

English 1 Summer Reading Creating your Summer Reading List

Now that the school year is almost over, it's time to think about your summer plans! Let's take the incredible work you've done in English 1 and ensure that you don't lose momentum over the summer. Reading can keep your literacy skills sharp, expand your mind and world view, and build the habit of being a lifelong reader.

By the end of this series of lessons, you will create a list of different books that you can read over the summer and develop a reading plan.



At the end of this lesson, you'll be answering this central question:

What books would you like to read this summer? What do you hope to learn by reading these different books?



Warm-Up Activity: Describe a time where you were asked to find something to read. How did you choose a book?



Independent reading is an activity that helps both proficient readers and students who find reading challenging. By finding many books you are excited to read, you can increase your volume (amount) of reading, which will help you gain reading skills, vocabulary, fluency, and background knowledge.

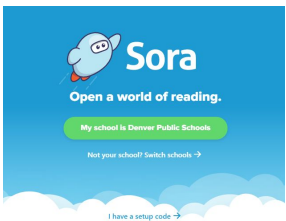
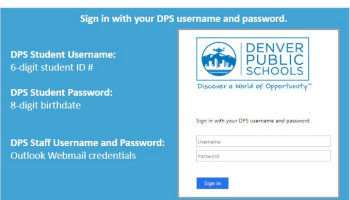
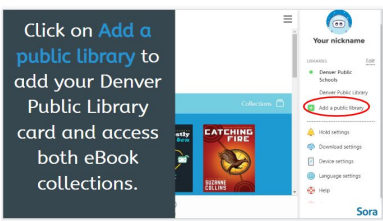
There are an amazing amount of resources available to gain access to books. Today, you'll be exploring resources available through Sora, which provides access to more than 30,000 titles! You can also access books from the public library as well!

Getting Started with Sora

If you have not yet accessed Sora, follow the directions here with these Getting Started Guides ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)). You can also watch video tutorials here: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

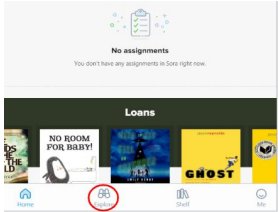
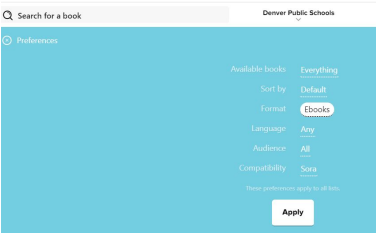
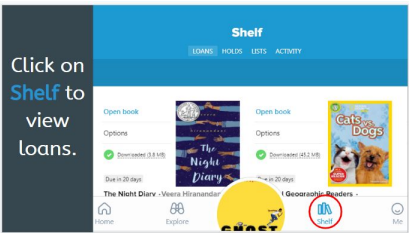
Exploring Sora

Now, you're going to explore different aspects of Sora to help find a variety of books to read this summer. Follow the directions below:

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
 <p>Go to soraapp.com. Find Denver Public Schools (or use setup code <code>dpsk12</code>).</p>	 <p>Sign into Sora with your DPS Username (6-digit Student ID#) and Password (8-digit birthdate).</p>	 <p>To access even more books, add your Denver Public Library card and check out their books in Sora!</p>

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NAVIGATION TOOLS - SEARCH	NAVIGATION TOOLS - SEARCH	NAVIGATION TOOLS - LOANS
 <p>In the menu bar on the bottom of the page, Click on “Explore” to browse titles.</p>	 <p>In “Preferences, you can change your search settings, searching by availability, format (ebook or audiobook), language, audience).</p>	 <p>In the menu bar on the bottom of the page, Click on “Shelf” to see the books you’ve checked out.</p>

Popular Subjects

.425 Young Adult Fiction	3,208 Young Adult Literature	1,860 Fantasy	1,617 Romance
.189 Young Adult Nonfiction	904 Science Fiction	586 Comic and Graphic Books	558 Historical Fiction
464 Thriller	439 Suspense	427 Mystery	323 Horror
309 Biography & Autobiography	288 History	273 Humor (Fiction)	238 Sociology

[Explore all subjects →](#)

Subject	Title/Author	Notes
Historical Fiction	<i>The Phantom Twin</i> by Lisa Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic novel set in the early 1900s about Isabel and Jane, the Extraordinary Peabody sisters, conjoined twins in a traveling circus. • When Jane dies after a failed operation to separate them, she’s haunted by her twin sister.
Young Adult Fiction		
Young Adult Nonfiction		
Comic and Graphic		

