Earn ten points to receive a free book! Earn points by either logging your books online or in a paper reading log, and then visit any HCLS branch between August 2 – 31 to pick up your book. Limit one book per reader, while supplies last.

Imagine Your Own 20-minute Reading Activity by reading any way you like: Read or listen to an eBook; a book you can hold in your hand; a chapter; a comic or graphic novel; or read a poem.

Accomplish 3 Mission activities or reading activities to complete a Mission.

Missions may be completed in any order.

Activities may be adjusted as appropriate for each child. Or create your own activity.

When you reach a total of 10 points, you have officially completed Summer Reading and may visit any HCLS Branch to pick up your book prize. (While supplies last; limit 1 book per reader).

What happens after you earn 10 points? Keep on reading! Continue reading, logging books, and completing mission activities.

Summer Reading begins on June 1, with a new Mission beginning every Monday through August 23.

Earn 1 point for each Mission activity you complete or book/reading activity you log.

Substitute reading for any activity.
Track your progress either online in hcls.readsquared.com or here. Missions and activities may be completed in any order. Reading may be substituted for any activity.

**June 1: mission 1**

- **Ages 0-10: Read an Animal Book**
  Read an animal book, either fiction or nonfiction. Share the book with a favorite animal friend, such as a cuddly stuffed animal or a family pet.

- **Ages 0-4: Count the Animals**
  Count the number of animals you can find on packaging, clothing, or other things in your house. Be sure to include any pets you may have!

- **Ages 5-10: Animal Charades**
  Without making any sounds, act out the behavior of a specific animal and have others guess which animal you are imitating.

**June 7: mission 2**

- **Ages 0-10: Nature in My Neighborhood**
  Take a walk around your neighborhood. Identify the different birds and animals that you see. Create a poster of "Nature in My Neighborhood."

- **Ages 0-4: Food Colors and Shapes**
  Explore the colors and shapes of your food. Check out the round green peas, the triangle of red watermelon, and other colors and shapes. Food can be fun!

- **Ages 5-10: Summer Memories**
  Keep a journal or create a poster or collage of your summer activities. Add to it as often as you'd like.

**June 14: mission 3**

- **Ages 0-10: Animal Stories**
  Make up a story about a favorite animal. Draw pictures to go with your story. Share with a friend or family member.

- **Ages 0-4: How Does It Feel?**
  Use your senses to explore how things feel. Pet an animal, compare different textures you find in nature, find out what hot and cold feel like, and more.

- **Ages 5-10: Animals in Maryland**
  Make a list of animals that live in Maryland. Visit the Department of Natural Resources at dnr.maryland.gov to learn more.

**June 21: mission 4**

- **Ages 0-10: Learn About Local Seasonal Produce**
  Visit a local Farmers' Market or grocery store for seasonal produce that you've never tried before. Prepare a recipe with the produce.

- **Ages 0-4: Music Fun**
  Put on some music and find the rhythm. Practice clapping to the beat. You can stream music for free. Go to hclibrary.org, then HCLS Now! Stream.

- **Ages 5-10: Be an Armchair Traveler**
  Travel without leaving home. Explore National Geographic Kids, PebbleGo, TrueFlix, and other online resources. Go to hclibrary.org, then choose the HCLS Now! tab and under Learn, click eContent for Kids.

hclibrary.org/summer
June 28: mission 5

- Ages 0-10: Outdoor Read-a-Thon
  Create a summer escape outside on a nice day, perfect for a reading marathon. Place a comfy chair or blanket in the shade, enjoy a summery drink or snack, and see how many books you can finish!

- Ages 0-4: Fill in the Words
  When you sing your child’s favorite songs, leave out some words for them to fill in. For example, Five little monkeys jumping on the bed. One fell off and (bumped his head). Mama called the doctor and the doctor said, “(No more monkeys jumping on the bed).”

- Ages 5-10: Animal Insides and Outsides
  Be a zoologist! Study your pet or favorite animal. What species are they? Do they have fur, scales, or feathers? Do they have many bones on the inside or just a few? How do they move? What else can you learn?

July 5: mission 6

- Ages 0-10: Obstacle Course
  Build an obstacle course in the backyard or living room, or draw a fun path with chalk on the sidewalk. Include things to go over, under, around, or through.

- Ages 0-4: Scoop and Pour
  Use containers of different sizes and shapes to scoop and pour water. Describe what is happening with words like “in,” “out,” “full,” and “empty.”

