

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 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.

 THE PRAIRIE SCHOOLAssignment Checklist:

- Make my book selection in the “Rising 7s” Summer Reading Google Classroom
- Enjoy the goodies inside my mason jar as I read my selected books!
- Design half of the outside of my mason jar with the setting of my first chosen book
 - Then use the other half to represent the setting of my second book choice
 - This can be illustrated on a piece of paper and then wrapped around the jar or I can paint/draw directly on it
- Choose a minimum of 8 question stems below to answer on each provided sheet. I should choose at least 4 for each novel and I 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 the 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 the novel. Provide specific examples.
 - Describe a time in the novel when a character had a good sense of social awareness in a situation that occurred.
 - Explain how multiple perspectives were represented in the novel.
 - Describe a time in the novel when you made an inference about something that turned out to be incorrect.
 - Explain a time when the author established a specific mood through word choice. What vocabulary was used, and what mood did it create?
 - Describe a scene from the novel when something occurred that you agreed with or strongly disagreed with and explain why.
 - Discuss the societal or global issues presented in the novel that are still relevant in today’s world.

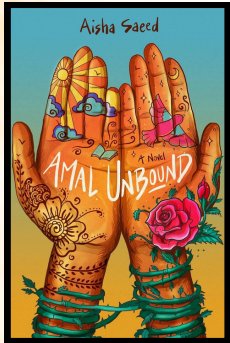
THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

7TH GRADE SUMMER READING PROJECT

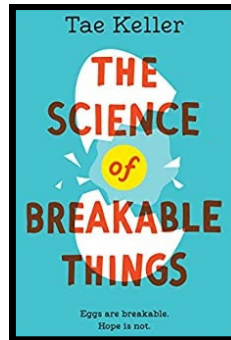
Whether you're gathering around a campfire in your backyard or discovering a cozy nook to enjoy a good book, make sure to create lasting memories with books this summer!

Requirements:

- Choose 2 books from the options provided below.
- Keep the mason jar for the summer reading activity (after indulging in your s'mores).
- Complete the checklist once you've finished reading.



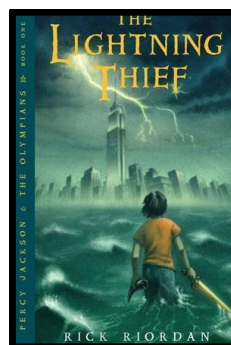
Amal lives a peaceful life in her Pakistani village and dreams of becoming a teacher. However, her aspirations are hindered when she must stay home to care for her younger siblings. Her situation worsens when she encounters the corrupt landlord's son and is compelled to work as a servant for his family to settle her family's debt.



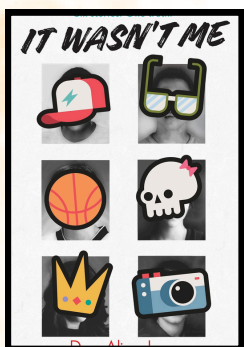
When Natalie's science teacher encourages her to participate in an egg drop competition, she believes it might be the ideal opportunity. The prize money could enable her to fly her mother, who is struggling with depression, to witness the enchanting Cobalt Blue Orchids.



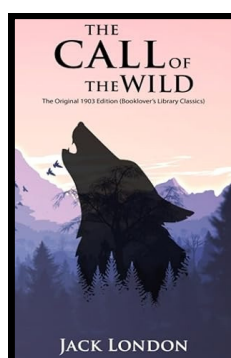
Win "Coal" Keegan arrives at his new foster home with the McKays, who seem welcoming, but he is hesitant to trust them. He keeps secrets about his recent experiences, including drawing on a street with chalk, an encounter with an armed neighbor, a police chase, and his mysterious ability to turn invisible.



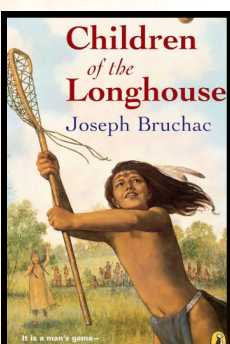
Percy Jackson faces expulsion from boarding school while mythological monsters and Greek gods invade his life. He's also the prime suspect in the theft of Zeus's master lightning bolt, which has angered the gods.



When Theo's photography project is vandalized, five students—each with distinct personalities—are suspected, all claiming innocence. His teacher brings them in during vacation to investigate, initially seen as detention, but the students soon realize there's more to the situation.



"The Call of the Wild" is Jack London's acclaimed novel about a heroic dog navigating survival during the Alaska Gold Rush. It explores the choice between life with humans and returning to nature, making it a thrilling classic for adventure lovers, animal story fans, and students of American literature.



Ohkwa'ri overhears older boys plotting a raid and informs his Mohawk elders, doing the right thing but making enemies, particularly with Grabber. As tensions rise during a village game of Tekwaarathon (lacrosse), Ohkwa'ri, a believer in peace, questions if his peaceful approach can withstand Grabber's aggression.



Michael Arroyo has a powerful pitching arm and dreams of reaching the Little League World Series. However, he faces greater challenges in life as a newly orphaned child in Cuba, with only his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos for support. If Social Services learns of their situation, they risk being separated in foster care or deported back to Cuba.

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.



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

 THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL**Historical Fiction** – Stories set in different periods

Milkweed by Kevin Henkes

Between Shades of Grey by Ruta Sepetys

Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz

Allies by Alan Gratz

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

A Night Divided by Jennifer A Nielsen

Graphic Novels – Stories told through comic-style art

Wonderstruck by Bryan Selznik

Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel by Eoin Colfer

Illegal by Eoin Colfer

Poetry/Novels in Verse – Expressive storytelling through poems

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Brown Girl, Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes

House Arrest by K.A. Holt

Classics

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Spear

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Princess Bride by William Goldman

Watership Down by Richard Adams

The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings