

# THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

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 with 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 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,

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

Tameka Tate

Jenny Cobb

Ali Gasser

Kathy Boero

## 2026 SRC Summer Reading Resources

*Need to find summer reading books?*

### SRC Website

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

\*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

agasser@prairieschool.com

1234

\* Passwords can be changed and reset by Mrs. Gasser. Please email Mrs. Gasser at [agasser@prairieschool.com](mailto:agasser@prairieschool.com) to make any password changes.

### WI Schools Digital Library Catalog (WSDLC) + 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 independent bookstores for additional title copies.**



## Summer Reading One Pager Directions

*A one-pager is a way to visually share key ideas and information from what you have read. When you create a one-pager, you are trying to use both visual symbols and important words to clearly and concisely share the most important takeaways.*

This summer, you will be reading two summer reading books from the summer reading list. For one book, you will create a one-pager. This will be a rough draft; we will complete the final draft in class.

Then, read a second book from the list, and we will complete an activity in class at the beginning of the school year.

### For your one pager:

Complete a section using words and images to represent **the title and author of the book.**

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

Complete a section using words and images to represent **the setting** (time and place) of the book.

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

Complete a section using words and images to represent **the conflict** in your book.

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

Complete a section using words and images to represent **the resolution** in your book.

- A resolution to the conflict
- Include a picture/symbol to represent the resolution

Complete a section that includes your **favorite character OR favorite part of the book.**

- 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

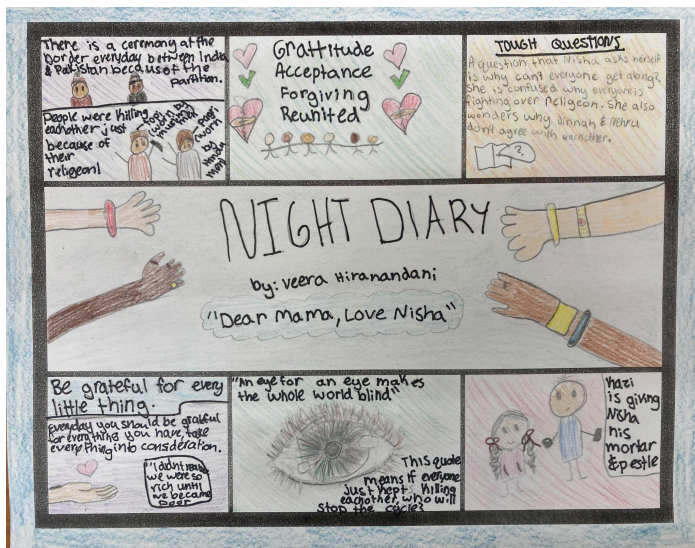
Complete a section using words and images to represent the **"Lesson Learned From the Story."**

