



the **GERMAN AMERICAN**  
**SCHOOL** of **PORTLAND**

## **GSP**

the German American School of Portland  
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Dear Parents,

It's time again for GSP's exciting summer reading program! Research has shown that kids lose a bit of their reading and writing skills each summer unless they actively practice them. What most people don't know is that your child can fall back *half a grade level or more* when s/he simply stops reading over the summer! To combat this backward slide, we'd like to invite your child to participate in our summer reading challenge.

It's easy: all your child has to do is read and write! Do it in German, do it in English, do it independently, do it with an adult, do it with a sibling or friend or with a family pet, do it with a stuffed animal, read books, read magazines, read comics, read billboards, read advertisements, read the newspaper—it doesn't matter with whom or what, as long as our students read, read, read (and write)!

We'd like your child to complete two book projects this summer on a book of his/her choice: one in English, and one in German. The projects suggested are different from grade to grade (see attached paper for further explanation). Whoever would like to read more books and/or to do more than one fun project in each language is very welcome to do so!

If students work hard and bring their book project to school when they return in fall, they're in for a terrific treat:

### **THEY ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL ICE CREAM PARTY**

served by Blake Peters and Heike Schütz-Malinowski on Friday, September 10 at 12:25 pm.

**In review:** Each child needs to . . .

1. hand in two book projects, one in English and one in German
2. return the book and projects on the first day of school.
3. A list of suggestions on how to do the projects in each grade is attached. You can also find the list on our homepage.

I hope we can motivate all of our students to participate in this challenge and wish all of you a terrific summer with lots of fun.

Yours truly,

Heike Schütz-Malinowski and the Grade School Staff

# Summer reading Projects

## Grade 1

- ***In German*** the kids should read at least one book. The "writing" project should be a mobile, made out of an old clothes hanger, with at least four parts that pertain to the story, e. g. the main characters, special events, scenery etc. Those moving parts could be a picture or a text or a combination of the two.
- **In English** read at least one book. Choose a project from the list below to do, or make up your own creative project. Also, consider participating in one of the summer reading programs offered by your library or local bookstore (Barnes & Noble or Borders)—you might earn a free new book or other cool prizes!

## Grade 2

- ***In German***, second graders should read at least one German book and make one Leporello. A Leporello is a long piece of paper folded zigzag-style or like a staircase. There should be at least ten sections. The first one needs to contain the title of the book, author and illustrator, and the last one a short critique why the reader liked the book or why not. The other panels are for alternating sentences and pictures. Start with a picture on the second panel then write matching sentences on the third panel, followed by another picture, sentences and so on. The size and thickness of the paper is up to your child, but it would be nice if the Leporello could stand on its own.
- **In English** read at least one book. Choose a project from the list below to do, or make up your own creative project. Also, consider participating in one of the summer reading programs offered by your library or local bookstore (Barnes & Noble or Borders)—you might earn a free new book or other cool prizes!

## Grade 3

- ***In German*** read at least one book and write a book report according to the paper that Frau Melles or Frau Jirka has handed out to you in school. It is also attached to this letter.
- **In English** read at least two books. Choose one of those books to do a project on. You may choose from the list below, or make up your own creative project. Also, consider participating in one of the summer reading programs offered by your library or local bookstore (Barnes & Noble or Borders)—you might earn a free new book or other cool prizes!

## Grade 4

- ***In German*** the children should read at least one book (but probably a lot more!) They should summarize the content, write a paragraph about one of the figures and draw a picture of this figure. They should write down why they liked the book and to whom they would recommend it. Optionally they can also design a book cover or a diorama for the book.
- **In English** read at least two books. Choose one of those books to do a project on. You may choose from the list below, or make up your own creative project. Also, consider participating in one of the summer reading programs offered by your library or local bookstore (Barnes & Noble or Borders)—you might earn a free new book or other cool prizes!

