



Middle School Summer Reading Guide Updated Spring 2022

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2022 Middle School Summer Reading Guide. Here you will find a list of the book choices for English. You will also locate instructions and expectations for the activities/projects we would like students to complete for the beginning of the 2022/23 school year.

As we've asked you to do in the past, please acquire your summer reading choices on your own, from wherever you like, at whatever price point you like (new or used, purchased or borrowed from a friend or the public library), in whatever medium you like (traditional paperback, online, iBook, Kindle, or audiobook). Unless a particular edition or translation is indicated, any copy will suffice. We hope you are able to find something that fascinates you in some way.

Initiated by the English Department in 1975, required summer reading has long been a tradition at The Prairie School. The Department believes that reading and learning should end neither in June nor with the curriculum, and strongly encourages students to take advantage of the time to read literature of their choosing — even above and beyond what we ask them to read for school. No matter the grade, required and independent reading helps students practice and improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. It also provides a common reading experience among students in the same class and enhances future classroom activities.

Have a wonderful summer of reading!

Sincerely,

Tameka Tate, Alicia Gasser & Jennifer Cobb
MS English Teachers

2022 SRC Summer Reading Resources

Need to find summer reading books?

SRC Website

<https://www.prairieschoolsrc.com/>

*Access catalog and Sora tutorial videos on the website [here](#)

*Use drop down menus to access summer reading lists by for each division.

Destiny Discover Library Catalog (print)



<https://bit.ly/srcdestiny>

**You must be logged in to request holds on books and view your account information.

For Grades 6-12

Username: school email address

Password: 1234

Example

mweaver01@prairieschool.com

1234

*Passwords can be changed and reset by Mrs. Weaver. Please email Mrs. Weaver at mweaver@prairieschool.com to make any password changes.

*Parents/Guardians are welcome to have their own SRC accounts. Please email Mrs. Weaver at mweaver@prairieschool.com to request an account.

WI Schools Digital Library Catalog (WDDL) + Sora (ebooks and digital audiobooks)



<https://bit.ly/digitalsrc>

*Use your school Google account as login on a phone, iPad, or Chromebook.

You can also link your digital public library catalog with your public library card number and pin to your Sora app.

Please see local public libraries and independent bookstores for additional title copies.

Grade 6: English

I think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to make sense.

-- Harold Kushner

Choose any two of the following books to read.

You will complete the pennant project for one book.

We will do an activity with the second book at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

- ***Maniac Magee (Jerry Spinelli)* Summer Reading Course Book***

- After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

***Note: If you are taking the summer course “Getting Started on Summer Reading,” you must read *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. The course will be offered June 21-24 this summer.**

- ***A Night Divided (Jennifer Nielsen)***

- With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve year old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. When Gerta receives a mysterious drawing, she realizes it may be the way to freedom and uniting her family again.

- ***90 Miles to Havana (Enrique Flores-Galbis)***

- When Julian’s parents make the heartbreaking decision to send him and his two brothers away from Cuba to Miami via the Pedro Pan operation, the boys are thrust into a new world where bullies run rampant and it’s not always clear how to best protect themselves.

- ***Unteachables (Gordon Korman)***

- The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich, was once a rising star. However his career was shattered by a cheating scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning it in, he is finally one year away from early retirement. But the superintendent has his own plans to torpedo that idea—and it involves assigning Mr. Kermit to the Unteachables.

- ***Eleven (Tom Rogers)***

- Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. This is a story about bullies and heroes. About tragedy and hope. About enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza. This is Eleven: the journey of a boy turning eleven on 9/11.

- ***Other Words for Home (Jasmine Warga)***

- Jude never thought she’d be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

- ***Pony (RJ Palacio)***

- Twelve-year-old Silas is awoken in the dead of night by three menacing horsemen who take his father away. Silas is left shaken, scared, and alone, except for the presence of his companion, Mittenwool . . . who happens to be a ghost. When a pony shows up at his door, Silas makes the

courageous decision to leave his home and embark on a perilous journey to find his father. Along the way, he will face his fears to unlock the secrets of his past and explore the unfathomable mysteries of the world around him.

- ***Ghost (Jason Reynolds)***

or you may choose any book in this series that you have not read before

- Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

- ***Among the Hidden (Margaret Peterson Haddix) -***

-or you may choose any book in this series you have not read before

- Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan?