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

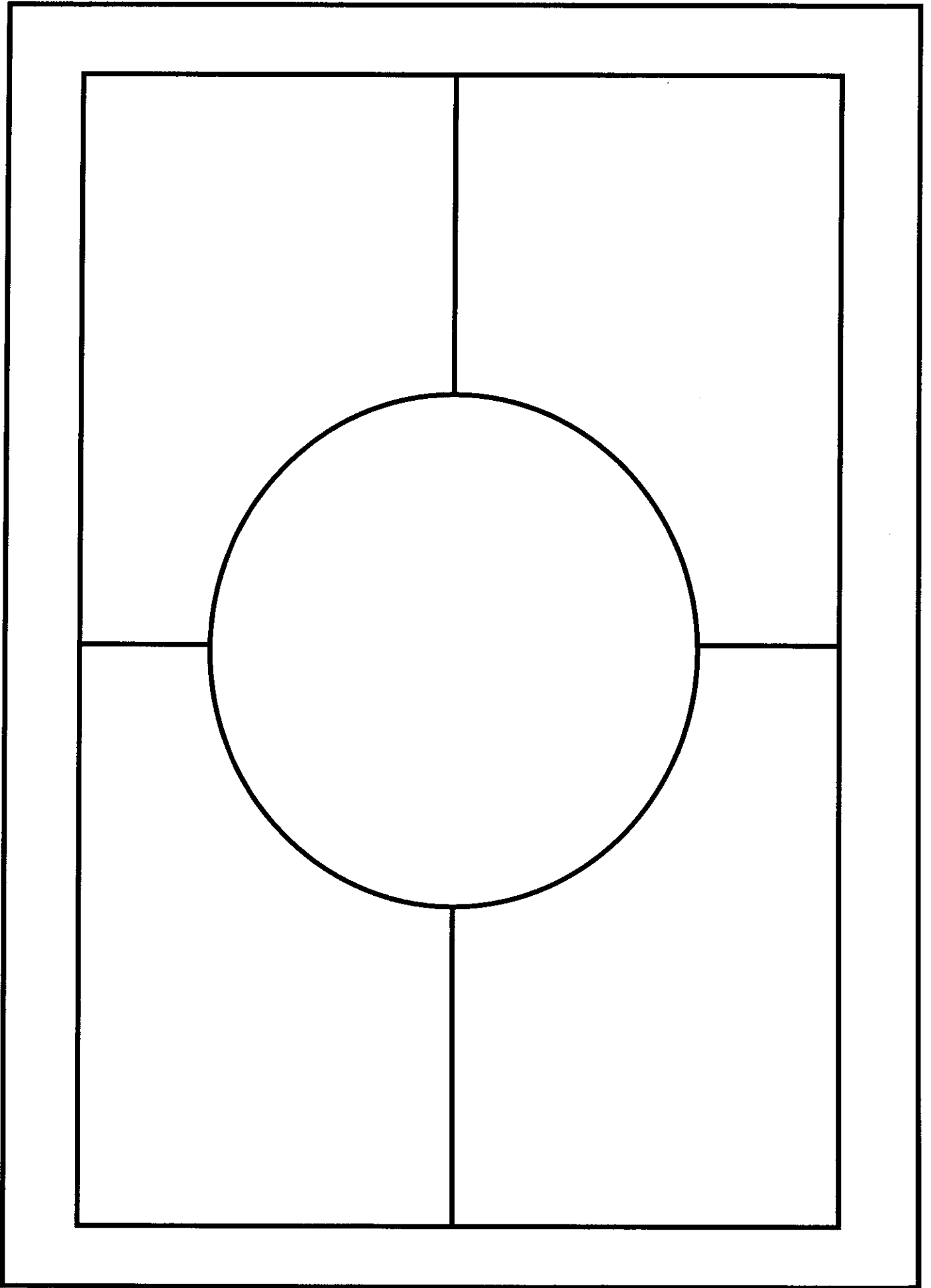
## Things to consider:

- Make a rough sketch for your drawings.  
Symbols are great if you have a hard time with drawing lots of details.
- Although this is a rough draft, all writing and drawings should be written and sketched out. Please don't have any blank spaces. You do not need to use color on this rough draft.
- If you lose something or have questions, check the Summer Reading Google Classroom for materials. Almost everything in there can be printed.
- If you are stuck or have questions, please don't hesitate to email [Jenny Cobb](#) or [Ali Gasser](#). Both check email regularly throughout the summer and would be happy to help!
- Again, this is a rough draft. Please complete it to the best of your ability, so you can finish your final draft in class. Feel free to put all materials back in this folder and return the entire folder to school.
- Don't forget to read a second book; we will do a small activity in class for the second book you read; so no need to do anything but read your second book!

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



Example of a One Pager about *Night Diary*



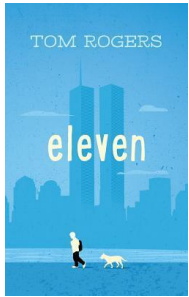
## 6th Summer Reading One Pager

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

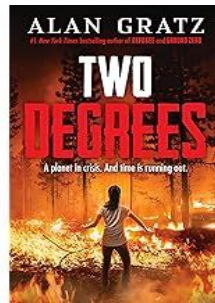
### STEPS FOR COMPLETING SUMMER READING:

1. Choose any two of the following books to read.
2. Complete a ROUGH DRAFT of a one pager for one book. (When we return to school you will finish your final draft of your one pager for your first book and complete a writing assignment in class for your second book.)
3. Join **Google Classroom Code: bsyrk7tf.**
4. Read, read read.

