



collaborative
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Kate DiCamillo Champions Summer Reading at Libraries Nationwide



Two-time Newbery Medalist, former U.S. Ambassador for Young People's Literature, and bestselling author Kate DiCamillo has another title to add to her growing list of accomplishments. She is the 2016 National Summer Reading Champion for the [Collaborative Summer Library Program \(CSLP\)](#) for the second year in a row.

"I know this sounds kind of funny," says DiCamillo, "but I feel like I was born to be the CSLP Summer Reading Champion. The library was such a magical place for me as a kid—a place of possibility, safety, and promise. And my being a Summer

Reading Champion is all about hoping that kids and their families will get the chance to feel the same way about their own local library. Kids and libraries belong together all year long, but the summer is particularly special—a time of freedom and fun in reading. And freedom is how lifelong readers are made."

CSLP is a nonprofit consortium of state libraries that work together to provide an annual unified summer reading theme and professionally created, evidence-based materials for member libraries to enable them to provide high-quality summer reading programs to their communities at the lowest possible cost. They reach approximately 15,000 member libraries nationwide, representing all fifty states.

The 2016 theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set . . . Read!" CSLP has created a comprehensive array of resources for libraries to use in their summer reading programs, including program ideas, booklists, posters, clip art, and activities for four age groups, from babies to adults. All materials are available in English and Spanish. DiCamillo has provided a top ten list of reasons to join a library summer reading program and will also create a list of her favorite recommended summer reads for 2016.

"We think the 2016 theme is perfect for an Olympic summer and have created a host of materials that are easily adaptable to any community," says CSLP board chair and Mississippi Library Commission's Senior Library Consultant Mac Buntin. "We're absolutely thrilled to have Kate DiCamillo as our Champion. Her passion for summer reading and love of libraries—and librarians—is inspiring and infectious."

DiCamillo's publisher, Candlewick Press, is hosting a free live webcast with DiCamillo from Edgewood School in Woodridge, IL, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am CST on May 13, 2016 where she will talk about the importance of summer reading and encourage students nationwide to sign up for the summer reading program at their local public libraries. Schools are invited to register for the webcast and to set up assemblies to watch and participate. For more information, visit this [link](#).