



Assemblywoman
Latoya Joyner

Dear Friend,

When school lets out for the summer, we can encourage our kids to continue learning by picking up a book or downloading an e-book on your tablet. Reading is fun! Books can immerse children in far-off worlds, new characters and thrilling narratives. To that end, I'm sponsoring a **Summer Reading Challenge**, in coordination with Highbridge Library, to inspire kids to read on a regular basis throughout the summer break.

This year's theme is **"Women's Empowerment."** Books can lead students to new summer adventures, to dream big, to discover new interests and they might even be inspired to build new bridges between cultures or to volunteer in a program to help improve the world around us. I've listed some book suggestions to get started, and you can head to your local library or go online for more.

Here's how the challenge works:
Simply read 15 minutes a day for 40 days during July and August, then mark off the days you read on a calendar. At the end, send us your marked-off calendar.

Thank you, and happy reading!

Assemblywoman
Latoya Joyner

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77th Assembly District's **Reading Challenge**

"I pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day for 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 will earn an Excellence in Reading certificate. Just send the marked-off calendar and the completed form to my office and your certificate will arrive in the mail.

July 2017

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 2017

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		

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:

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK
Bronx, NY 10451



77th Assembly District

Reading Challenge

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”

– Michelle Obama

Suggested Reading List

Poetry

A Celebration of the Seasons: Goodnight Songs by Margaret Wise Brown. This is a collection of the author’s poems illustrated by 12 award-winning artists. The book includes a CD in which the poems are set to music. Fiction. Grades pre-K-1.

A Poem for Peter by Andrea Davis Pinkney. This is a book of prose which tells the story of Ezra Jack Keats, children’s author and illustrator of *The Snowy Day*. Non-fiction. Grades 2-4.

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph by Roxane Orgill. The story behind a famous photograph of jazz musicians in 1950s Harlem is told in prose. Non-fiction. Grades 3-7.

Harlem Hellfighters by J. Patrick Lewis. This is a collection of free-verse poems which tell the story of a group of black American soldiers who fought in World War I and impressed the French with their courage and inspired Europeans with their music. Non-fiction. Grades 4-7.

Picture Books

Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building by Deborah Hopkinson. This book chronicles the construction of the Empire State Building through the eyes of a small boy from beginning until end. Non-fiction. Grades pre-K-4.

Rabbit’s Snow Dance by Joseph Bruchac. This is a Native American folktale about the importance of listening to your friends, the four seasons and patience. Fiction. Grades pre-K-K.

E is for Empire: A New York Alphabet by Ann Burg and Maureen Brookfield. This is an alphabet book that uses rhyme to introduce children to New York landscapes, culture, famous people and history. Non-fiction. Grades 1-3.

Train by Elisha Cooper. The sights, sounds and types of trains are presented in this poetic and colorful book. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Liberty by Allan Drummond. This is the story of a boy’s role in the unveiling and dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. Fiction. Grades pre-K-3.

Miracle on 133rd Street by Sonia Manzano. José and his family are homesick for Puerto Rico when holiday cheer is unexpectedly brought about by the community. Fiction. Grades pre-K-3.

Tuesday Takes Me There: The Healing Journey of a Veteran and his Service Dog by Luis Carlos Montalván. This book is a photo essay of a service dog and veteran. During their travels, they teach children how service dogs provide assistance for people with visible and invisible disabilities. Non-fiction. Grades pre-K-2.

The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem’s Greatest Bookstore by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. This is the story of the founding of the National Memorial African Bookstore in 1939 as told by the founder’s son. Famous customers of the store included Muhammad Ali and Malcom X. Non-fiction. Grades 1-4.

Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries for Children by Jan Pinborough. When it was considered unimportant for children to read, one woman pushed ahead and established a children’s room at the New York Public Library. Non-fiction. Grades 1-4.

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe. This book offers a biographical introduction to an artist who rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon. Non-fiction. Grades 1-5.

Early Readers

Drop it, Rocket! by Tad Hills. A dog named Rocket is ready to find new words for his word tree with his teacher, the little yellow bird. Fiction. Grades pre-K-1.

Big Egg by Molly Coxe. Hen discovers a huge egg in her nest one morning and visits all the farmyard animals to find out to whom it belongs. Fiction. Grades pre-K-1.

May I Please Have a Cookie? by Jennifer E. Morris. Alfie learns that tricks don’t get him a delicious cookie, but saying please will. Fiction. Grades K-1.

Elementary Books

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney. Barbara Cooney’s story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went. Grades K-1.

Mae Jemison by Jodie Shepard. Mae Jemison was a bright child who was always fascinated by science. The top student and gifted dancer ignored naysayers and worked hard to achieve her dream of becoming a doctor and an astronaut. She then went on to become the first African-American woman to travel to space. Grades K-1.

Women who broke the rules: Sonia Sotomayor by Kathleen Krull. Sonia Sotomayor’s path, from growing up in the projects to success in Ivy League universities to her rise in the legal profession is a true testament to the American dream. She broke the rules women were supposed to follow in her life and career, ultimately becoming the first Latino justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, and the third woman to serve the Court. Her determined spirit and achievements make her a role model and an inspiration. Grades 2-3

A Nearer Moon by Melani Crowder. In a small river village where the water is cursed, a girl’s bravery could mean the difference between life and death in this magical story of “perseverance and hope”. Grades 4-5.

Children of the Longhouse by Joseph Bruchac. This is an exciting story which also portrays Native American life during the 1400s where tribal boys’ conflicts can be settled by a lacrosse game. Fiction. Grades 3-6.