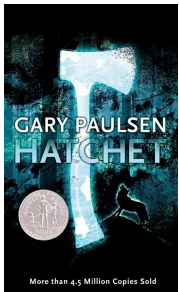
Please note that if you are taking the Summer Reading Class, we are reading *Eleven*. Contact [Mrs. Gasser](#), MS English Teacher with any questions.



**Eleven** – 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. This is *Eleven*: the journey of a boy turning eleven on 9/11.



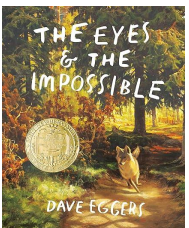
**Two Degrees** – This action-packed novel is about four kids fighting for survival. They each live in a different part of the United States and are battling a wild fire, a hurricane, flooding, and a hungry Canadian bear. Each of the stories comes together, and best selling author, Alan Gratz keeps readers on the edge of their seats as they discover how each person fares



**Hatchet** – Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson, haunted by his secret knowledge of his mother's infidelity, is traveling by single-engine plane to visit his father for the first time since the divorce. When the plane crashes, killing the pilot, the sole survivor is Brian. He is alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present.



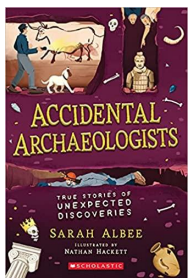
**Among the Hidden** – Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, 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?



**The Eyes and the Impossible** – The story of a dog named Johannes. Johannes is a free dog, a fast dog—such a fast dog! He lives in an urban park by the sea, and every day, he runs through the park, seeing all, missing nothing, and reporting what he sees to the park's three ancient Bison, the Keepers of the Equilibrium. But the Equilibrium has been disrupted.



**Front Desk** – Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?



**Accidental Archaeologists** – Secret treasures are buried all around us – you just have to look for them! *Accidental Archaeologists* takes you on an adventure through time to relive some of the coolest surprise discoveries by totally ordinary people all over the world.



**Thirst** – Minni lives in the poorest part of Mumbai, where access to water is limited to a few hours a day and the communal taps have long lines. Lately, though, even that access is threatened by severe water shortages and thieves who are stealing this precious commodity—an act that Minni accidentally witnesses one night. How did something as simple as access to water get so complicated?



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

### **Sixth Grade**

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

*The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer

*Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate

*When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller

*Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate

*Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston

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

*Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer

*The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer L Holm

*Space Case* by Stuart Gibbs

*City of Ember* (series) by Jeanne DuPrau

*Found: The Missing* (series): Margaret Peterson Haddix

*Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden

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

*Wildfire* by Rodman Philbrick

*Alone* by Megan Freeman

*A Wolf Called Wander* by Roseanne Parry

*Alone in the Woods* by Rebecca Behrens

*Ice Dogs* by Terry Lynn Johnson

*Heroes* by Alan Gratz

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

*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

*Framed* by James Ponti

*Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* by John Grisham

*Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar

*Hoot* by Carl Hiassen

*Mr Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein

*Belly Up* by Stuart Gibbs



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## **Graphic Novels** – Stories told through comic-style art

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

*When Stars are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed

*Roller Girl* by Victoria Jameson

*El Deafo* by Cece Bell

## **Historical Fiction** – Stories set in different time periods

*The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

*Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz

*Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz

*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

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

*Wonder* by RJ Palacio

*The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* by Karina Yan Glaser

*Miss Bixby's Last Day* by John David Anderson

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

*Insignificant Events in the Life of the Cactus* by Dusti Bowling

*The Unteachables* by Gordan Korman

*The Memory Keeper* by Jennifer Camiccia

*Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life* by James Patterson

*Guys Read: Funny Business* short stories/various authors

## **Poetry/Novels in Verse** – Expressive storytelling through poems

*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

*Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood

*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse

*Starfish* by Lisa Flippis

*Moo* by Sharon Creech

*Serafina's Promise* by Ann E Burg

*Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca

## **Classics**

*My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

*Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery

*Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss