



PRS Middle School Summer Reads!

For the 2026-27 school year, all incoming middle school students at Pacific Ridge will be asked to read three books over the summer.

Why do we have summer reading?

- To read for fun. The middle school teachers worked together to choose books that would be engaging and thought-provoking while echoing our grade-level themes. We also hope that these three books will not be the only books you read this summer!
- To recognize and develop the character traits we value. At PRS, our [Portrait of a Middle School Student](#) is used to highlight, appreciate and teach our community values on a daily basis. As you read these books, we ask that you think about the ways in which characters exhibit our middle school character traits: awareness, curiosity, creativity, resilience, integrity, empathy and positive amplifier.
- To build community. Entire grade levels in the middle school will read a common book this summer, laying the foundation for a shared experience on which we will build when we meet in the fall. In addition, having a choice of books to read from a curated list will allow you to form connections with other students in English class and beyond.

How will we use the books in school?

- Summer reading choice books are used to kickoff our independent reading curriculum in your English classes. These books are often the basis for our first writing assignments and Harkness discussions in history class as well.

PRS Summer Reads Grade 6



All incoming sixth-grade students will read ***The Red Pyramid*** by Rick Riordan as one of their three required books this summer. Please purchase a physical copy of the novel (ISBN 978-1423113386), though you are encouraged to listen to the audiobook as well, if you'd like!

As you read *The Red Pyramid*, please complete these two brief assignments to prepare for discussions and activities in class:

[Innovations Past & Present summer assignment](#)

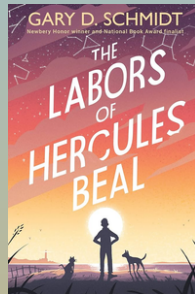
[English 6 summer assignment](#)

In addition to *The Red Pyramid*, please **read two** books from the following list. These books share themes that define our sixth-grade curriculum, including wayfinding, new beginnings, exploration and mythology.



SWIM TEAM

by Johnnie Christmas



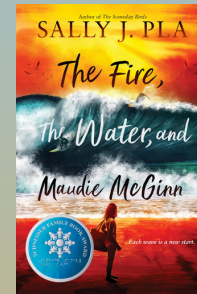
THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL

by Gary D. Schmidt



NEW KID

by Jerry Craft



THE FIRE, THE WATER, AND MAUDIE MCGINN

by Sally J. Pla



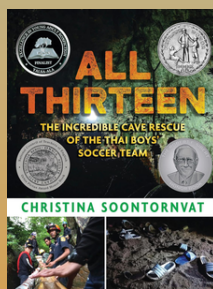
PEAK

by Roland Smith



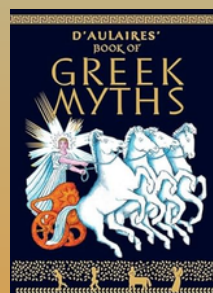
LEI AND THE FIRE GODDESS

by Malia Maunakea



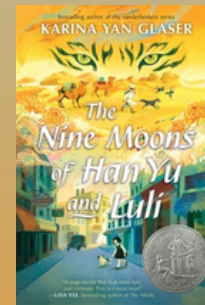
ALL THIRTEEN: THE INCREDIBLE CAVE RESCUE OF THE THAI BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

by Christina Soontornvat



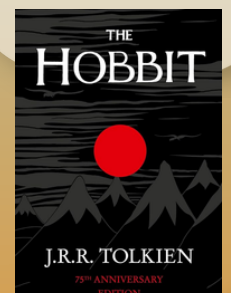
D'AULAIRES' BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

by Ingri d'Aulaire



THE NINE MOONS OF HAN YU AND LULI

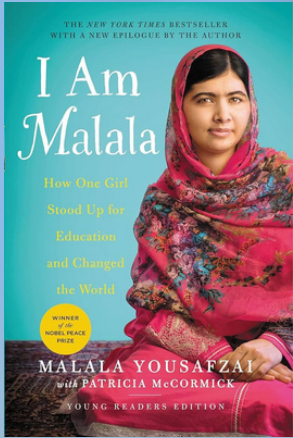
by Karina Yan Glaser



THE HOBBIT

by J.R.R. Tolkien

PRS Summer Reads Grade 7



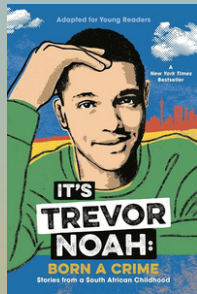
All incoming 7th grade students will read *I Am Malala (Young Reader's Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai as one of their three required books this summer. Please be sure to purchase the young reader's edition (ISBN 978-0316327916). As you read, please make notes in your book when you see examples of our middle school character traits: awareness, curiosity, creativity, resilience, integrity, empathy and positive amplifier. These will be discussed in advisory throughout the year.

