

# Reading activities to try at home (6-8)

Regular reading helps middle schoolers build focus, empathy, vocabulary, and critical thinking—skills they’ll use in every class. Try these easy ideas to encourage more reading at home.

## Family reading time

- Everyone chooses what they want to read.
- Set a timer for 20 minutes.
- Everyone reads their selection at the same time.

## Reading rewards

- For every day your student reads for 20+ minutes, they earn a ticket. Reading choice is up to the student.
- After they reach your ticket goal, tickets can be redeemed for a reward (e.g., later bedtime, extra screen time, a Starbucks run, movie night choice, etc.).

## Book bingo

- Use the Sora bingo board to track reading activities.
- Completing a bingo earns a prize. See above for examples. Rewards don’t have to be big. Experiences and privileges often work best, and many families phase rewards over time as reading becomes more routine.

## Parent-kid book club

- Choose a book you both agree on.
- Read a few chapters at a time and share your thoughts:
  - What was your favorite moment?
  - What surprised you?
  - Which character did you like most or least?

## “Book tastings” at home

- Gather 5-7 different books (graphic novels, fantasy, humor, mystery, nonfiction, etc.).
- Let your student read the first 5-10 minutes of each.
- Have them rank them and choose one to continue and complete.

## Page-to-screen family movie night

- Read a book together, then watch its movie adaptation as a family. Afterward, talk about what was different, what stayed the same, and which version you liked better. Ask questions like:
  - Which scene felt most different from how you imagined it?
  - Did the movie change your opinion of any characters?
  - If you directed the movie, what would you have done differently?

## Reading is reading—any book counts!

- Audiobooks
- Magazines
- Graphic novels
- Cookbooks
- Game guides
- Weird facts and world record books
- Experiment or magic trick books