What replaced Scholastic's summer reading challenge? Free trackers for 2027

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Scholastic's free summer challenge ran in Home Base, which closed on 4 November 2025. The free summer trackers left for 2027, and where each keeps a child's record.

Nothing from Scholastic has taken its place: Scholastic's free summer reading challenge ran in Scholastic Home Base, which closed on 4 November 2025, and its users' data was deleted soon after. When I checked on 31 October 2026, Scholastic's summer page led to a "page not found". For summer 2027, the free choices are your public library's programme, a national challenge if one runs again, a shop's printable journal, or a tracker you keep at home, such as Peabody's summer challenge: 1 June to 31 August 2027, 20, 12 or 8 books by age, no account, and nothing a child logs leaves the device. Peabody is free through the end of 2026.

What happened to Home Base

Home Base was Scholastic's free online world for children, and the home of its summer reading challenge, where a child logged reading over the summer alongside streaks and a moderated online world. Scholastic's closure notice says the app and website closed as of 4 November 2025, that downloaded apps can no longer connect, and that users' data would be permanently deleted shortly after. The notice suggested taking screenshots of anything a child wanted to keep.

So a family that logged three summers there has nothing left of them unless they saved it. That is the lesson I take from it, more than which tracker to pick next: know where your child's record lives, and keep a copy you hold yourself.

The free choices for summer 2027

- Option: Your public library's summer programme · Who runs it: the library · How a child logs: on paper at the desk, or in an app the library pays for (Beanstack and READsquared are common) · Where the record lives: the library's paper, or the app company's servers
- Option: A national challenge · Who runs it: in 2026, the White House, with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services · How a child logs: a PDF tracker of 12 books for grades K–8, sent in by 4 September 2026 · Where the record lives: the paper you fill in, then the place you send it
- Option: A shop's or publisher's challenge · Who runs it: the company · How a child logs: a printable journal or an account on its site · Where the record lives: your paper, or the company's servers
- Option: Peabody's summer challenge · Who runs it: Peabody · How a child logs: a tap a

book on the family's own device · Where the record lives: that device, and the chart you print

A few notes on each, as they stood when I looked:

- The library first. Most public libraries run a summer programme, and many still take paper logs. If yours uses an app, it is usually one the library pays for, so it costs your family nothing. Ask at the desk in May what they count (books, minutes or days) and whether there are prizes to collect in person.
- The national challenge. The 2026 challenge page on the IMLS site described a downloadable tracker for grades K–8: read 12 books of the child's choice and send the completed tracker in by Friday 4 September. Nothing had been announced for 2027 when I checked, so treat it as "maybe again" rather than a plan.
- Shops and publishers. Bookroo's 2026 summer page, for example, asked families to set up a free Bookroo account to track reading. Whatever the company, check its 2027 page in May: rules and prizes change each year.
- Beanstack Go. Beanstack, which many libraries buy, had a free version for readers whose library does not subscribe, by Beanstack's own help pages as our research read them on 30 October 2026.

Doing two at once is fine. A child can fill in the library's paper log and tap the same book on Peabody; they don't compete.

What Peabody's summer challenge is

The summer challenge runs from Tuesday 1 June to Tuesday 31 August 2027, thirteen weeks. The finish line is set by age: 20 books for ages 5 to 7 (a book read aloud to them counts), 12 books for 8 to 10, and 8 longer books from 11 up. Every book puts a spine on a summer shelf on the screen, and the certificate prints when the shelf is full, never before.

A child picks an animal face, never a name, and logs a book with a tap: one of Peabody's free stories from the library, a book from a kids' list or a series, or a book from anywhere, whose title a grown-up types after a two-second hold. Brothers and sisters pick their own animals, up to six on one device. There is no leaderboard, no account and no chat.

Where the record lives, and how to keep it

This is the part I built differently on purpose. A child's books are kept in the browser on that device and nowhere else. Peabody counts that a book was logged in the summer challenge, and never which book, which animal or which child. Nothing is on a server to be deleted when a company changes its mind.

That cuts both ways, so keep a copy:

- Print the chart at the end of each month. It has the shelf, a table of the books so far and a

line for records, so a summer's reading survives a lost tablet or a cleared browser.
• Save the list. On each reader's bookshelf, "For the record" lists every book they logged this year, in any challenge or the family log, dated, and saves it as a spreadsheet you keep.
• Keep the certificate. It prints with a short finish code that a library can check, so it doubles as proof for a library prize.

For libraries and schools that used to point families at Scholastic

If your library or school used to send families to the Scholastic challenge, the library summer kit gives you a programme of your own: Peabody's summer challenge or one you make with your own dates and finish lines, a take-home pack (a letter to families, a summer log a week to a row with no nightly signature, a library-visit passport and a shelf of twenty spines), a desk tally of sign-ups and finishes by age, and a report of counts for your board. None of it collects a name. The guide to a summer programme at a small library walks through it, paper first.

Questions parents ask

Is Scholastic's summer reading challenge coming back in 2027?

I don't know, and Scholastic had said nothing about it on the pages I could open on 31 October 2026. Its summer page led to a "page not found", and Home Base, where the challenge ran, closed on 4 November 2025.

Can I get my child's Home Base reading history back?

Scholastic's notice said user data would be permanently deleted shortly after the closure, and suggested screenshots beforehand. If you didn't save anything, it is very likely gone.

Does Peabody's summer challenge need an account?

No. There is nothing to sign up for. The child picks an animal on the device, and the record stays there.

Can we start before 1 June?

You can open the challenge, pick your animals and print the chart before then. Books logged before 1 June are kept but don't count toward the summer shelf.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/scholastic-summer-reading-challenge-replacement