- Ages 5-10: Chef’s Featured Dish
  Help your child to wash and cut some colorful fruits and/or veggies. Arrange the pieces in patterns or designs on a dish. Feature the dish as a special course at a meal.

July 12: mission 7

- Ages 0-10: Paper Bag Creations
  July 12 is Paper Bag Day! Decorate a recycled bag with crayons, markers, paint, or any other art materials to look like your favorite animal, robot, or food.

- Ages 0-4: DIY Ice Chalk
  Crumble different colors of chalk into ice cube trays. Fill each cube with water, mix well, and freeze. Paint with the ice chalk and swirl the colors together as the ice melts.

July 19: mission 8

- Ages 0-10: Outdoor Shadow Draw
  Make stick puppets. Take several toys outside on a sunny day. Trace the outlines of their shadows onto paper. Color, cut them out, and add a popsicle stick to the back

- Ages 0-4: Scoop and Pour
  Use containers of different sizes and shapes to scoop and pour water. Describe what is happening with words like “in,” “out,” “full,” and “empty.”

- Ages 5-10: Animal Insides and Outsides
  Be a zoologist! Study your pet or favorite animal. What species are they? Do they have fur, scales, or feathers? Do they have many bones on the inside or just a few? How do they move? What else can you learn?

July 26: mission 9

- Ages 0-10: A New Way to Communicate
  Learn a language! Borrow materials from the ASL and Braille collections or explore Little Pim, Muzzy Online, and more language eResources. Go to hclibrary.org, then choose the HCLS Now! tab and Learn.

- Ages 0-4: I Spy Outside
  Take a walk outside and play I Spy. Take turns giving a clue about something you can see, such as its color or shape, and see if the other person can guess what it is.

- Ages 5-10: When You Wish upon a Star
  Go outside on a clear night and see if you can identify constellations. See your favorite star? Make a wish!
August 2: mission 10

- **Ages 0-10: A Bang and a Clang**
  Have a musical concert at home. Bang on different size pots and pans with a wooden spoon. Talk about the variety of sounds they make. Find other items you can use to make music.

- **Ages 0-4: Blanket Fort Play**
  Make a fort with blankets and play in it together. Use your creation as a cozy reading nook.

- **Ages 5-10: Dance, Dance, Dance!**
  Find a partner, play some music, and dance! You can stream music for free with Freegal. Go to hclibrary.org, then choose the HCLS Now! tab and Stream.

August 9: mission 11

- **Ages 0-10: Clouds**
  Go outside, lie on the ground, and look up at the clouds. What shapes do you see? Create adventures for the cloud shapes.

- **Ages 0-4: Pretend Horse Play**
  Use a broom or stick as a pretend horse. Ride your horse around in your home or outside, too.

- **Ages 5-10: Animal Homes**
  Find out where different animals live and what their homes look like. Explore BookFLIX, National Geographic Kids, PebbleGo, and more. Go to hclibrary.org, then choose the HCLS Now! tab, and under Learn click on eContent for Kids.

August 16: mission 12

- **Ages 0-10: Blow Bubbles**
  Make bubble solution by combining 3 cups water, 1 cup liquid dish soap, and 1Tb. sugar. Don't have a bubble wand? Make one with a pipe cleaner! Blow bubbles outside. Look for colors and shapes in the bubbles that float by.

- **Ages 0-4: Bugs Galore**
  Go outside to look for different kinds of bugs. Count how many you find.

- **Ages 5-10: Book Critic**
  Create a book review. Think about a book you’ve read. What happened in the story? What parts did you like or not like? Tell your book review to someone at home, or, film a book review or trailer to share with friends or family members.

August 23: mission 13

- **Ages 0-10: Nature’s Music**
  Talk about the sounds that different animals and insects make. Listen for nature's music during the day and at night. Do you hear sounds that are the same? Different? Try to identify what is making each sound.

- **Ages 0-4: Go on a Bear Hunt**
  Create and play “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt.” Hide a stuffed bear inside or outside. Define a course (carpet=grass, tile=river, wood=mud, ceiling fan=snowstorm). Chant, “We’re going on a bear hunt. We’re going to catch a big one. We’re not scared!” At each new obstacle, chant, “We can’t go over it. We can’t go under it. We’ve got to go through it!”

- **Ages 5-10: Power of Poetry**
  Write a poem about your summer and all the memories you made.

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