



Dear Middle School Community,

Reading is crucial for middle school students, and we will be increasing the amount of required reading in the months and years ahead. To get a head start on our increased expectations, please start by having your child read at least 30 minutes a night. They can read novels, newspapers, magazines, or anything else that interests them.

### **Why is reading so important?**

- **Expands Vocabulary** – Strengthens language skills and comprehension.
- **Boosts Critical Thinking** – Creates opportunities to analyze, interpret, and evaluate different perspectives.
- **Increases Attention Span** – Helps develop focus in an age of digital distractions.
- **Prepares for High School & College** – Strengthens foundational knowledge and skills needed for advanced subjects and standardized tests (ACT and SAT).

Here are some helpful strategies to support a family culture of reading.

### **Make Reading Relevant & Engaging**

- **Offer Choice** – Let students pick texts and topics of interest, whether books or articles, fiction or nonfiction, histories or science fiction, true crime or biographies.
- **Read Aloud Together** – Reading together models crucial lifelong habits of heart and mind.
- **Use Audiobooks to Read Along** – Audiobooks help readers build confidence and fluency.
- **Encourage Book Series** – One book leads to another!

### **Create a Positive Reading Environment**

- **Provide Comfortable Spaces** – A cozy nook and a snack make reading more inviting.
- **Celebrate Progress** – Acknowledge achievements like finishing a book or trying a new genre.
- **Model Reading** – Remove distractions and let your child see you reading. You'll be amazed by what can happen when the whole family is together reading nightly.

If you have any questions or would like our help, please reach out via email.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Ali Gasser    Ms. Tameka Tate    Mrs. Kathy Boero*

[Ali Gasser](#)

[Tameka Tate](#)

[Kathy Boero](#)

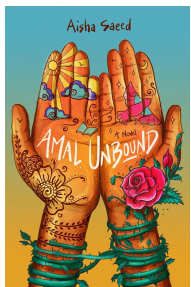
## *Campfire Stories: Summer Reading Project*

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. —Joseph Addison

This summer, we want you to embark on an adventure with your friends or family! It can be in a fort you build out of sheets, exploring a tree house, or sitting around a campfire in your own backyard. Find a place where you can read a book and make memories with others! **Google Classroom Code: rngaawwg**

### Directions:

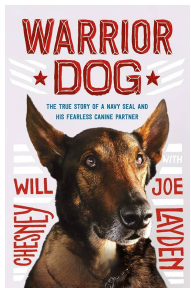
1. Choose **2** books from the choices below
2. Save the mason jar for the summer reading activity (after you've enjoyed your s'mores)
3. Complete the **checklist** when you have finished reading



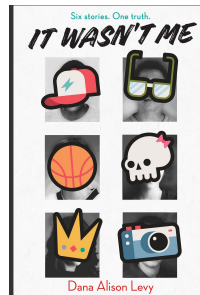
**\*\*Amal Unbound** Life is quiet and ordinary in Amal's Pakistani village, but she had no complaints, and besides, she's busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher one day. Her dreams are temporarily dashed when—as the eldest daughter—she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Then the unimaginable happens—after an accidental run-in with the son of her village's corrupt landlord, Amal must work as his family's servant to pay off her own family's debt.



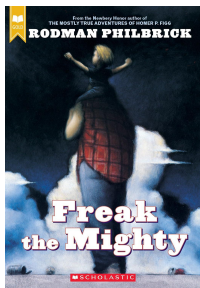
**The Science of Breakable Things** —When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, she thinks it could be the perfect solution. With the prize money, she can fly her mother, who is suffering from depression, to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids.



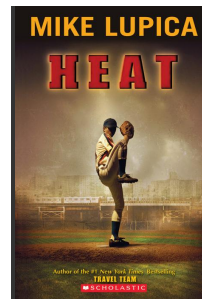
**Warrior Dog** — This tells the true story of Cairo, a heroic Navy SEAL dog, and his handler Will Chesney. From high-stakes missions—including the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound—to deep personal struggles, their unbreakable bond proves that sometimes the greatest warriors have four legs and fur.



