



Stopping the Summer Slide



Table of Contents

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Step-by-Step Istation Home Guide	3
Your Summer Plan for Reading Success	4
Five Things Parents Can Do This Summer to Help Your Children This Fall	5
Critical Reading Starts with Asking Questions	6
Television Can Become a Teaching Tool	6
Go Places with Reading	7
Take Five This Summer!	8
Foldable Bookmarks	9

Click on subtitle or page number to be directed to that page.



Step-by-Step Istation Home Guide



Download

Download the Istation app for Windows, Mac, Chromebook, or iPad.



Istation

Click on the Istation icon to launch the program.



Domain

Enter the appropriate school name.



Log In

Enter your username and password.



Use

Click on the program you want to use.



Parents

Visit the Parent Portal in Istation Home for additional resources and progress reports.

[Click for More Details >>](#)



to keep your child's mind and body active and engaged. Here is how an ideal summer month with Istation may look:

Spend 30 minutes reading any text you want.



Five Things Parents Can Do This Summer to Help Children This Fall

Research shows that children who read fluently do better in school. It's not just teachers who make it happen, though. Parents play a key role, too. The "summer slide" is the documented learning loss that occurs when students are out of school. Experts say that reading just five books during the summer months can help. Here are five new, easy-to-implement ideas for parents, grandparents, and guardians.

How to Be a Reading Role Model:

- 1) **Show. Don't tell.** Let your children see you read. It doesn't matter what you read — a book, a magazine, an online article — just as long as your children see you engaged with text.
- 2) **Have a family game night.** Playing games like Scrabble, Boggle, Pictionary, and Scattergories can teach spelling, vocabulary, and communication skills.
- 3) **Eat dinner as a family without TV or phones.** (That's a tall order, we know!) With older kids, focus on a good conversation. Talk about what went on that day or about what's planned for the

rest of the week. For younger children, try to incorporate word games like "I spy something that rhymes with..." or "Name a synonym for..." Make dinner fun and help your children become good conversationalists!

- 4) **Keep track of it all.** Mark a calendar with the amount of time your children spend reading (and working on Istation, of course) each day. At the end of the summer, add up the hours. When school begins again, encourage your children to tell their teachers how much time they spent reading over the summer. Teachers will be thrilled and your children will feel proud!
- 5) **Ask questions.** Whether your children are reading or using electronics, engage them with questions. This will help boost their critical thinking skills while providing you with an opportunity to bond. For great questions to ask, check out the next page.

Teachers will be quite happy in the fall if you implement a few of these ideas over the summer. We bet you'll be happy with the results too!



Critical Reading Starts with Asking Questions

There's more to literacy than just the ability to read. A critical part of reading is learning how to think as you read.

The good news is that asking your children questions can boost this key literacy skill. Before, during, or after your children read a story, article, or book, you can ask:

- What is it about?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Does this make you wonder about other things?
- What is your favorite part of the story?
- What did you learn?
- Do the characters change over time? If so, how?
- What is the problem in the story?
- What is the solution?

Summer is a great time to position reading as a relaxing activity that can be fun for the whole family.



Television Can Become a Teaching Tool

It can be hard to tear kids away from the television, especially during the hot summer days.

Instead of surrendering to the allure of mindless screen time, you can make TV your literacy partner! Here are a few ideas:

- Look through the programming guide and have your children select the show (or shows) they want to watch that day. Then have your children make a persuasive "speech" as to why they should be permitted to watch.
- After the show (perhaps at mealtime), ask your children to give a report by recounting the plot, describing the characters, and explaining any moral or lesson in the story.
- Ask what they liked or didn't like about the program and suggest they script an alternate ending.

Who knows? Your encouragement might inspire the development of the next great screenwriter or inventor!



Go Places with Reading

A summer vacation that's educational and fun? We know how to make it happen!

The great thing about reading is that you can do it anywhere. Encourage your children to read in a variety of places: in the car, at the store, or by the pool. Words are all

around us! Children can read recipes, nutritional labels, price tags, and more. Encouraging your children to read is a great way to have fun, practice reading, and

bond. Finding ways to incorporate reading is a great way to build lasting memories while on a road trip!

