Summer Reading List 2013
Prairie Junior High School

Regular Incoming 7th Grade Book Choices

Please choose one novel to read over summer vacation and be prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of the book BEFORE you return to school.

1. Trino’s Choice by Diane Gonzalez Bertrand. Lexile Level: 780 (Realistic Fiction/Crime)
   - Frustrated by his poor financial situation and hoping to impress a smart girl, seventh grader Trino falls in with a bad crowd led by an older teen with a vicious streak.

2. Taking Sides by Gary Soto. Lexile Level: 750 (Sports Fiction/Basketball)
   - Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.

3. The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis. Lexile Level: 760 (Realistic Fiction/Action/Adventure)
   - In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.

4. Fire from the Rock by Sharon M. Draper. Lexile Level: 830 (Historical Fiction/Segregation)
   - Sylvia Patterson's life suddenly changes with the integration of Little Rock's Central High in 1957 when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school.

5. Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney. Lexile Level: 850 (Science Fiction/Small Pox/Virus)
   - While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.
Summer Reading List 2013
Prairie Junior High School

Regular Incoming 8th Grade Book Choices

Please choose one novel to read over summer vacation and be prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of the book BEFORE you return to school.

1. **We Beat the Street** by Sampson Davis. **Lexile Level: 860** (Biography/African American Interest)
   - Shares anecdotes from the childhoods, teen years, and young adult lives of three men from Newark, New Jersey, who made a pledge to each other in high school to stay safe from drugs, gangs, and crime, and work to become doctors—a goal they have successfully achieved.

2. **Eva** by Peter Dickinson. **Lexile Level: 1010** (Science Fiction/Transplants)
   - After a terrible accident, a young girl wakes up to discover that she has been given the body of a chimpanzee. Thirteen year old Eva wakes up in the hospital unable to remember anything since the picnic on the beach. Her mother leans over the bed and begins to explain. A traffic accident, a long coma . . .

3. **Shackleton’s Stowaway** by Victoria McKernan. **Lexile Level: 740** (Action/Adventure)
   - A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship Endurance was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of his toes to frostbite, during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

4. **Belle Teal** by Ann M. Martin. **Lexile Level: 890** (Historical Fiction)
   - Belle Teal Harper's entrance into fifth-grade in the early 1960s brings many changes and challenges as her Gran’s memory begins to slip; her mom spends long hours away at work, and her class gets two new students, including an African-American boy.

5. **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie** by Jordan Sonnenblick. **Lexile Level: 940** (Realistic Fiction)
   - When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.
Summer Reading List 2013
Prairie Junior High School
Read 180 Classes (Both 7th and 8th Grade)

Please choose one novel to read over summer vacation and be prepared to demonstrate your knowledge of the book BEFORE you return to school.

**Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan. **Lexile Level: 750.** (Historical Fiction/Great Depression)

- Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

**The Killing Sea** by Richard Lewis. **Lexile Level: 760.** (Action/Adventure/Survival).

- In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.

**The Dead and the Gone** by Susan Beth Pfeffer. **Lexile Level: 680.** (Science Fiction/Death/Plague/End of the World).

- After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City.

**Divergent** by Veronica Roth. **Lexile Level: 700.** (Science Fiction/Dystopian Society).

- In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

**Hidden Talents** by David Lubar. **Lexile Level: 630.** (Science Fiction/Psychic Powers).

- Thirteen year old Martin, a new student at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

**Night of the Howling Dogs** by Graham Salisbury. **Lexile Level: 530.** (Action/Adventure).
Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, in 1975, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

**Summer Reading List 2013**

**Prairie Junior High School**

**7th Grade Accelerated Language Arts**

All students MUST read the one required novel, and then need to choose one more from the list.

**Required:**


   - Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the kids involved, a sensitive fourteen-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

**Please choose one additional novel from the list below:**

2. *Soldier X* by Don L. Wulffson. **Lexile Level: 740.** (Historical Fiction/German Army/Russian front).

   - In 1943 sixteen year old Erik experiences the horrors of war when he is drafted into the German army and sent to fight on the Russian front.

3. *Travel Team* by Mike Lupica. **Lexile Level: 940.** (Sports Fiction/Basketball).

   - After he is cut from his travel basketball team—the very same team that his father once led to national prominence twelve year old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

4. *Life in the Fat Lane* by Cherie Bennett. **Lexile Level: 640.** (Realistic Fiction/Eating Disorders).

   - Sixteen year old Lara, winner of beauty pageants and Homecoming Queen, is distressed and bewildered when she starts gaining weight and becomes overweight.

The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

6. **Harris and Me** by Gary Paulsen. **Lexile Level: 1060.** (Realistic Fiction/Country Life/Family).

Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

**Summer Reading List 2013**

**Prairie Junior High School**

**Accelerated 8th Grade Book Choices**

Choose one book from the Classics List below—You will need to choose 1 Classic and Two Classics

1. **The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien. **Lexile Level: 1000.** (Fantasy Fiction/Middle Earth)

- Bilbo Baggines, a Hobbit, wanted to be left alone but a wizard and a band of homeless dwarves draw Bilbo into a quest where he confronts evil orcs, savage wolves, and the great dragon Smaug.

2. **Animal Farm** by George Orwell. **Lexile Level: 1170.** (Political Satire/Animal Fiction)

- A political satire in which the animals take over running the farm but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship.

3. **Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery. **Lexile Level: 970.** (Historical Fiction/Friendship/Country Life)

- Anne, an eleven year old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. Includes review questions.

4. **Flowers for Algernon** by Daniel Keyes. **Lexile Level: 910.** (Realistic Fiction, some mature content)

- After being mentally retarded for all of his thirty-two years, Charlie Gordon undergoes an operation designed to change his life.

5. **Anne Frank: the Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank. **Lexile Level: 957.** (Biography/Holocaust).
The diary of a thirteen year old Jewish girl who died in a concentration camp during World War II.

Choose two—Please choose 2 Contemporary novels from the list below. You will read 3 books in total this summer.

Contemporary

1. **Doppelganger** by David Stahler Jr. **Lexile Level: 660.** (Science Fiction/Child Abuse/Supernatural)

-When a sixteen year old member of a race of shape-shifting killers called doppelgangers assumes the life of a troubled teen, he becomes unexpectedly embroiled in human life—and it is nothing like what he has seen on television.

2. **Maus 1: A Survivor’s Tale** by Art Spiegelman. **Lexile Level: GN—Graphic Novel.** (Graphic Novel/WWII/Concentration Camps).

- A memoir about Vladek Speigleman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

3. **Cinder** by Marissa Meyer. **Lexile Level: 790.** (Science Fiction/Cyborgs).

- Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

5. **Something, Maybe** by Elizabeth Scott. **Lexile Level: 760.** (Romance/Love Story/Relationships) **Some mature content**

- Seventeen year old Hannah does everything she can to avoid being noticed due to the scandalous occupations of her parents, but she might have to make an effort to change that after she develops a crush on two guys at her part-time job.

6. **The Wednesday Wars** by Gary D. Schmidt. **Lexile Level: 990.** (Historical Fiction).

- During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.