- ***Bones Never Lie (nonfiction)***

- How did King Tut really die? The mystery of the young pharaoh's death is only one of the puzzles that modern science has helped solve. Thanks to forensics—the science of examining physical evidence—we now know that King Tut died of malaria. We also know that stomach cancer, and not arsenic as suspected, killed Napoleon. Seven intriguing stories about historical royal figures whose demise was suspicious, and hard scientific facts about crime-solving techniques make each event seem like an episode of CSI rather than a history lesson.

- ***Patient Zero (nonfiction)***

- More people have died in disease epidemics than in wars or other disasters, but the process of identifying these diseases and determining how they spread is often a terrifying gamble. Epidemiologists have been ignored, mocked, or silenced all while trying to protect the population and identify “patient zero”—the first person to have contracted the disease, and a key piece in solving the epidemic puzzle.

Assignment:

Summer Reading Pennant Project

This summer you will be reading two summer reading books from the summer reading list. **For one book, you will create five different pennants (see directions below).** Read a second book from the list and we will complete an activity in class at the beginning of the school year.

Title & Author Pennant

Include the following:

- Title of your book
- Author of the book
- A symbol to represent your book

Setting Pennant

Include the following:

- Share when the story took place
- Share where the story took place
- Include a symbol or picture to represent the setting

Conflict & Resolution Pennant

Include the following:

- Major conflict in your book
- Include a picture/symbol to represent the conflict
- A resolution to the conflict
- Include a picture/symbol to represent the resolution

Character/Favorite Part of the Book Pennant

Include the following:

- Share a favorite character from the story
 - Tell me three reasons why they are your favorite character
 - Include a picture or symbol to represent your character
- OR
- Share your favorite part of the book
 - Tell me three reasons why this part of the book was your favorite
 - Include a picture or symbol to represent this part of the book

“Lesson learned from the story” Pennant

Include the following

- Share what the character learned from this book
- Share why this lesson is important
- Include a symbol or picture to go with your writing

Things to consider:

- Use the provided graphic organizers to help you.
- Please do your best on your drawings; tracing is okay.
Symbols are great if you have a hard time with drawing lots of detail.
- Use color. Colored pencils often look better than markers (or a combination of both).
Shading in the background of your pennant would look great too!
- Make sure to check for spelling mistakes and capital letters.
- I have included a few extra pennants in your pack, in case you mess up. I also have included this in our Summer Reading Google Classroom if you need more!
- If you are stuck or have questions, always feel free to email me. I check my email regularly throughout the summer and would be happy to help!
- We will assemble these pennants in class when we return in the fall. Feel free to put them back in this folder and return the entire folder to school.
- We will put the pennants together in class, so return your folders with the pennants completed inside.

*****This list can be found in your student’s Google Classroom under 6th Grade Summer Reading.*****

Grade 7: English

Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul.

-- Joyce Carol Oates

7th grade Summer Reading 2022

Choose any one book from List A and any one book from List B to read:

****emerging readers**

List A

- ****My Life As A Potato (Arianne Costner)**
 - Ben Hardy believes he's cursed by potatoes. After accidentally causing the mascot to sprain an ankle, Ben is sentenced to Spud duty for the final basketball games of the year. But if the other kids know he's the Spud, his plans for popularity are likely to be a big dud! Ben lies to his friends to keep it a secret! No one will know it's him under the potato suit . . . right?
- **The Science of Breakable Things (Tae Keller)**
 - When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, she thinks it could be the perfect solution. With the prize money, she can fly her mother to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids. Her mother has been suffering from depression, and Natalie is positive that the flowers' magic will inspire her mom to fall in love with life again.
- **Shadow Jumper (JM Forster)**
 - Jack Phillips's allergy to sunshine confines him to the shadows, leaving him lonely and at risk of life-threatening burns every time he steps into the light. Jack's condition is suddenly worse than ever and only his missing scientist dad can save him. Shocking rumors and dark secrets bombard them at every turn. But can he find the courage to face the truth?
- **The Seventh Most Important Thing (Shelley Pearsall)**
 - Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge - he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service...working for him. Arthur realizes the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine...
- **Song for A Whale (Lynne Kelly)**
 - From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him!

