

# Tips for Encouraging Reading at Home

- **Let your teen choose what to read.** While you may cringe at his choices, he may never touch a title if it's force-fed. All reading matters. Whether it's a classic novel, a comic book, something online, or even the back of the cereal box, encourage your teen to read.
- **Talk about what she reads.** Ask her what she thinks of a book and make connections with ideas or issues that are relevant to her life.
- **If he's struggling or bored with a book, let him put it down.** Forcing him to stick with a difficult or dull book that's intended for pleasure will reinforce the idea that reading is a chore. If the book is required reading for school, you may want to read it together, taking turns reading aloud.
- **Encourage an older child to read to a younger sibling, cousin or neighbor.** This will ensure he reads something, and he may find the younger child's enthusiasm for stories contagious.
- **Visit the library together.** Try to make it an event where you share some quality one-on-one time and both choose a few books or just spend some time browsing the magazines they have there.
- **Suggest books from movies he liked.** Lots of popular movies are based on books. He may enjoy getting even more detail in the book.
- **Listen to books.** The public library has audio books that can be checked out or ones that can be downloaded to phones, MP3 players or other devices.
- **Model reading.** Your teen will still follow your reading habits (though she may never let you know it!), so find something that you love to read, too, and let your teen see you reading.

## Research shows that the more a person reads, the better he reads.

These tips, which were adapted from *Scholastic's* "17 Ways to Keep Your Middle Schooler Turning the Pages," can apply to all teens (middle and high school). If you'd like more info., please contact Ms. Shannon Parker, Lift For Life Academy Librarian at (314) 231-2337 ext. 223 or [sparker@liftforlife.org](mailto:sparker@liftforlife.org).