



## FAMILY READING FUN FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Create!** Do you know the saying "A picture is worth a thousand words"? If you see a picture on a billboard, in a magazine, or on TV that really interests you, chances are that there is a book or article on that subject! With your son or daughter or as a whole family, take your picture (or mental picture if you have seen a billboard or movie) to a local library and ask a librarian to help you select a book or article that is related to the subject of your picture. As a family, try drawing your own illustrations for certain chapters of the book. If drawing isn't your thing, try cutting out pictures from magazines and asking your child if and how they relate to the text!

**Play!** In this activity, ask your child to pretend to be one of the major characters in a book they have just read. Imagine that you are playing a game of charades. Ask your child to write down everything they know about their character's traits and personality. Then, ask them to act out that character for you to see if you can guess which character they are! In order to play this game, you should be familiar with the book also. If you are not familiar, have your child write a short summary of the characters and their traits so that you can guess from a list!

**Swap!** In this activity, you are going to swap watching a movie for reading a book. The only catch is, your going to have to do one after another! If you and your child have just finished watching a movie and you know there is a book to match it, encourage them to go read it! On the other hand, if your child has just finished reading a good book, and there is a corresponding movie for it, go rent it! After you have both seen the movie and have read the book, sit down with your child and compose a list of similarities and differences between the two works of art. Have a discussion about the differences between how media and literature portray a story or message and the pros and cons of each.