List B

- **Amina's Voice (Hena Khan)***
 - A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community. Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. Except now that she's in middle school, everything feels different. Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in?

***Note: If you are taking the summer course "Getting Started on Summer Reading," you must read *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan. The course will be offered June 21-24 this summer.**

- **Ghost Boys (Jewell Parker Rhodes)**
 - Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community. Soon Jerome meets another ghost who helps Jerome process what has happened. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.
- **Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)**
 - Lew Alcindor was just another kid from New York City with all the usual problems: He struggled with fitting in, with pleasing a strict father, and with overcoming shyness that made him feel socially awkward. But with a talent for basketball, and an unmatched team of supporters, Lew Alcindor was able to transform and to become Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The inspiration from those around him, and his drive to find his own path in life, are highlighted in this personal and awe-inspiring journey.
- **The Guggenheim Mystery (Robin Stevens)-**
 - When Ted and his big sister, Kat, take a trip to New York to visit their cousin Salim and their aunt Gloria, they think they're prepared for big-city adventures. But when a famous painting is stolen from the Guggenheim Museum, where Aunt Gloria works, the surprises begin to mount faster than they could have anticipated. With the police looking at Aunt Gloria as the prime suspect, Ted, Kat, and Salim become sleuthing partners, following a trail of clues across NYC to prove her innocence.
- **It Wasn't Me (Dana Alison Levy)**
 - When Theo's photography project is mysteriously vandalized at school there are five suspected students who all say "it wasn't me." Theo just wants to forget about the humiliating incident but his favorite teacher is determined to get to the bottom of it and has the six of them come into school over vacation to talk. They realize they might get along after all, despite their differences. But what is everyone hiding and will school ever be the same?

Assignment:

This summer, you will be reading **2 books**. Choose one book from **List A** and one from **List B**. As you enjoy the jar of goodies, be sure to **save** the mason jar for the summer reading activity. Complete the checklist when you have finished reading. Your mason jar as well as your writing pieces are due on the **first day of school**.

Assignment Checklist:

- Design half of the outside of your mason jar with the setting of your **first** chosen book
 - Then use the other half to represent the setting of the your **second** book choice
 - This can be illustrated on a piece of paper and then wrapped around the jar or you can paint/draw directly on it
- Choose a minimum of 8 question stems to answer. You should choose at least 4 for each novel and you may **NOT** use a question stem more than once
 - How were you able to make a **text-to-self**, **text-to-world**, and **text-to-text** connection while reading your novel? Be sure to describe all three.
 - What theme emerged most? Provide examples from the novel to support your response.
 - How were characters impacted by a major event in the novel?
 - Explain how diversity was strongly represented in the text or how diversity was lacking in your novel. Provide examples to support your response.
 - Describe a time in your novel where a character had a good sense of social awareness in a situation that occurred.

- Explain how the perspectives of various people were represented in your novel.
- Describe a time in your novel when you made an inference about something that turned out to be incorrect.
- Explain a time when the author created a certain mood through word choice. Describe the words that were used and what mood was created.
- Describe a moment in your novel when something occurred that you agreed or strongly disagreed with and why.
- Were there any issues that arose during your reading that are still relevant and being dealt with in our world today? Explain how.

Assignment Requirements:

- Handwriting must be legible or typed
- Each question stem should be answered in complete sentences
- Each question stem should have at least 5 sentences
- Responses should be cut out and folded into a small piece of paper that you will insert into the jar (8 total)
- Mason jar decorated w/ the setting from both novels

Grade 8: English

“Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it’s a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope.”
-Dr. Seuss

Choose any one book from List A and any one book from List B to read:

List A:

