

May 2024

Dear Middle School Parents and Students,

As we approach the summer break, I want to emphasize the tremendous importance of summer reading for Middle School students. Summer is an excellent opportunity for students to explore new worlds, expand their knowledge, and enhance their literacy skills in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

Welcome to the 2024 Summer Reading Guide for 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade. Here you will find a list of book choices for English as well as instructions for the activities/projects we ask each student to complete for the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. You will also find a link to the Summer Reading Google Classroom.

Please plan to acquire your student's summer reading choices on your own: new or used, borrowed from a friend or the public library. Traditional paperback, ebook, Kindle, or audiobooks are also acceptable. Unless a specific edition or translation is indicated, any copy will suffice. We hope that you are able to choose books that grab your interest and take you on an adventure!

Engaging in regular reading during the summer months has numerous benefits. It helps prevent the "summer slide," where students may lose some of the academic progress they made during the school year. By reading regularly, students can maintain and even improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills.

Moreover, summer reading opens doors to new ideas, cultures, and perspectives. It fosters creativity, empathy, and a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, or a mix of both, every book read over the summer contributes to intellectual growth and prepares students for success in the upcoming school year.

Let's make this summer a season of discovery through the power of reading!

Warm regards,



Kathryn Boero  
Middle School Head and Compass Team Director



## 2024 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.

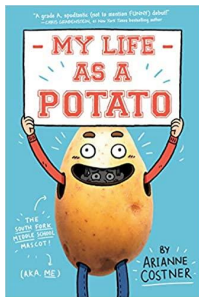
## 🔥 *Campfire Stories: Summer Reading Project* 🔥

**"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: c43yoip**

### **Directions:**

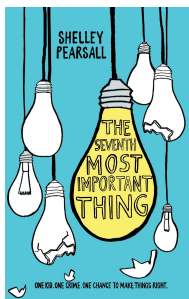
1. Choose **2** books from the choices below
2. Save the mason jar for the summer reading activity (after you've enjoyed your s'mores)
3. Complete the **checklist** when you have finished reading



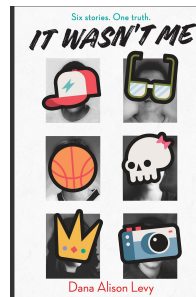
**My Life As A Potato** – Ben Hardy believes he's cursed by potatoes. After accidentally causing the mascot to sprain an ankle, Ben is sentenced to Spud duty for the final basketball games of the year.



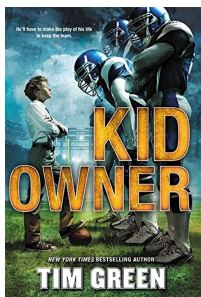
**The Science of Breakable Things** – When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, she thinks it could be the perfect solution. With the prize money, she can fly her mother, who is suffering from depression, to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids.



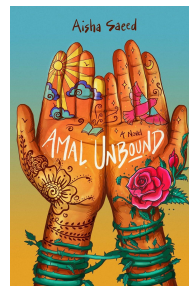
**The 7th Most Important Thing** – Arthur grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. The judge is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service...working for him. But it isn't long before Arthur realizes the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something different...



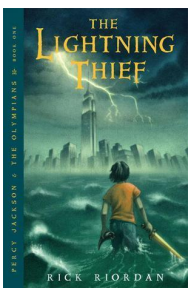
**It Wasn't Me** – When Theo's photography project is mysteriously vandalized at school there are five suspected students who all say "it wasn't me." His favorite teacher is determined to get to the bottom of it and has the six of them come into school over vacation to talk. The six students – the Nerd,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



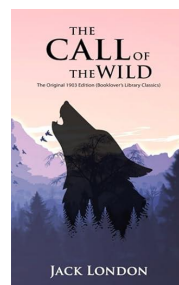
**Kid Owner** – When Ryan's estranged father unexpectedly dies, Ryan learns that he has inherited the Dallas Cowboys football team. With his new role as owner of this NFL team, Ryan has high hopes that he can be more than just a middle school misfit. Maybe he can even get off the bench and into the starting lineup of his own football team.



**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. Amal is upset, but she doesn't lose hope and finds ways to continue learning. 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 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 Alaskan 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.

Assignment 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 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 in our world today? Explain how.

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 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 felt in the story.

Explain how 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 (example in Global we saw climate change)

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

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.

(5 sentence minimum response)

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

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