## Grade 5

- ***In German*** the children should read at least two books. (But probably a lot more). They should choose one book they would like to recommend, write a short report on this book and email it to everyone in the class. (Including Frau Boland). The report should include: author, title, short introduction into the plot (not a complete summary, don't give away the ending), reasons why this is a good book, and a creative project. e.g. a letter written by one of the characters, a poem about something in the book, a postcard written from one of the locations in the book etc. ...be creative and have fun!
- **In English** write a story using one of the three “modes” that we did not have a chance to use in class (Expository, Narrative, Persuasive)! See the Oregon State website of scored writing samples for ideas, guidance and motivation <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id+524> Please e-mail your finished masterpiece to everyone in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, teacher included! If you do a project to go with it (see below) please take pictures to e-mail as well. I can't wait! Also, share your summary and rating on any English book(s) you'd like to share with everyone.

## ***English Book Project Suggestions***

1. Make up a board game about your book. Don't forget to write down the directions!
2. Retell your book in the form of a comic book. Make sure to include all important parts of the plot! If your book is really long, you might consider doing this with just one or two of the chapters.
3. Not happy with the way your book ended? Make up a new, more creative ending for the book you just read. Make sure that it is a satisfying ending, and that all problems are solved!
4. Make a new dust jacket for your book. On the cover, be sure to include a picture of something from the story (in color), the author (and illustrator, if there is one), and the title of your book. On the back cover, be sure to include a short summary of the book to help other people decide if they should read your book. On the inside flaps, write a short summary about the author of your book.
5. Make a diorama of one of your favorite parts of your book. An old shoe box works well for this project. Then write a short summary of what is going on in your diorama.
6. Write a letter to the author of your book. Be sure to tell him or her what you loved (or hated) about the book, about your favorite part(s), and ask him or her a question or two! If your author is still alive, send it to him or her! Just be sure to keep a copy of it to turn in on the first day of school. 😊
7. Make an ABC book about your book. Each page should be one letter of the alphabet, and it should have something to do with your book. These could include factual information, characters, events, objects, and so on. Be sure to include the word, an illustration, and a short description for each letter.
8. Pretend you are the main character in your book. Write a diary from his or her point of view. Include at least six entries. Remember that thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary!
9. Rewrite your story from a different character's point of view. Think about which things would stay the same? Which things might change, depending on how your character saw things?
10. Make a newspaper about your book. Include articles that tell about events that happened in your book, as well as things like comics, ads, opinions, the weather, and so on. Don't forget to add a picture or two to make it more interesting!
11. Make a PowerPoint presentation about your book. You can create a presentation that has at least 8 slides. You must include a slide on each story element (characters, setting, plot, problem, and solution). Also, you can include other information that you think would be important (a storyline twist, point of view, themes discussed, etc.). Make sure that you include appropriate graphics and transitions. Be creative!

12. Create a song that could be used as the soundtrack for your book if it were made into a movie. Be sure to write down the words to your song. You may record it at home, or sing it to us live, in person. 😊
13. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
14. Interview a character from your book. Write at least ten questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story.
15. Write a script for the Hollywood movie version of your book. Include all of the important parts of the story. Which actors would you love to have playing each of the parts?
16. Design costumes for dolls and dress them as characters from the book. Explain who these characters are and how they fit in the story.
17. Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What things will you need to pack? Think carefully, for you will be there for a week, and there is no going back home to get something!
18. Make up your own project! Be sure it shows that you've really understood your book, and that it involves a little writing as well. Be creative and have fun!

Meine Buchkritik - Mein Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Titel des Buches:

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Autor des Buches:

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Wer war deine Lieblingsfigur ? Begründe warum.

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Glaubst du, deine Freundinnen und Freunde würden dieses Buch auch gerne lesen? Wer?

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Welche Stelle hat dir am besten gefallen?

Schreibe 10 Zeilen aus dem Buch ab.

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Wie viele Smileys gibst du dem Buch? Male entsprechend viele aus.

