Praise Christian Academy Middle School
Optional Summer Reading
2026-2027

During the summer, please choose a book to read that you are interested in, is age appropriate, and has been approved by your parents or guardian. The book you choose should be a fiction chapter book. To receive extra credit in the fall, you need to complete a Reading Reflection Journal. You may choose any book you want, but here are some suggestions:

Island of the Blue Dolphins
The Wingfeather Saga series
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
A Little Princes
Old Yeller
The Secret Garden
The Red Badge of Courage
Jane Eyre
Tuck Everlasting
The Black Stallion
Anne of Green Gables
Hoot
Alice in Wonderland
Call of the Wild
Ella Enchanted
The Penderwicks series
Restart
Fish in a Tree
The Wind in the Willows
A Wrinkle in Time
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
The Giver
Little Women
A Long Walk to Water
My Side of the Mountain
Julie of the Wolves series
The Yearling
The Year of Miss Agnes
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Among the Hidden
City Spies
Belly Up
City of Ember
Spy School
Ungifted
Hatchet
Into the Wild
The Tale of Desperaux
Holes
Shiloh
Maniac McGee
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Please do not choose the following novels that will be read during the school year.
6th grade: *Where the Red Fern Grows* and *The Door in the Wall*
7th grade: *The Hobbit* and *The Bronze Bow*
8th grade: *Treasure Island* and *Across Five Aprils*

Reading Reflection Journal Directions

To receive extra credit in the fall, all students should complete a Reading Reflection Journal for your summer reading book. As you read, choose important or interesting quotes or passages from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. Write each quote on the left side of the chart, and always include the MLA citation with the author's last name and the page number. On the right side of the chart, write your thoughts, ideas, reactions, or insights about the quote. Use the sentence starters provided to help guide your responses. See the examples below.

Your Reading Reflection Journal should be neatly handwritten (print or cursive) on notebook paper and easy to follow. For extra credit in ELA class, turn in your completed journal on the first day of school (Tuesday, August 11). Rising 6th grade students need 8 entries, rising 7th grade students need 12 entries, and rising 8th grade students need 15 entries.

Reading Reflection Journal Examples (do not copy these exactly)
Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Quotes/Passages From Text	My Response
"I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse" (Palacio 3).	The author included this detail to show that Auggie does not like his own appearance. He is sensitive to other people and their reactions to his facial difference. I am predicting that Auggie shows personal growth and an increase in self confidence as the story continues.
"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind" (Palacio 48).	This quote is important because it shows one of the main themes of the story. The author wants readers to understand that kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.
"I think there should be a rule that everyone in the world should get a standing ovation at least once in their lives" (Palacio 231).	I think this quote is meaningful because it reminds the reader that everyone wants to feel accepted and appreciated. This quote connects to the theme of empathy because it encourages people to recognize the worth of others, even if they are different.

Use these sentence starters to help you write thoughtful responses in your Reading Reflection Journal:

- This part stood out to me because…
- I was surprised when… because…
- I think the author wanted readers to understand…
- This moment is important because…
- I can relate to this character because…
- This scene reminds me of…
- I predict that… will happen next because…
- I agree/disagree with this character's decision because…
- The author creates suspense by…
- This quote reveals that…
- One theme in this story could be… because…
- The conflict in this part could be solved by…
- This character's actions show that they are…
- If I were this character, I would…
- The mood in this scene is… because…
- This part helps the reader better understand…
- The author included this detail to show…
- I think this quote is meaningful because…

Please email Mrs. Noble if you have any questions!

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