Use these fun ideas to help keep young minds active, especially while traveling!

Point out printed words as you travel, either on buildings or billboards, and ask your children to read them and repeat them.

Ask your children to plan a family day trip. Use a map to chart your course to the destination and find sites of interest along the way. Then schedule the trip!

Do a crossword puzzle together while in the car or on a plane or train!

Look at an atlas together to find all the places your family has visited or would like to visit!

Look at the weather forecast in the newspaper with your children and compare forecasts of potential destinations for a family vacation.

Wherever you go, make reading a part of your adventure. In the words of the late, great Dr. Seuss, "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to great places! You're off and away!"



Take Five This Summer

Reading five books during summer vacation can halt “The summer slide” and improve literacy skills!

Research proves summer learning loss happens, but there is also research to prove it can be prevented.

When Istation took part in a recent “Summer Reading Summit” in Hillsborough County, Florida, much of the discussion centered on keeping kids interested in reading when they aren’t being compelled to read in school.

John Milburn, the Supervisor of Library and Media Services for kindergarten through 5th grade in Hillsborough County Public Schools, gave some good advice.

“I remind students that this is the time of year they finally get to read whatever they want to read. It’s all their choice,” he said.

Milburn quoted research conducted by Harvard, which shows that reading just five books during the summer break can have a significant impact on keeping learning loss at bay. That means it only takes one book every couple of weeks to make a difference.

So, take five with your kiddos this summer! Cut out this list and pin it to your refrigerator so you don’t forget. Remember to celebrate whenever your child completes a book too!

My “Take Five” Summer Reading List

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____



Istation's Foldable Bookmarks

Looking for a creative activity this summer that inspires your child to read more? Check out Istation's Foldable Character Bookmarks!

These bookmarks are designed to hold your child's place in any book while reminding them that reading should be fun.

We have designed one character from each of Istation's programs; Istation Reading, Istation Math, Istation Espanol, and Timeless Tales 2.0:NexLevel. Istation's character bookmarks give you and your child a fun activity to do together before diving into a book.

Print off one a week, cut, and fold following the instructions on each sheet. Find all five of the foldable character bookmarks on Istation's online store at shop.istation.com!



PELUSITA



ALEX TREEBEAK



SAGE



MISS MOUSELY



GOOD GERM

Cut Here



ALEX TREEBEAK

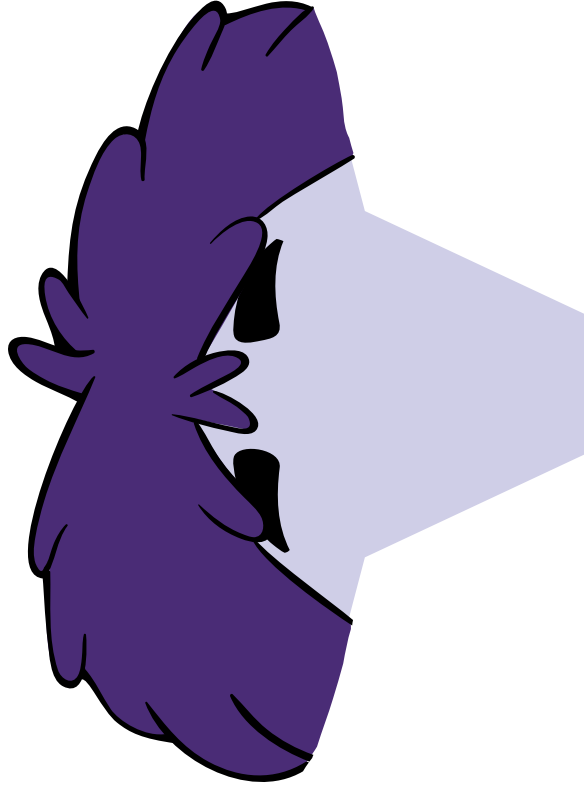
Foldable Bookmark



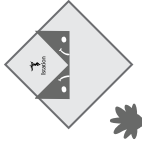
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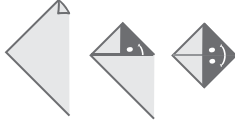
Fold Here



1. Cut out character pieces.



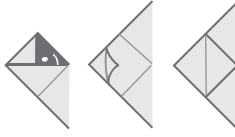
3. From the back, fold in the bottom left and right corners until they touch the top center corner.



