Assemblyman James N. Tedisco's

Summer Reading Challenge

"I pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day on at least 40 days during the months of July and August. I will mark the calendar below with a check mark (✔) each day that I read by myself or with my reading buddy."

When you have marked at least 40 days on this calendar, you have earned an Excellence in Reading Certificate. Just send in the marked-off calendar and the completed form to my office and your certificate will arrive for you in the mail.

July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Special thanks goes to the NYS Education Department's Division of Library Development, the Albany Public Library and librarians across the state for their help.

Updated 4/12

Assemblyman
James N. Tedisco

Dear Friend,

Summer's arriving. What a perfect time to read and learn about the world right here in New York. Studies show that children who continue to read during the summer perform better in school in the fall.

To encourage our children to become excited about reading, I am holding the Summer Reading Challenge, in coordination with the New York State Library's initiative, Summer Reading at New York Libraries. "Explore New York," is New York Libraries' theme, saying to children "Dream Big READ," and urging tweens to "Own the Night" and see what the world offers. We've included some guideposts. You can also check your local library for more options.

Here's how the challenge works: Mark the enclosed calendar for each day in July and August that your child reads with you, someone else or alone. When you've marked off 40 or more days, your child has earned a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate. Fill out the back of this brochure and return it, along with the calendar, to me. I'll ensure that your child receives a certificate.

Thank you and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Member of Assembly
Assemblyman James N. Tedisco

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Schenectady, NY 12305
518-370-2812

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Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5772
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New York State Assembly
Excellence in Reading Certificate

Information form

Child's name ⬆

School ⬆

Parent/Guardian name ⬆

Address 1 ⬆

Address 2 ⬆

Phone ⬆ Email ⬆

Number of days completed ⬆

Favorite book read this summer ⬆

Number of years participated in the Summer Reading Challenge ⬆

To receive your certificate, please complete the above form and send it with the attached calendar to:

Assemblyman James N. Tedisco

12 Jay Street, Suite 1
Schenectady, NY 12305

Room 404, LOB
Albany, NY 12248

New York State Assembly's

Summer Reading Challenge

Dream Big READ!

Sponsored by
Assemblyman James N. Tedisco

in cooperation with

Summer Reading AT NEW YORK LIBRARIES

www.summerreadingnys.org

The Summer Reading Challenge

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home."
—Anna Quindlen, "How Reading Changed My Life."

Suggested Reading List

For more titles: www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/explore.htm

Poetry

Blues Journey - by Walter Dean Myers. Illustrated by Christopher Myers. Ages 9-14.

Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems) - by Linda Sue Park. Illustrated by Istvan Banyai. Ages 5-8.

A Child's Calendar - by John Updike. Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. Ages 5-11.

Picture Books

Chrysanthemum - by Kevin Henkes, author/illustrator. On the first day of school, Chrysanthemum is made fun of because of her name. Ages 4-8.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! (Pigeon#1) - by Mo Willems, author/illustrator. A pigeon drives a bus to school, much to the dismay of the students. Ages 4-8.

Flotsam - by David Wiesner, author/illustrator. A boy at the beach finds an underwater camera, which opens new worlds to him.

Early Readers

Madlenka - by Peter Sis, author/illustrator. Madlenka lives in New York City and a trip around her block is like a trip around the world.

Uptown - by Bryan Collier, author/illustrator. Discover the vibrant world of NYC's Harlem as seen through the eyes of one little boy.

Good-bye, Havana! Hola, New York! - by Edie Colon. Illustrated by Raul Colon. For young Gabriella, newly arrived from Havana after fleeing Cuba's communist revolution, life just isn't the same in New York – not her surroundings, and certainly not the food.

The Lonely Phone Booth - by Peter Ackerman. Illustrated by Max Dalton. This is the story of one of the last remaining phone booths in New York City.

Elementary Readers

Exploring Our World

Ookpik: The Travels of a Snowy Owl - by Bruce Hiscock. The book depicts the first year in the life of a snowy owl from Baffin Island in Canada to the Adirondacks in New York State.