- **Amaria and The Night Brothers (B.B. Alston)**
 - Quinton Peters mysteriously goes missing and his little sister, 13-year-old Amari Peters, can’t understand why it’s not a bigger deal. Why isn’t his story all over the news? Then Amari discovers a ticking briefcase in her brother’s old closet. He’s left her a nomination for a summer tryout at the secretive Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. Amari is certain the answer to finding out what happened to him lies somewhere inside, if only she can get her head around the idea of mermaids, dwarves, yetis and magicians all being real things, something she has to instantly confront when she is given a weredragon as a roommate.
- **Cece Rios and The Desert of Souls (Kaela Rivera)**
 - Living in the remote town of Tierra del Sol is dangerous, especially when powerful spirits roam the desert and threaten humankind. After all, only brujas—humans who capture and control criaturas—consort with the spirits, and brujeria is a terrible crime. When her older sister, Juana, is kidnapped by El Sombrerón, a powerful dark criatura, Cece is determined to bring Juana back. Thankfully, the legendary criatura Coyote has a soft spot for humans and agrees to help her on her journey.
- **The Ivory Key (Akshaya Raman)**
 - Vira, Ronak, Kaleb, and Riya may be siblings, but they’ve never been close or even liked each other that much. Torn apart by the different paths their lives have taken, only one thing can bring them back together: the search for the Ivory Key, a thing of legend that will lead the way to a new source of magic. Magic is Ashoka’s biggest export and the only thing standing between them and war with the neighboring kingdoms—as long as their enemies don’t find out that the magic mines are nearly depleted. The siblings all have something to gain from finding the Ivory Key, and even more to lose if they don’t.

List B:

- **The Storm Runner (J.C. Cervantes)**
 - Zane has always enjoyed exploring the dormant volcano near his home in New Mexico, even though hiking it is challenging. What Zane doesn’t know is that the volcano is a gateway to another world and he is at the center of a powerful prophecy. A new girl at school, Brooks, informs him that he’s destined to release an evil god from the ancient Maya relic he is imprisoned in. To survive, Zane will have to become the Storm Runner.
- **The Accidental Apprentice (Amanda Foody)**
 - The last thing Barclay Thorne ever wanted was an adventure. Thankfully, as an apprentice to the town’s mushroom farmer, Barclay need only work hard and follow the rules to one day become the head mushroom farmer himself. But then Barclay accidentally breaks his town’s most sacred rule: never ever EVER stray into the Woods, for within the Woods lurk vicious magical Beasts.
- **Tristan Strong Punches A Hole in The Sky (Kwame Mbalia)**

- Seventh-grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom and steals Eddie's journal. Can Tristan save this world before he loses more of the things he loves?
- **The Last Fallen Star (Graci Kim)**
 - Riley Oh can't wait to see her sister get initiated into the Gom clan, a powerful lineage of Korean healing witches their family has belonged to for generations. Her sister, Hattie, will earn her Gi bracelet and finally be able to cast spells without adult supervision. Although Riley is desperate to follow in her sister's footsteps when she herself turns thirteen, she's a saram--a person without magic. Riley was adopted, and despite having memorized every healing spell she's ever heard, she often feels like the odd one out in her family. Then Hattie gets an idea: what if the two of them could cast a spell that would allow Riley to share Hattie's magic? If it works, no one will ever treat Riley as an outsider again. It's a perfect plan! Until it isn't. When the sisters attempt to violate the laws of the Godrealm, Hattie's life ends up hanging in the balance, and to save her Riley has to fulfill an impossible task: find the last fallen star.

8th Grade Fantasy Quest Summer Reading Project

Assignment Details:

As you prepare for your last year in middle school, you will be escaping reality to explore the magical world of 2 fantasy books. You may choose any book from List A and any book from List B to complete your fantasy summer reading project. All components of the project will be due on the first day of school.

There are 3 main components to your fantasy quest summer reading project: the completion of 2 Hero's Journey graphic organizers, the creation of 2 spinning wheels, and a comparative essay.

- **Hero's Journey Graphic Organizer**

You will fill in 2 graphic organizers (one for each fantasy book). Be sure to use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling as you write your responses.

- **Spinning Quest Wheel**

Design 1 spinning wheel that represents the 12 step journey a hero completed in one of your chosen novels. Your spinning wheel should be colorful and represent each phase of your Hero's journey.

- **Comparative Essay**

Complete a comparative essay outline that focuses on how two items or concepts from your chosen novels are similar, different, or similar in some ways and different in others. We will finalize the essay when you return to school

- Remember that you need to do more than just list how items are similar or different!
- Discuss both items equally.
- Remember to connect your ideas!
- One way to connect your ideas is to use transitional words and phrases that emphasize how items are similar or dissimilar.
- Use the conclusion to restate your thesis, to summarize your main points, and to tell your reader why your findings are significant.