

BETWEEN THE PAGES

THE HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEEN LITERACY

ANTHONY LANE, TEEN PROGRAM COORDINATOR

When I taught high school English, I gave a survey at the beginning of every year. In order to gauge teen literacy, I would ask them questions like:

What was the last book you read?

What is the longest book you have read?

What is your favorite book?

How often do you read?

Conservatively, I can say that about 80-90% of students could not remember reading a chapter book. The number was higher than I ever believed possible. Most claimed they could not remember the names of books they read in elementary or middle school. Without fail, my students who read daily outperformed their peers. But the number of active readers is dwindling.

A 2020 study by the Pew Research Center found that the number of teens who read daily has declined dramatically. Approximately 19% of teens report that they read daily, with 27% saying they never or almost never read. There is a steep decline in reading between the ages of nine and thirteen as well.

The dramatic decline of daily readership is likely to have a profound impact.



The new Teen Zone at Huntsville Public Library

Children who read regularly benefit in a number of ways. Naturally, those who read regularly develop advanced reading skills faster. The Achievement Gap is the disparity between achievement levels in different groups of students. Educators have debated solutions to the “achievement gap,” for decades. The decrease in regular reading directly correlates with the ever-widening increase in achievement gaps. While it is important to acknowledge that other factors lead to these gaps, literacy is a huge factor because it is a core, foundational strength to build knowledge.

The academic benefits are numerous, but reading has value far beyond the classroom.

- Literacy empowers teenagers to participate in discussions, debates, and civic activities, cultivating their critical thinking and democratic values.
- They develop a broader understanding of different cultures, fostering tolerance, empathy, and respect for diversity.
- Regular readers develop stronger advanced reading and writing skills.
- Reading strengthens critical thinking, which translates to a greater understanding of all subjects, including math and science.
- Reading comprehension, effective written communication, and information analysis are core skills sought after by employers regardless of industries.
- Literacy equips young individuals with the ability to understand complex instructions, write persuasive proposals, and analyze reports, positioning them as real competitors in the job market.
- Regular reading contributes significantly to personal growth and self-expression while benefiting mental health. A 2009 study at the University of Sussex also found that reading was more beneficial at reducing stress than music or drinking a hot cup of tea.



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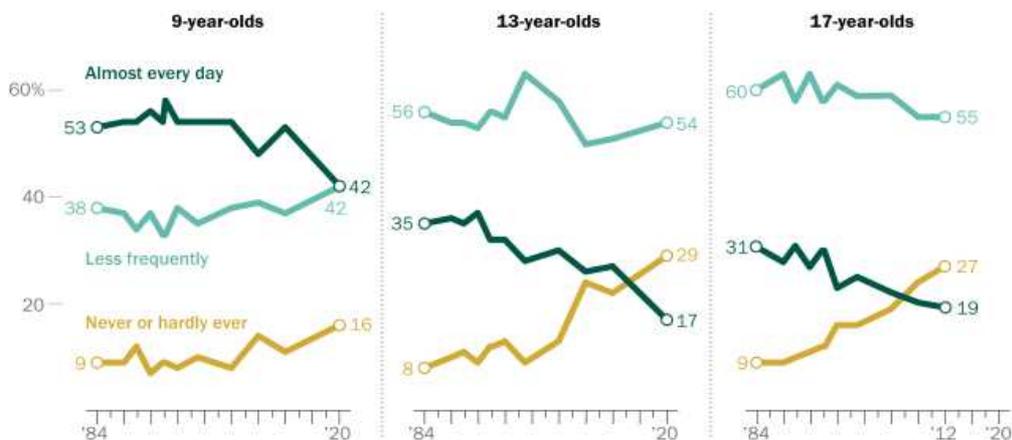


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But, and this is a big **BUT**, what if your child hates to read? After all, video games and social media are so engaging, that anything that forces us to slow down seems incredibly dull by comparison. We have entered an age where reading has transitioned from a primary form of entertainment to an “acquired taste.” It takes time to love reading, but it does occur, and the benefits are measurably and overwhelmingly positive. Even if we set all of these supposed benefits aside and focus solely on what we know to be true, reading is about as close as you can get to a “universal good.” Reading strengthens oral and written communication and advances critical thinking. Because it is slower than our fast paced world, it takes time to get our brains to slow down, but when we do, our blood pressure drops and our heart rate slows. These benefits are too important to dismiss.

U.S. 9- and 13-year-olds read for fun less often than they used to

% of U.S. students of each age who say they read for fun ____, by year



Note: 2020 assessment was not fielded to 17-year-olds. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding. "Less frequently" combines responses of "once or twice a week," "once or twice a month" and "a few times a year."
 Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2020 Long-Term Trend Reading Assessment.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

YOUNG ADULT

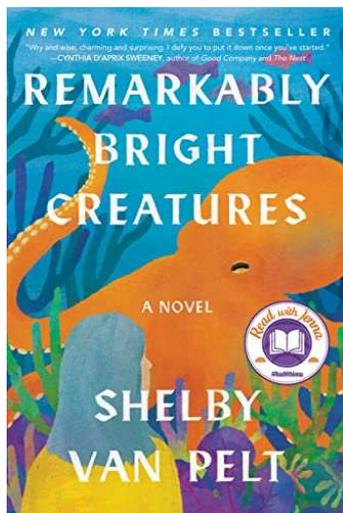


SCYTHE by Neal Shusterman

Neal Shusterman's 2016 science fantasy novel, *Scythe*, tells an unsettling story of two teenagers in the near dystopian future who live in a world where death has literally been defeated. In order to limit population growth, an elite group of Scythes "glean" random people.

JUNE 8 AND 20 @ 2PM

ADULT



REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES by Shelby Van Pelt

Tova Sullivan has lived alone ever since her husband died. Her house that used to be full of love now feels very empty. Her eighteen-year-old son Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago, and Tova has never managed to get the answers she hoped for.

JUNE 8 @ 11AM

JUNE BOOK CLUBS



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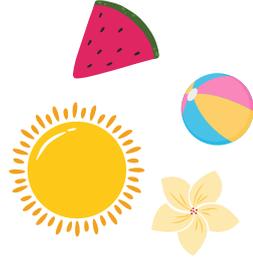


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SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5:00 PM For City Council Meeting	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Fiber Arts	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Piney Woods Page Turners Book Club 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Beginner Microsoft Excel Classes 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM 32nd Lineage Society Workshop		2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Piney Woods Writers Group
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Fiber Arts	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Beginner Microsoft Excel Classes Picture Book Competition BEGINS		1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Father's Day Celebration
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	LIBRARY CLOSED in observance of Juneteenth	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Medicare LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5:00 PM For City Council Meeting	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Fiber Arts	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Beginner Microsoft Excel Classes		2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Piney Woods Writers Group
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Fiber Arts	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Beginner Microsoft Excel Classes Completed Picture Books DUE		



Huntsville Public Library-Adult Programs

1219 13th Street • (936) 291-5472 • www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com



Library Closures

The Huntsville City Council will temporarily hold its public meetings at the Huntsville Public Library. The library will close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, and Tuesday, June 20 for June City Council meetings. Huntsville Public Library will be closed on Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. The library will reopen at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20.

Fiber Arts

Looking for company while your hands are busy with yarn or textiles? Join the fiber arts group at Huntsville Public Library to share your knitting and crocheting projects and hang out for some chat. All are welcome - beginners and the more experienced! Sessions are held each Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Meetings this month will be on June 7, 14, 21, and 28. Supplies not provided. For more information, please contact Adult Services Coordinator Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.

Piney Woods Page Turners Book Club

Be part of the Piney Woods Page Turners Book Club at Huntsville Public Library. All interested persons are welcome to join us in the Nash Board Room from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8. The book selection for June will be Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Current and future book choices can be found at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. Please contact Adult Services Coordinator Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471 for additional information.



Father's Day Celebration

Let's celebrate dads and father figures! This event will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 17 at the Huntsville Public Library. At this event, people of all ages can make cards for dad. There will also be a wall of praise for fathers. Adults and kids alike should take a moment and write the things they appreciate most about their dads. For more information, please contact Teen Services and Outreach Coordinator Anthony Lane at 936-291-5912.



Lineage Society Workshop

Huntsville Public Library will host its 32nd Lineage Society workshop from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 8. The workshop, sponsored by the Walker County Genealogical Society, will be held in the Staggs Community Room and representatives from several lineage societies will explain their mission, activities, requirements, meetings, and costs. Admission is free, but pre-registration is preferred. To attend the workshop, interested parties can register through the library by contacting Adult Services Coordinator Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.



Traditional Medicare? Medicare Replacement Plans?

What Are My Options?

Information regarding available insurance plans for those eligible for Medicare can quickly become overwhelming. Huntsville Public Library will host an informational session at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20 in the Nash Boardroom. Join industry specialist Bill Rousseau to learn more about your options and the details of the various programs. For more information, please contact Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.

The Piney Woods Writers Group

If you are a writer looking for other writers for encouragement and support, Piney Woods Writers Group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in the Nash Board Room of the Huntsville Public Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come and check us out! For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910 or visit the group's Facebook page "Piney Woods Writers Group."

Beginner Microsoft Excel Classes

Need a way to keep track of your schedule or budget? Have you been meaning to learn Microsoft Excel but don't know where to start? Learn how to organize your data by attending Huntsville Public Library's free Microsoft Excel classes for beginners. Classes will be offered on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. June dates are June 8, 15, 22, and 29. Topics to be covered will include creating files, data entry, cell formatting, formulas, and manipulating a finished table. Adults 18 years and older can register for classes. Space is limited so sign up at the library early. To register or for more information, contact us at 936-291-5472.

