



Get on the Road to Reading

By Jan Wilton, Public School and Homeschool Representative

Summer is a great time to learn and practice reading in a different way. Children are readily bored with the same reading projects they did during the school year. As an educator, you know that most children, perhaps even your own children, have struggled with school during the pandemic. Many children need a break. You need a break! What is a teacher parent to do?

You want your children to be all that God has created them to be. Perhaps you feel discouraged and tired of the constant reminders to your children to spend the recommended 30 minutes of reading a day. Are they really reading? Or are they just spending 30 minutes with a book?

A week ago, I had the privilege of spending time with five of my grandchildren ages 5-16. They had placed learning on the sidelines and just wanted to have fun! I began to think of ways for my grandchildren to learn while spending time with me.





We spent some time each day exploring interesting places in and around where we live. It took time and energy, but the outcome was amazing. I watched them ask questions about animals at East Texas Zoo and Gator Park and learn about salt at Morton Salt in Grand Saline, Texas. Together, we explored other places like Canton, Texas, home of the First Monday Trade Days. And how about reading—where does reading come into this article? Everywhere!

We read about many places as we explored our part of Texas. Even the 5-year-old child was encouraged to read and sound out words on signs and posted information—of course, with help from older cousins. The 7-year-old child began to read new words, and all the children asked a number of questions. The teenagers asked questions to the curators and googled for other answers. Everyone

learned from the time spent exploring. It was a joy for this homeschool-teacher grandma to watch the learning blossom!

What does this have to do with you and your children/grandchildren? Look around your community and city/town for possible historical roadside markers, small-town museums, and other less-known areas. Such spots can enhance historical reading and exploration!

What spots in your local area may surprise and amaze children, sparking their learning interests and curiosity? Plan one-day road trips, explore, and get your children on the road to reading! Whether it is summer, fall, winter, or spring, these short excursions can foster reading and thinking.

Jan Wilton lives in Lancaster, Texas. She has taught in Christian school, public school, and homeschool settings. She is currently serving as an instructional reading tutor for grades 4-6 in a charter school. She encourages her daughter, who is a homeschool mom. You may contact Jan at revjan2008@gmail.com.