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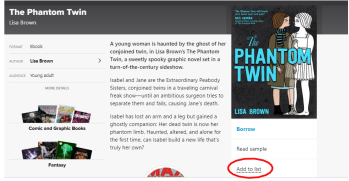
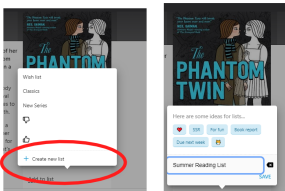
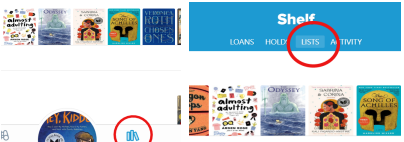
Books	
Fantasy	
(Choose another subject)	

Note: If you are still having trouble finding books you'd like to read, you can request a [personalized reading list](#) from a Denver Public Library staff member!

Building your Summer Reading List

In Sora, you can create lists to keep track of books you liked, didn't like, want to read next, Now, you're going to create an electronic list to keep track of the books you want to check out!

Today, we'll create a Summer Reading List. Follow the directions below.

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
 <p>When you see a book you'd like, you can add it to a list. Click "Add to List."</p>	 <p>The first time you'll do this, you'll need to "Create new list." Click on the + sign, and type in the name of your list (Summer Reading 2020).</p>	 <p>When you'd like to view your lists, go to your shelf, and click on "Lists" in the top middle of the screen.</p>



Create a Summer Reading List, and add the books you identified to that list.

When you have finished reading a book, you can rate the book (with a thumbs up or thumbs down) and [mark the book as done](#). Those books will then show up on the "Done" list. You are able to add books to multiple lists, for example: Phantom Twin could be in my Summer Reading List and my Graphic Novels list.

1. What other lists might you create to help organize your books?

Read the following quotes about reading and then answer the questions below:



"Books save lives. When we find ourselves in their pages, we are less alone. When we meet others, we experience their humanity. Reading stories from and about people across a range of experiences and

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histories prepares us to respect, share, and protect our diverse world” --Alex Gino, author of *George* and *You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*

“It’s important to have diverse books. Because there is someone out there who feels like they’re not being represented. Everyone should be able to say that they’re a hero in their story” -- Zoraida Cordova, author of *Labyrinth Lost*

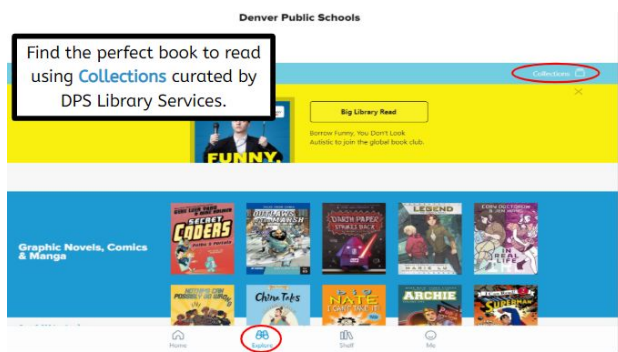
“It’s important to have diverse characters in books because books give kids mirrors and windows. Books create empathy. If we don’t have diversity, if we’re only showing things from one perspective, how are we creating empathy?” -- Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate U Give* and *On the Come Up*



1. In what ways have the books you’ve read been “from and about people across a range of experience and histories?”

2. To what extent have the books you’ve read presented someone like you as a “hero”?

3. Who do you wish to see represented in the books you read?



In thinking about the need for books that offer “windows” and “mirrors” and presenting works about diverse experiences by diverse authors, Library Services has created collections of texts that you can browse.

Browse through at least 4 of the collections listed and capture books that you are interested in reading. Add them to your Summer Reading List that you created.

Collection	Title/Author	Notes
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#1000Black GirlBooks		•
Asian Authors		
Black Boy Joy!		
Challenges we Face		
Indigenous Authors		
Latinx Authors		
LGBTQ+ Reads		
Newcomer Stories		
Voices of the Caribbean		
Voices of the Middle East		

There are other ways to find good book recommendations. Browse at least 2 of the collections below:

Collection	Title/Author	Notes
2019/2020 Award Winners		•
2020 Colorado Blue Spruce Award Nominees		

Check Us Out! DPS Favorites		
Reel Reads (Books that have been adapted to film)		
English I Supplemental Reads		

CENTRAL QUESTION



Now, think about all you've learned today. Using the information you've gathered above, answer the Central Question:

What books would you like to read this summer? What do you hope to learn by reading these different books?
