



Books are fun!

The Week Junior is thrilled to have Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of *Today with Hoda & Jenna* and founder of *Read With Jenna*, as the guest editor of our Summer of Reading issue. Her "Read With Jenna Jr. Summer Reading List" is out now. We spoke to her about the power that reading can have in a person's life.

Can you think of a book that has helped or changed you?

I can think of so many, but one of the mistakes I think we make is believing that every book we read has to be profound. I remember being at summer camp and falling in love with the Goosebumps series because I loved to read mysteries and I liked to be scared. So yes, books can change you. Books can take you to places you've never been. A book can also just be really fun to read!



What makes reading in the summer different?

It's not any different except that you have more time! If your school sends home a recommended reading list, don't choose the first book on it. Look for a book you think you could become engrossed in. If you spend a little more time doing that, then reading won't feel like a chore. You'll want to stay up late with a flashlight to finish it.

How can kids discover books they love to read?

I would suggest checking out books that are part of a series, because if you like the first book, you'll probably enjoy the next

one. A series is like one long story told over several books. My daughters are fans of the Heidi Heckelbeck series and the Hunger Games series. Think about what shows you like to watch. Is there a book that's set in a world that's similar to a program you enjoy? Go to your local library and tell a librarian what you're interested in, whether that's adventure, mysteries, or skateboarding. Chances are, they will know just the book you should try.

Do you have a favorite character from a book?

Little Women is one of my all-time favorite books, which my mom and my grandmother also loved, and I would love to hang with Jo March. Her character is an inspiration to anyone who dreams of writing.

What about a favorite evil character?

I remember being scared of the substitute teacher in the picture book *Miss Nelson Is Missing*. I like the ending, when you find out who the substitute teacher might have been!

What are some of the books on your list for kids this summer?

We have 29 books on the list, and I'm excited about them all! For instance, there's *Alone* by Megan Freeman. It has a wilderness and survival theme similar to the award-winning book *Hatchet*. *The Mystery of Locked Rooms* by Lindsay Currie and *The Adventures of Invisible Boy* by Doogie Horner are two more books I predict middle school kids will enjoy.



Some of Hager's favorite books