



## **5th Grade Summer Reading Guide**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2026 Summer Reading Guide for fifth Grade. 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 2026/27 school year.

The students need to choose two books from the list provided to read prior to the beginning of the new school year. Please acquire your summer reading choices on your own; they can be purchased or borrowed. We hope you find books that are interesting and enjoyable for you.

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,

Susan Holum  
Primary School Head

# 2026 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 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 5-12

*Username:* school email address

*Password:* 1234

#### Example

mweaver01@prairieschool.com

1234

\*Passwords can be changed and reset by Mckenzie Weaver, Director of the SRC. Please email [Mrs. Weaver](#) to make any password changes.

\*Parents/Guardians are welcome to have their own SRC accounts. Please email [Mrs. Weaver](#) to request an account.

### WI Schools Digital Library Catalog (WDDL) + Sora app (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.

## Grade 5 Summer Reading

*"Reading...a vacation for the mind...."*  
-- Dave Barry

Choose any one of the following books to read; complete the assignment for only one title. Then, pick a second book of your choice. If you would like to select a "good fit" book not from this list for your second summer reading book, please have your parents email [Mr. Pearson](mailto:Mr. Pearson) by Sunday, June 29th, with the title and their approval of your choice.

### Fiction

- ***Number the Stars*** (Lois Lowry, 1989)\*
  - In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

**\*Note: If you are taking the summer course "Get Started on Summer Reading - Grade 5," you must read *Number the Stars*. The course will be offered June 16-18,20th (no classes on the 19th) this summer.**

### Realistic Fiction

- ***Bridge to Terabithia*** (Katherine Paterson, 1977)
  - Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest runner in 5th Grade, so he practices all summer. Leslie Burke, a new girl at school, is faster than Jess. The two become fast friends and spend most days inventing an imaginary world called Terabithia while playing in the woods behind Leslie's house.
- ***Save Me a Seat*** (Sarah Weeks, 2016)
  - Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems – but when their lives intersect in the first week of 5th Grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.
- ***A Whole New Ballgame*** (Phil Bildner, 2015)
  - Rip and Red are best friends whose 5th Grade year is nothing like what they expected. They have a crazy new tattooed teacher named Mr. Acevedo, who doesn't believe in tests or homework and who likes off-the-wall projects, the more "off" the better. They also find themselves with a new basketball coach. But together these two make a great duo who know how to help each other – and find ways to make a difference—in the classroom and on the court.
- Any book from ***The Comeback Kids*** series (Mike Lupica)
  - Cheer alongside this cast of underdog athletes as they seek to rise to the occasion and defy the long odds. Books include: *Hot Hand*, *Safe at Home*, *Long Shot*, *Two-Minute Drill*, or *Shoot-Out*.

## Fantasy/Science Fiction

- **Artemis Fowl** (Eoin Colfer, 2001)
  - Artemis Fowl, a brilliant and cunning 12-year-old, discovers the existence of a hidden world of fairies and magical creatures. Determined to restore his family's fortune, he hatches a daring plan to steal gold from the fairies. However, his scheme attracts the attention of the fairy police force who must stop Artemis before he unleashes chaos upon their world.
- Any book from the **Mr. Lemoncello's Library** series (Chris Grabenstein)
  - Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous game-maker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

## Nonfiction

- **Bugged: How Insects Changed History** (Sarah Albee, 2014)
  - There are about ten quintillion insects in the world and some of them have affected human history in tremendous ways! For as long as humans have been on earth, we've co-existed with insects...for better or for worse. Once you begin to look at world history through fly-specked glasses, you begin to see the mark of these minute life forms at every turn. Beneficial bugs have built empires. Bad bugs have toppled them. Bugged is not your everyday history book.

## 5th Grade Assignment: Pictures with Captions Due on the 2nd day of school

- Divide an 8 1/2" X 11" piece of paper into six even sections (if you want more space, use a poster board or any larger size piece of paper).
- Work must be neat and edited for display at school.
- Each section should include a picture and a caption. The caption should be detailed, but not take up more than half the section.
- **Fiction:** Include one of the following pieces of information in each of the six sections:
  - Title, author, and your name
  - Setting (where and when)
  - Main character — describe the character in at least four sentences
  - One major problem the character had and the solution
  - Two events that helped solve this problem
  - What did the character learn?
- **Nonfiction:** Include one of the following pieces of information in each of the six sections:
  - Title, author, and your name
  - Describe the subject your researched in at least four sentences
  - The most interesting fact
  - The most helpful text feature
  - One example of something the author did that you liked
  - The part of the book that you will remember most

\*\*\*This list and assignment will be included with student report cards.\*\*\*

# THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING | GRADE 5

"Reading...a vacation for the mind..."  
~ Dave Barry

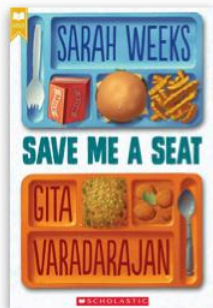
### Directions

- Choose any two (2) of the books below to read.
- Complete an assignment on one (1) of the two books. You will receive further instructions before summer.
- Please note: if you are taking the "Get Started on Summer Reading - Grade 5", you **MUST** read *Number the Stars*. Contact Mrs. Gasser with any questions.



### *Number the Stars*

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.



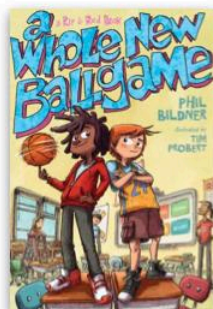
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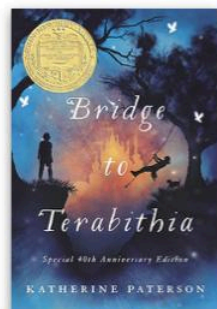
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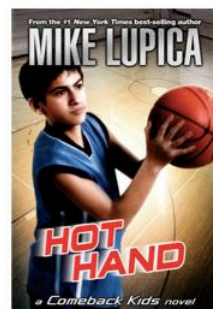
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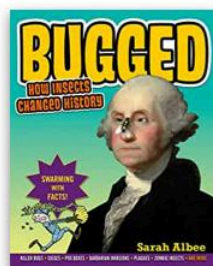
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### *Bugged: How Insects Changed History*











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# THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING | TIPS








### Do Your Best To...

-  • Purchase or borrow copies of the two books you decide to read well ahead of time.
-  • Keep the books where you'll see them to remind you to read.
-  • Intentionally plan a week or two to focus on one summer reading book.
-  • Set a regular reading schedule, like after dinner for 30 minutes.
-  • Find a comfortable place to read each time.
-  • Use a bookmark to mark your progress.
-  • Read the assignment description and directions *before* reading, so you can be on the look out for things to help you complete the assignment.
-  • Write on sticky notes or in the margins (*if you own the book!*) as you read.
-  • Complete the assignment on one (1) of the two books.
-  • Email Mr. Pearson if you have questions:  
[tpearson@prairieschool.com](mailto:tpearson@prairieschool.com)



### Try Not To...

-  • Read the book as fast as you can just to get it done; give your brain time to think about the what you're reading.
-  • Read the whole book in one sitting or one day; your body, eyes, and brain need breaks, too.
-  • Wait to read the books until the week before school starts next year because you may have less time than you realize.
-  • Wait to complete the assignment until the last week of summer vacation.
-  • Be distracted by TV or music with lyrics while you read.