

Kumon Math and Reading of West Linn

March 2022

Spring Is About New Beginnings

A Personal Testament to the Power of Reading Aloud

As the parent of a 7th grader who is an excellent reader and mathematician due especially to her Kumon study, I sometimes feel dismayed that she doesn't choose to read much, and when she does, she doesn't especially want to push her own boundaries of comfort and ability.

One benefit of the Kumon reading program for our family has been to have a daily practice of verbal study, whether my daughter is reading more than that of her own accord – or not.

The Kumon Recommended Reading List is rife with what might be to you both familiar and undiscovered classic literature. One way I have personally integrated and supplemented my daughter's Kumon Reading Program is by reading to her out loud from this list nightly. This practice has enriched both our lives in countless and immeasurable ways. But as a non-stay-at-home mom, I have found it challenging at times to stay AWAKE when reading. (Should I admit that?) One solution that can help in so many ways is AUDIO BOOKS or even a YouTube video of someone reading the book aloud.

Even better than just listening to the books (hopefully together) is to have the book in print and to lightly read along with the audio. There is an app called LibriVox that lists many classics – including many titles from the Kumon Recommended Reading List (RRL). For \$3/year you can listen to unlimited titles with no ads, or you can listen free of charge but hear an ad here and there.

This spring, try adding some together time with your student, reading together out loud, and/or listening to an audiobook or other recording from a book on the Kumon RRL.

...I admit, I have found it challenging at times to stay AWAKE when reading. (Should I admit that?) One solution that can help in so many ways is AUDIO BOOKS



Recommended Reading List Books of the Month

Great March Reading

Book Recommendations you
can find on LibriVox

The Adventures of
Sherlock Holmes by Sir
Arthur Conan Doyle

The Adventures of Tom
Sawyer by Mark Twain

The Time Machine by HG
Wells

The Secret Garden by
Frances Hodgson Burnett

Student Focus

From struggling ESL to advanced Math and Reading Student

I have a student who came to me in 3rd grade, struggling (and far behind) in both Math and Reading. I noticed right away that she even struggled with what some educators might call “dysgraphia.” Since her parents are native Spanish-speakers, they didn’t feel confident helping her grow her English-language reading and writing skills and didn’t feel they had the resources to help her grow her math skills. They did know, though, that their third-grade daughter might be at risk of becoming one of the many third and fourth-grade girls who, due to learning gaps, start feeling they just must not be “naturally” good at learning math (and in this case ELA as well). And her parents cared enough to bring her to Kumon of West Linn...

Two years later, this student is working six-months above an international benchmark for kids her age in Math, and just above the benchmark for ELA skills for her age-group. Now, she gets to experience the honor of feeling challenged to self-learn advanced skills at Kumon, because she has not yet been taught those skills at school!

This student will be taking home medals from our 2022 award ceremony, and as she heads toward middle school, she is finding school way too easy!

She wants to be a pediatrician when she grows up, and with academic skills like she’s growing, she will get through medical school strong and proud!



Instructor Book

Recommendations:

Making Kumon work for your family!

[The Math Myth and other STEM Delusions](#), by Andrew Hacker

[Atomic Habits](#), by James Clear