Jacques Cartier: Exploring the St. Lawrence River - by Jennifer Lackey. This book describes the explorer's life; provides a look at the political climate that made Cartier venture out into the unknown.

Fantasy and Mystery

The Runaway Racehorse - by Ron Roy. Dick, Josh and Ruth Rose investigate the disappearance of a valuable racehorse.

The Mystery in New York City - by Carole Marsh. Christina, Grant, Benjamin and Katherine become gridlocked in a mystery in New York City.

Friendship

Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel - by Nikki Grimes. Spunky third-grader Dyamonde Daniel misses her old neighborhood in Brooklyn, but when she befriends a fellow student, she starts to feel at home.

The Year of the Dog - by Grace Lin. A young Taiwanese-American girl, living in New Hartford, New York, applies the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

Humor

2095 - by Jon Sciezka. While on a field trip to New York's Museum of Natural History, Joe, Sam and Fred travel 100 years into the future.

History

The New Americans: Colonial Times, 1620-1689 - by Betsy Maestro. A look at what the colonies were doing.

The Brooklyn Bridge: The story of the world's most famous bridge and the remarkable family that built it - by Elizabeth Mann. The title says it all.

Sports

Keeping Score - by Linda Sue Park. In Brooklyn in 1951, a special friendship is created when a die-hard Giants fan teaches 9-year-old Maggie, a "Bums" (Dodgers) fan, how to keep score.

Dad, Jackie, and Me - by Myron Uhlberg. In Brooklyn in 1947, a boy learns about discrimination, tolerance and Jackie Robinson.

Middle-School Readers/Tweens

Exploring Our World

Chains - by Laurie Halse Anderson. Slaves, sisters Isabel and Ruth, strive for their personal freedom and the freedom of New York and their country.

Waiting for Normal - by Leslie Connor. Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior while living in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Fantasy and Mystery

The Garden of Eve - by K.L. Going. Is Beaumont, New York, the town Evie and her widowed dad have moved to, haunted? That's the question.

The Emerald Atlas - by John Stephens. Kate, Michael and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the 10 years since their parents disappeared, but now in a new home in upstate New York, they learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book and a fearsome enemy.

Friendship

Eleven - by Patricia Reilly Giff. When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his 11th birthday, it makes him question his entire existence. Can a new school friend help him discover the truth about himself?

If You Come Softly - by Jacqueline Woodson. Two 15-year-olds, Jeremiah (Miah) who is black, and Elsha (Ellie) who is white, meet during their first year at an exclusive New York prep school, fall in love and face bigotry.

Okay for Now - by Gary D. Schmidt. A 14-year-old who just moved from Long Island to upstate New York, with no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an older brother, meets Lil and both find a safe haven in the local library and an adventure on a Broadway stage.

Humor

A Fate Totally Worse Than Death - by Paul Fleischman. In this horror novel parody, three self-centered members of Cliffside High School's ruling clique, who are beginning to age rapidly, become convinced that the beautiful new exchange student is the ghost of the girl whose death they caused the year before.

History

Sophisticated Ladies: The Great Women of Jazz - by Leslie Gourse. A collective biography of 14 singers beginning in the 1920s with Bessie Smith and Ethel Waters, to current performers Cassandra Wilson and Diana Krall. Includes references to jazz clubs in Harlem during the 1920s.

The Real Benedict Arnold - by Jim Murphy. A portrait of a brilliant man, consistently undervalued by his peers, who made a choice that continues to reverberate through American history.

Sports

Bird in a Box - by Andrea Davis Pinkney. In 1936, three children meet at the Mercy Home for Negro Orphans in Elmira, New York, and while not all three are orphans, they are all dealing with grief and loss while following the boxing career of Joe Louis.

Mack McGinn's Big Win - by Coleen Murtagh Paratore. Whether the prize is a soccer trophy or the esteem of Danville, New York's elite, the McGinn family believes in winning. While striving to prove he can be best at something, sixth-grader Mack inadvertently demonstrates to his parents and older brother what really matters most.