

THE THINKER

GATE/SAS Student Newsletter

Summer 2012

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.

Mark Twain



Summer Reading!

Get lost in a good book this summer! Here are some resources to help you select the right books:

- ✓ Recommended reading lists (by age) from the American Library Association: <http://www.oprah.com/packages/kid-reading-list.html>
- ✓ Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge: <http://www.scholastic.com/summer/> and book lists (by age): <http://www.scholastic.com/summer/pdfs/SCBookList2012.pdf>
- ✓ Los Angeles Public Library recommended books for kids: <http://www.lapl.org/kidspath/books/index.html> and teens: <http://www.lapl.org/ya/books/readlist.php>

Before They Were Movies...

Did you know that these popular movies originated as books? **Hint:** Many times the book is even better than the movie!

The Borrowers by Mary Norton (Movie Title: *The Secret World of Arrietty*)

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Guardians of Ga'Hoole by Kathryn Lasky (Movie Title: *Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole*)

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (Movie Title: *Hugo*)

Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Night at the Museum by Milan Trenc (Movie Title: *Night at the Museum*)

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Beat Boredom: Ideas for Summer Fun

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." Dorothy Parker

As the weather warms up and summer approaches, we find ourselves daydreaming about all of the wonderful things we plan to do over the summer. Yet when summer actually comes, we often find ourselves glued to the television, on the computer, or playing videogames (and complaining of boredom).

Here are some ideas to get you off the couch this summer to take advantage of the amazing city of Los Angeles. Many of these ideas are free (or have designated days that are free).

- **Farmer's Markets:** Search for the farmer's markets near you at <http://projects.latimes.com/farmers-markets/>; in addition to fresh food, some markets feature crafts, live music, petting zoos, and more; aspiring chefs can find healthy recipes for using the farmer's market produce

- **Public Libraries:** Check out www.lapl.org for events at your local public library including storytelling, guest speakers, clubs, and book sales

- **Museums:** Los Angeles features museums for every age and interest including the California Science Center, California African American Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Getty Center, Museum of Contemporary Art, and Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits; visit http://www.museumsla.org/museum_directory.asp for a list of museums

- **Parks:** Summer is a great time to enjoy the natural beauty of our city. Check out <http://www.bestsoutherncaliforniaparks.com/> for a guide to outdoor spaces

- **Cultural Neighborhoods:** Celebrate the diversity of Los Angeles by spending a day in one of our famous neighborhoods including Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Leimert Park, and El Pueblo de Los Angeles; visit <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/losangeles/014021211.html>

- **Music:** Free music abounds during the summer including the Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier www.santmonicapier.org and the Pershing Square Summer Concert Series <http://www.laparks.org/pershingssquare/summer2012.html>

- **Fitness:** Get moving with sports and other physical activities; see <http://www.laparks.org/lakids/youthAcademy.htm> for free activities

Lateral Thinking Puzzles: Stories with Holes

A lateral thinking puzzle is a cross between a puzzle and storytelling. In a lateral thinking puzzle, clues are given about a scenario that don't provide the whole story. Through questioning, your job is to fill in the missing details to complete the story or solve the mystery. Often innovators or inventors will use this strategy to create novel product ideas or find solutions to problems.

Here are some classic examples. **Hint:** It is a lot more satisfying to spend some time thinking about it

rather than immediately checking the answer!

Example 1: Jane finds Mary on the floor with water and glass surrounding her — what happened?

Example 2: There are six eggs in a basket. Six people each take one of the eggs. How is there still one egg in the basket?

Check out these resources for more lateral thinking puzzles:

- *Beyond the Easy Answer* by

Richard Weintraub & Richard Krieger

- *Mind Boggling Lateral Thinking Puzzles for Kids* by Lucy Dear
- *Stories with Holes* by Nathan Levy

1.	Jane is a cat and Mary is a fish. Jane knocked over Mary's fishbowl.
2.	The sixth person to take an egg took the basket (with the egg in it) with her.
Answer Key	