The Secret Subway by Shana Corey. This is the true story of New York City’s first subway. In the 1860s, Alfred Aly Beach built a fan-powered train that traveled underground, 40 years before the modern subway system was built. Non-fiction. Grades pre-K-3.

We Came to America by Faith Ringgold. America is a country rich in diversity. This book is a tribute to every American that came before us and reminds us that equality is a group endeavor. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Maya Angelou by Lisbeth Kaiser. This is a book in a series about outstanding women. It follows Maya Angelou from her childhood through her experiences as an actress/singer, civil rights activist and beloved writer. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine by Heather Lang. In 1916, Ruth Law flew through fierce winds and numbing cold and broke the existing cross-country distance record for flying. Non-fiction. Grades K-3.

The Year of the Rat by Grace Lin. Change is the meaning of the Chinese year of the rat. Pacey’s best friend moves away and she faces her own doubts to decide if she can become the writer and illustrator she hopes to be. Fiction. Grades 3-7.

The Brooklyn Bridge: The Story of the World’s Most Famous Bridge and the Remarkable Family that Built It by Elizabeth Mann. This book tells the story of a remarkable family and a legendary feat of engineering. It contains rare and historical photographs, diagrams and powerful illustrations. Non-fiction. Grades 4-8.

Broadway Star (Stage School) by Lisa Regan. Any child aspiring to become an actor or actress will love this book as readers get into character for the stage. The basics of Broadway performance are reviewed. Non-fiction. Grades 3-6.

Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass by Dean Robbins. This book is based on the real-life friendship between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass who both lived in Rochester, NY, for a time. They regularly met for tea to support one another, and the text introduces children to the issues of both African-American rights and women’s rights. Fiction. Grades K-3.

Astrophysicist and Space Advocate Neil Degraffe Tyson by Marne Ventura. This is the biography of the man who is the director of New York’s Hayden Planetarium. The book explores his childhood in the Bronx, his academic career and his status as a scientific expert. Non-fiction. Grades 3-6.

Drita, My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard. This is the story of a family coming to America from war-torn Kosovo and how friendship can overcome a vast cultural divide. Fiction. Grades 3-5.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy. This book about the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg proves that disagreeing doesn’t make you disagreeable. She has spent her life disagreeing with inequality and standing up for what’s right. Non-fiction. Grades pre-K-3.

Middle School Readers/Tweens

Be a change maker by Laurie Ann Thompson. Empower yourself in today’s highly connected, socially conscious world as you learn how to wield your passions, digital tools, and the principles of social entrepreneurship to affect real change in your schools, communities, and beyond. At age eleven, Jessica Markowitz learned that girls in Rwanda are often not allowed to attend school, and Richards Rwanda took shape. Middle school.

The Education of Ivy Blake by Ellen Airgood. This is a story about finding the family you need and taking charge of your own future in order to be your best self. Fiction. Grades 4-6.

Walking Two Worlds by Joseph Bruchac. This book is a true story about the early education of a Native American who became famous and achieved great success within both the white world and the world of his Seneca people. Fiction. Grades 5 and up.

Under the Same Sky by Cynthia DeFelice. When Joe wants a motorbike, his father makes him work on the family farm in upstate New York picking berries and working alongside migrant workers. Joe learns about their struggle. Fiction. Grades 5-9.

Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina by Michaela and Elaine DePrince. This is the memoir of a girl’s journey from an orphanage in war-torn Sierra Leone to becoming the principal dancer of the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Non-fiction. Grades 6 and up.

So You Want to Be A Wizard? by Diane Duane. This is the first in a series of 10 books about two lonely kids caught up in a never-ending battle between good and evil. Fiction. Grades 5-8.

The Great Shelby Holmes by Elizabeth Eulberg. Nine-year-old Shelby is the best detective in her Harlem neighborhood. Fiction. Grades 3-6.

You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? by Jean Fritz. This biography of a 19th-century feminist gives a picture of the world that women lived in and why it was so hard to change society. For example, her father thought girls weren’t as important as boys and her husband was embarrassed by her public speaking. Non-fiction. Grades 3-6.

The Road to Paris by Nikki Grimes. This is a book about friendship, family and faith told through the character, Paris, in search of a home in a harsh world. Fiction. Grades 4-7.

A Bandit’s Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket by Deborah Hopkinson. In 1887, 11-year-old Rocco arrives in New York City and is forced to live in squalor and beg for money. He finds the city’s cruelty to children and animals intolerable and decides to make things better despite a cost to himself. Fiction. Grades 4-7.

Skating With the Statue of Liberty by Susan Lynn Meyer. This book is about a French Jew who emigrates with his family from occupied France in 1942. It’s about the struggles of immigrants as well as racism and religious intolerance in America. Fiction. Grades 4-7.

Riot by Walter Dean Myers. During the summer of 1863, the worst race riots the U.S. has ever seen take place in New York City. Claire, the daughter of an Irish mother and black father, finds herself torn between the two sides. Fiction. Grades 7 and up.

The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend by Sharon Robinson. Steve, age 8, learns that his baseball hero, Jackie Robinson, is moving into his all-Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn. Lessons in friendship, respect and unity follow. Fiction. Grades 4-7.

8th Grade Superzero by Olughbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich. Despite an embarrassing start to the school year resulting in the nickname “Pukey” in his Brooklyn middle school, Reggie discovers the value of community activism through volunteering at a homeless shelter and becoming a Big Brother volunteer. He decides he has the courage to run for class president. Fiction. Grades 5-9.