2. Fold square in half along the "Fold Here" line.



4. Unfold bottom corners. Using only the top layer of paper, fold down the top center corner to create a "pocket"



5. Fold in each bottom corner again, tucking the corner into the "pocket" created with your last fold.



6. Apply double sided tape or glue to the hat or hair piece and slide it into the "pocket". Your character is now done!



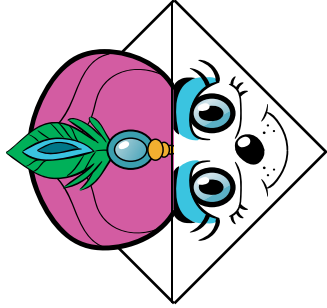
Istation

For more character bookmarks, character masks, and other fun Istation products visit shop.istation.com!



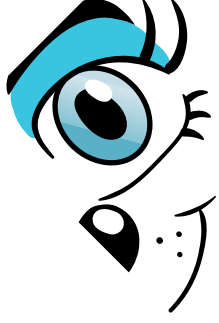
MISS MOUSELY

Foldable Bookmark

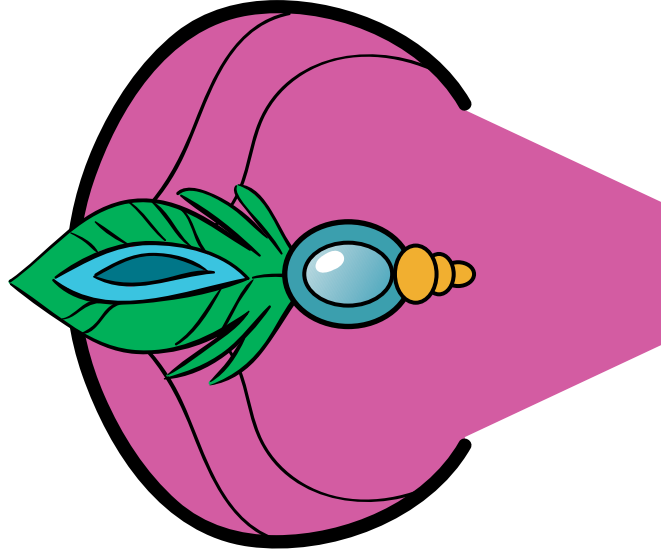


Cut Here

Fold Here

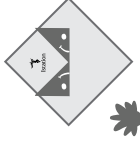


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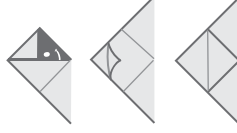


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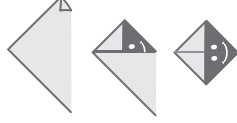
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4. Unfold bottom corners. Using only the top layer of paper, fold down the top center corner to create a "pocket"



