ISVI Great Summer Reading Challenge

Reading is so important in every person’s life that it is the main focus of every academic program in the history of academic programs. Think back to when you were a student and learned the “Three R’s – **Reading**, Writing, and Arithmetic”. Up until the third grade, typically developing students are learning to read. From third grade for the rest of their lives, they are using reading to learn. The students at ISVI face the unique challenges that their visual impairments pose to that ability to read to learn. If your student reads Braille or uses large print, studies have shown that it takes two to three times longer to read a passage than it does for a typically sighted student. With that said, all students, regardless of academic ability, struggle over the summer to maintain academic skills because they just aren’t engaged in it every day like they are during the school year. So, how do you help with that struggle? You read! You challenge your student to meet goals related to reading so they see reading as an enjoyable and desirable activity. You read to your student. You read with your student. You read every opportunity you can, whether it’s the ingredient list on the cereal box at breakfast or the greatest novels of the century (*Twilight*, right?). You listen to audiobooks while you’re traveling. You just read.

As the Media Specialist at ISVI, I have made it my challenge to get every student reading as much as they can over the summer and throughout the school year. Included with this note are some ways that you and your student can help me meet my goal and have some fun reading!

Every student who shows they have engaged in reading (whether it is in print, Braille, or audio) will get a prize when we get back together in the fall. The students can show they engaged in reading in many ways between now and August 15.

1. Fill out the Summer Reading Journal Google Form every time they engage in reading (<https://forms.gle/1aLfxX6dQ6FGXk1FA>)
2. Fill in the Summer Reading BINGO below and return it to me
3. Use Learning Ally (Mrs. Roy has ways to see the usage data for this book resource)

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| Summer Reading Bingo! |
| Read to someone younger than you | Read while eating ice cream | Read at lunch time  | Read at night under the stars | Read while eating something off the grill |
| Read while eating popcorn | Clap your hands 3 times after reading  | Read under a table | Read in your bed | Read while riding in a car |
| Read on a swing | Read outside | Free Space GET CREATIVE | Read with someone on a video chat or Zoom call | Read to someone older than you |
| Read with someone in person | Read a book that is now a movie | Jump up and down 10 times after you read | Read in a comfy chair | Read next to the water (pool, lake, beach, bathtub) |
| Read at a store | Read in the morning | Read while wearing a swimming suit | Touch your toes before you start reading | Read with a nice drink in hand |

**BOOK RESOURCES**

**Learning Ally** [www.learningally.org](http://www.learningally.org)

This book resource provides high quality audio and sometimes adjustable font to more than 80,000 human read audiobooks for school and leisure. This is the primary source for audio **textbooks**.

It can be accessed three ways for free:

1. iOS device app – **Learning Ally Audiobooks**
2. Android app – **Learning Ally** **Audiobooks**
3. Computer – [**https://read.learningally.org/**](https://read.learningally.org/)

Books are read using human speech and some books have adjustable print text to follow along with. The audio playback rate can be adjusted to student preference. The print spacing, margins, and colors can also be adjusted to student preference. Students can add and access books from the app or website. Accounts are free while in school. Once the student exits school, accounts are $135 per year. Every year ISVI participates in the Learning Ally Great Reading Games where students read using Learning Ally and have the opportunity to win prizes based on their reading.

**Bookshare** [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

This book resource provides high quality audio, highlighted text, and braille access to over a million books, including some **textbooks**.

It can be accessed in a variety of ways for free:

1. iOS and Android – **Bookshare Reader** app
2. iOS and Android – **Dolphin Easy Reader** app
3. Computer – [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)
4. Smart speaker -**Alexa**
5. Download to devices such as Kindle, Victor Reader Steam, or Word Document

Books are read using text-to-speech or human readers and when using one of the Bookshare approved apps or the computer, print text is highlighted for easy following along. Students with school accounts only have access to books after a teacher has assigned to book to the student. Once it has been assigned, the student can download the book in their preferred medium to their preferred device (such as on a mobile device, embossed into braille, audio on a Victor Reader Stream, ePub on a Kindle). If students have individual/personal accounts, they can assign and download books without a teacher assigning it to them first, but they are responsible for their username and passwords. School accounts are free. Once the student exits school, accounts are $79.99 per year.

**NLS *National Library Service***

 [***https://www.loc.gov/nls/***](https://www.loc.gov/nls/)Illinois NLS - 800-426-0709

This book resource is a free braille and talking book library service. NLS has more than 328,000 books and magazines for loan in braille or audio formats.

Students can request hard-copy braille books, hard-copy braille magazines, Digital Talking Book Player, or audiobook cartridges be sent to their home for free. These items must be returned to NLS, much like standard library books. When ready to return an item, simply flip over the address card provided with the item, drop it in any mailbox. It will be sent back via Free Matter for the Blind. NLS accounts are personal and free for life. Because it is a personal account, the school does not know the students’ username or password, the student is solely responsible for it.

NLS also has the Braille on Demand program where a student can get 1 free hard-copy Braille book per month sent to them to keep forever!<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand>

**BARD Braille and Audio Reading Download**

<https://nlsbard.loc.gov/> Illinois NLS - 800-426-0709

Student must have an NLS account to get a BARD account. This book resource is a free online service that gives audio access to more than 157,000 audiobooks, magazines, and newspapers. They **do not have** **textbooks**.

It can be accessed in a variety of ways for free:

* 1. iOS Device app – **BARD Mobile**
	2. Android app – **BARD Mobile**
	3. Kindle Fireapp **– BARD Mobile**
	4. Computer – **BARD Express**

Books are read using human speech. The audio playback tone and speed can be adjusted to student preference. If a student downloads the braille file, it can be embossed or read with a refreshable braille display. NLS accounts are personal and free for life. Because it is a personal account, the school does not know the students’ username or password, the student is solely responsible for it.

NLS also has a FREE refreshable braille display that the students can get, they just have to call and ask for it!

**Seedlings** [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy and education by providing high quality, free and low-cost braille books. Through the Book Angel Program (BAP) children receive 5 free braille books a year!

<http://www.seedlings.org/order.php>