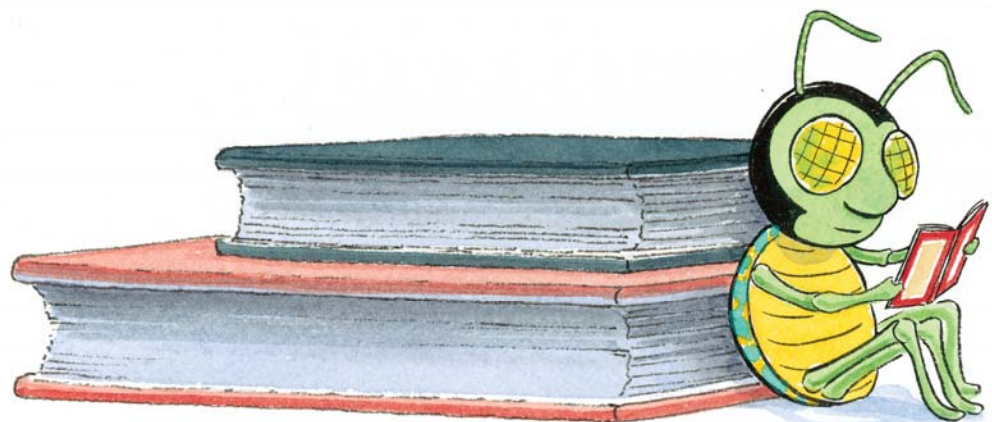

It is estimated that over 180,500 children and 24,000 teens in Virginia will participate in their local library's summer reading program this summer. The reason for these efforts come from:

- Awareness that reading is an essential skill that is refined only through practice.
- Awareness that much success in education and in life itself comes from the ability to read well.
- Knowledge that in addition to the factual information found in books, they provide stimulation to imagination and creativity.
- Recognition of summer as a period when children's time is at least somewhat less structured than during the school year.
- Belief that library resources (print, audiovisuals and digital) are important to people of every age, that reading skill is required to make the best use of all of them, and that acquaintance with them can be nurtured in pleasure-based activities.
- Knowledge that the emerging literacy of preschoolers, the flowering literacy of primary grade students and the reading security of middle grade children, and the reading for facts and for pleasure by young adults all deserve reinforcement and stimulation from the public library.
- Knowledge that parents and other care providers will appreciate information and assistance in helping their children become lifelong learners.



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