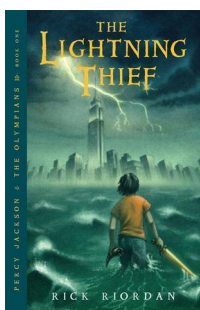
**It Wasn't Me** —When Theo's photography project is mysteriously vandalized at school there are five suspected students who all say "it wasn't me." His favorite teacher is determined to get to the bottom of it and has the six of them come into school over vacation to talk. The six students—the Nerd, the Princess, the Jock, the Screw Up, the Weirdo, and the Nobody—think of it as detention, until they realize something.



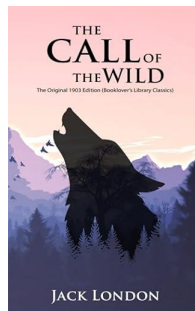
**Freak the Mighty** "I never had a brain until Freak came along . . . That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along. Freak was weird, too. He had a little body -- and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable. Together, they were Freak the Mighty.



**Heat** Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba.



**The Lightning Thief** — Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school . . . again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect.



**The Call of the Wild** , considered by many to be Jack London's greatest novel, is a gripping survival story of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature. Adventure and animal-story enthusiasts as well as students and devotees of American literature will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience.



**Have you finished your two summer reading novels? Awesome! Check out this exciting list of extra books to keep your summer reading adventure going!**

### **7th/8th Grade**

**Fantasy** – Magic, mythical creatures, and epic adventures

*Thickety* by J.A White

*Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

*Fablehaven* by Brandon Mull

*Endling* by Katherine Applegate

**Science Fiction** – Space travel, futuristic technology, or dystopian worlds

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

*The House of Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

*Scythe* by Neal Schusterman

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

*Maze Runner* by James Dashner

*Cinder* by Marissa Meyer

*Miss Peregrine's House for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

**Adventure** – Fast-paced stories with daring quests

*The Raft* by S.A. Bodeen

*City Spies* by James Ponti

*The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Mystery** – Puzzles, secrets, and detective work

*Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs

*Blackthorn Key* by Kevin Sands

*The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

*One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus

**Realistic Fiction** – Everyday life challenges and friendships

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass

*Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore

*The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz

## Use this if you are stuck on a prompt:

**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.**

**Text-to-self** - connections where the student connects what they are reading to personal experiences or knowledge.

**Text-to-world** - connection reader made to something happening in the world.

**Text-to-text** - a connection between the text and another story you have read previously.

**What theme emerged most? Provide examples from the novel to support your response.**

**Theme** is a central, unifying idea. It's the bigger issue that emerges as the characters pursue their goals.

**How were characters impacted by a major event in the novel?**

A **major event** is something big that happened.

**Explain how diversity was strongly represented in the text or how diversity was lacking in your novel. Provide examples to support your response.**

**Diversity** is the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds.

**Describe a time in your novel where a character had a good sense of social awareness in a situation that occurred.**

**Social awareness** is the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

**Describe a time in your novel when you made an inference about something that turned out to be incorrect.**

An **inference** means a conclusion you made based on what happened.

**Explain a time when the author created a certain mood through word choice.**

**Describe the words that were used and what mood was created.**

A **mood** is the way someone feels in the story.

**Explain how the perspectives of various people were represented in the novel.**

**Perspective** is seeing things from a certain point of view. For instance, in *Global*, we saw Yuki's perspective and Sami's perspective.

**Were there any issues that arose during your reading that are still relevant and being dealt with in our world today? Explain how.**

**Issues** are important things in our world ( in *Global* we saw climate change).

**Relevant** means happening around us; we often see it.

## 2025 SRC Summer Reading Resources

*Need to find summer reading books?*

### SRC Website

<https://sites.google.com/prairieschool.com/src/upper>

\*Use this link to access the library catalog and Sora ebooks.

### Destiny Discover Library Catalog (print)



\*\*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 the librarian. Please email [src@prairieschool.com](mailto:src@prairieschool.com) to make any password changes.

\*Parents/Guardians are welcome to have their own SRC accounts. Please email the librarian at [src@prairieschool.com](mailto:src@prairieschool.com) to request an account.

### WI Schools Digital Library Catalog (WSDLC) + Sora app (ebooks and digital audiobooks)

\*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 Boswell Book Company for additional copies.**