3. From the back, fold in the bottom left and right corners until they touch the top center corner.



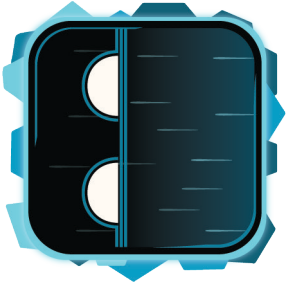
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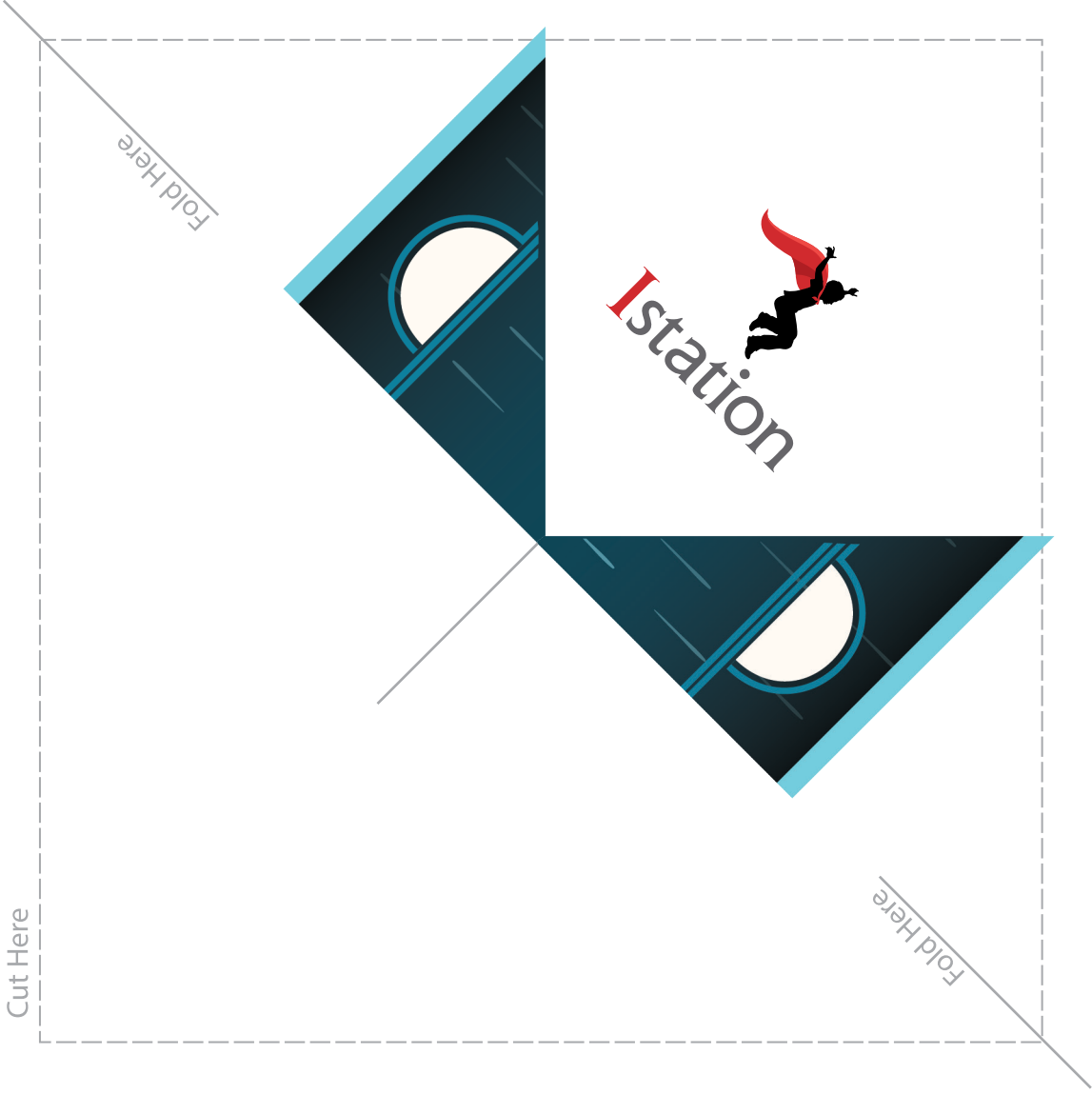
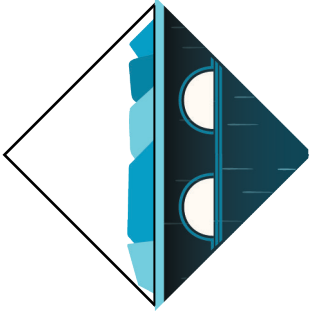
5. Fold in each bottom corner again, tucking the corner into the "pocket" created with your last fold.

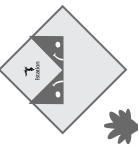

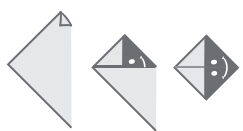
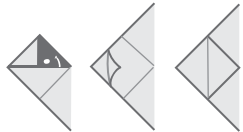




For more character bookmarks, character masks, and other fun Istation products visit shop.istation.com!



SAGE Foldable Bookmark



1. Cut out character pieces.	
2. Fold square in half along the "Fold Here" line.	
3. From the back, fold in the bottom left and right corners until they touch the top center corner.	
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Supporting Educators. Empowering Kids.
Changing Lives.

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