

# The School Library Monthly Update



## REST, READ, RENEW

June arrives with a welcome shift into slower days, well-earned rest, and the chance to step back from the pace of the school year. For many of us, summer is a blend of recharging, catching up on the books we've been meaning to read, and doing just enough light planning to feel ready for fall, without turning your break into more work. This month, we focus on simple, energizing ways to enjoy your summer while keeping an eye toward the year ahead. We will also celebrate Audiobook Appreciation Month with ideas you can use personally and professionally as you ease into the months of sunshine and breathing room.

See more on page 2.

## TO-DO

- ✓ Consider applying for the [2026 School Achievement Through Libraries \(SATL\) Award](#)! It's open year-round.
- ✓ Check out [SDSL's CE Catalog](#) for all continuing education opportunities.
- ✓ View [SDSL's Training Calendar](#) for CE/PD opportunities from our database vendors, etc.

## UPCOMING CHATS

\* **Interested in summer chats?**  
Join our 3 Live ExCITE! Sessions. You can participate as part of the course or simply join in.

**6/2:** Foundations of Information Literacy

**7/7:** Research, Reflection, & Real-World Application

**8/3:** The Future of Inquiry & Learning

Enroll [HERE](#)



# Summer Reading & Recharge for School Librarians

Summer is the perfect opportunity to catch up on your own reading list. Set aside a few quiet moments each day to explore books you've been meaning to read, whether for pleasure, professional growth, or curiosity. Reading for yourself not only restores your energy, it can also spark fresh ideas that you will bring back to the library in the fall.

Consider a mix of formats to keep things interesting: print, ebooks, or audiobooks. Try genres you don't normally explore at work: poetry, memoir, fantasy, or even short story collections. Sometimes stepping outside your usual reading comfort zone can be the most energizing experience!

Even while taking a break, a little reflection can help you return in the fall with clarity and enthusiasm.

Ask yourself questions like:

- What went well this year in your library?
- Which programs or displays were most meaningful for students?
- Are there a few small ideas you'd like to try next year?

Just jot a few notes in a journal, on your computer, or in your planner. This reflection honors your work and helps you approach next year with renewed focus.

If you enjoy keeping in touch with trends, resources, or colleagues over the summer, do so in small doses. For example:

- Browse a few library blogs or newsletters at your own pace.
- Listen to library-focused podcasts while gardening or walking.
- Catch up on professional books or audiobooks slowly, without deadlines.

The key is balance! Engage in professional interests without it feeling like "work."

Finally, remember that summer is also about recharging as a person. Spend time outside, pursue hobbies, or explore creative projects unrelated to the library. Nature walks, crafting, journaling, or casual book clubs can all restore your energy and creativity for the months ahead.

# JUNE IS AUDIOBOOK APPRECIATION MONTH!

Audiobooks provide a flexible, accessible way to experience stories, which is perfect for both students and staff. Even during summer break, librarians can explore audiobooks for personal enjoyment, refresh their knowledge of popular titles, and gather ideas to promote listening programs next year. Audiobooks are a great tool for engagement, curiosity, and learning that you can spotlight when the school year resumes.



## Explore Audiobooks for Yourself

- Try an audiobook from a genre you don't normally read.
- Listen to a short story or essay while walking, driving, or relaxing.
- Compare narrators for favorite titles to discover what makes narration engaging.
- Take notes on ideas for pairing audiobooks with classroom lessons or library displays.



## Prepare to Promote Audiobooks Next Year

- Make a list of audiobooks your students might enjoy for different grade levels.
- Plan displays or reading challenges that pair print books with audiobook versions.
- Curate a "Summer Listening Favorites" list to share in August with staff and students.
- Identify ways to highlight audiobooks in library orientation or circulation routines.



Summer is a chance to discover, experiment, and enjoy audiobooks for both personal and professional growth. By exploring now, you'll return in the fall ready to inspire students and staff with fresh ideas for listening and reading.