Picture Book Creation Competition

An event for all ages. The Huntsville Public Library is sponsoring a Picture Book Creation Competition. This event will be divided into four specific age groups with a winner being selected from each group. The event launches on June 15. Completed picture books will be due on June 29 by 6 p.m. Winners will be selected on July 13th. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

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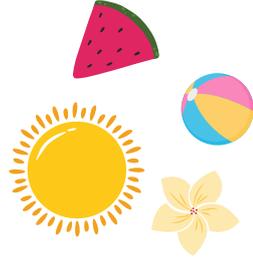


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	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Mother Goose Lapsit 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Kid's Club	LIBRARY CLOSURES AT 5:00 PM For City Council Meeting	10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Storytime	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Plant Play: Make your own succulent garden <i>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</i>	10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Storytime	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM Storytime
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Mother Goose Lapsit 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Clay Play <i>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</i>		10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Storytime	Picture Book Competition BEGINS 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Storytime	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Father's Day Celebration
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Huntsville Public Library-Childrens Programs

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Summer Reading

We are "All Together Now" reading for fun at the Huntsville Public Library. The 2023 Texas Summer Reading Program will have a cool Kickoff registration event on Thursday, June 1. From 10:30 to 12:30 p.m. on June 1, Kona Ice will be at the Library! One free snowcone per person will be given to everyone who registers for the Summer Reading Program while supplies last. The Summer Reading Program is for all ages. Just register at huntsvilletx.readsquared.com or on the READsquared app. The last day to log your reading in the READsquared app is Monday, July 31. Those who complete the program will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a prize. Let's make literacy fun! For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

Clay Play by Feathered Nest Pottery

Local artist, Tania Kirk of the Feathered Nest Studio, will be at the Huntsville Public library for some fun play with clay. Tania has prepared some creative activities with clay for children of all ages. Join us on Monday, June 12 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration required as seating is limited. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

Cookie and Cupcake Mania!

Become a master cupcake and cookie decorator. Join us for delicate and delightful dessert decoration. And, of course, you can eat your creation. Yummy! This event will take place in the Rex Children's Room on Thursday, June 22 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event is recommended for children and teens. Registration is required at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

Bird Buddies

Join Mary Anne Morris, Education Director of Houston Audubon Society, at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 28 at the Huntsville Public Library as she shares interesting facts about "Birds, Books, and Beyond." Meet some hawks and owls. Registration is required at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910. Special thanks to the Junior Audubon Society for their generous donation for this program.

Plant Play: Make your own succulent garden

Learn the ins and outs of growing succulents with gardener Jean Wunderlich. This event will take place in the Rex Children's Room on Thursday, June 8 from 10:30-11:30 am. This event is recommended for children and teens. Registration is required at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

Mother Goose Lapsit

Bubbles, rhymes, and books--oh my! You won't want to miss Mother Goose Lapsit at Huntsville Public Library. This program is a story time designed for children two years or under. Enjoy this early literacy initiative at 10:45 a.m. on Mondays in the Rex Children's Room. Sign-up is not required. June dates are June 5, 12, and 26. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

Story Time

Come to Story Time - a fun, early literacy program for kids six and under. Join us for interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. Wednesday and Friday sessions share a theme with something new and exciting each week. Sign-up is not required. Story Time is now offered on select Saturdays at 1 p.m. Join us on Saturday, June 10 and 24 and at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. June dates are June 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, and 30. This program will not be held on June 28; instead join us for the Bird Buddies program! For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

Kids' Club

Come to Huntsville Public Library and play with us! We'll have lots of activities for you to engage with, including Legos, grown-up coloring books, karaoke, and craft stations. This program will be held on Monday, June 5 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Rex Children's Room. This program is suggested for ages 5-12. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Linda Huff at 936-291-5910.

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Teen Ambassadors

Teen Ambassadors is a program for teens who want to be leaders. Ambassadors earn service hours and help to lead and design programs. Ambassadors can also work in the Children's Room, read to children, and assist patrons. This program accommodates several different interests. Applications are required for those interested in joining. Ambassadors meet weekly on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. June dates are June 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Manga Monday

Attention all tween and teen manga and anime lovers! This club embraces the art and storytelling of manga and anime. Each week, we will deconstruct a piece of art through the process of reading and presentation, followed by a group art or craft project, and closing with a video. Manga Mondays will build creativity and reading ability, as well as provide teens with a weekly social activity. This club meets every Monday from 4 to 5 p.m. June meetings are June 5, 12, and 26.

Video Games

Tuesday is Video Game Day at Huntsville Public Library. As we work to create a competitive eSports team, join us every Tuesday for Video Game Day from 3 to 5 p.m. This event is for teens and tweens ages 11-18. Our June meetings will be June 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Teen Book Club

Our June book is *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman. The teen book club will meet every other Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m. in the new teen area. June dates are June 8 and 22. This program is suggested for ages 12-18. July's meetings will focus on Huntsville ISD summer reading books.

Unwind

Relax and create. Unwind is a program designed to get teens engaged in creative projects as a way to disconnect from technology and connect with themselves. In this program, each meeting will have a theme and specific task designed to give participants a chance to unwind. During the summer, we will meet on Fridays from 2 to 3 p.m. in the new teen area. June dates are June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. This program is suggested for ages 12-18.

Generation Focus

This program is aimed at teens who would like to experience podcast creation from the planning to publishing. Podcasters meet every other Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. in the new teen area. June dates are June 3 and 17.

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