In addition to *I Am Malala*, please **read two** books from the following list. These books share themes that define our seventh-grade curriculum, including identity, community and exploration.



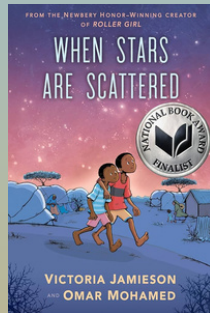
WHEN TOMORROW BURNS

by Tae Keller



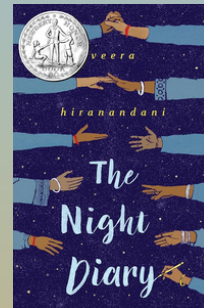
IT'S TREVOR NOAH: BORN A CRIME (ADAPTED FOR YOUNG READERS)

by Trevor Noah



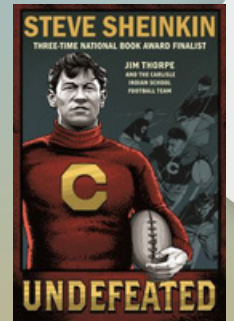
WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED

by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed



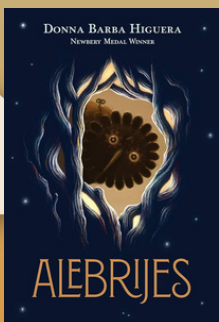
THE NIGHT DIARY

by Veera Hiranandani



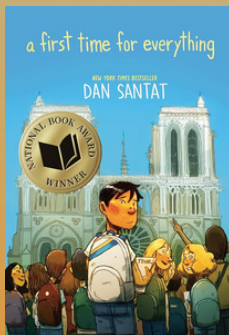
UNDEFEATED: JIM THORPE AND THE CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

by Steve Sheinken



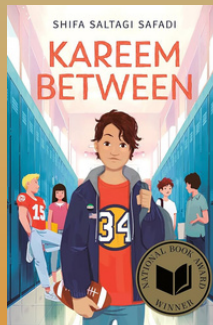
ALEBRIJES

by Donna Barba Higuera



A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

by Dan Santat



KAREEM BETWEEN

by Shifa Saltagi Safadi



THE FIRST RULE OF PUNK

by Celia C. Pérez



IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES

by Katherine Rundell

PRS Summer Reads Grade 8



All incoming 8th graders will read ***The Martian*** (classroom edition) by **Andy Weir**. Please be sure to purchase the classroom edition (ISBN 978-0804189354) which is edited for language and contains helpful discussion questions. As you read, think about the challenges that Mark faced and what he did to overcome them. Flag a page that has a challenge on it, then see if you can find the solution to that challenge later in the book and flag it to match.

In addition to *The Martian*, please **read two** additional books, choosing one from each list below. In making your choices, please be mindful that some of these titles are classified young adult due to themes and language. We encourage families to read about these titles and choose books that are interesting and appropriately challenging.

CLASSIC TITLES CHOOSE ONE

- ***Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury
- ***The Diary of a Young Girl*** by Anne Frank
- ***Lord of the Flies*** by William Golding
- ***Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley
- ***A Wrinkle in Time*** by Madeleine L'Engle
- ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee
- ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry
- ***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck
- ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*** by Mildred D. Taylor

CONTEMPORARY TITLES CHOOSE ONE

- ***Feed*** by M.T. Anderson
- ***Ender's Game*** by Orson Scott Card
- ***We Are Not Free*** by Traci Chee
- ***The House of the Scorpion*** by Nancy Farmer
- ***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd
- ***Warcross*** by Marie Lu
- ***All American Boys*** by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely
- ***Unwind*** by Neal Shusterman
- ***Uglies*** by Scott Westerfeld

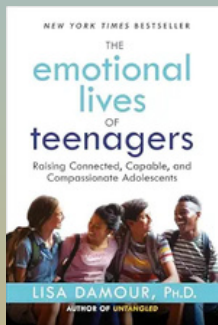
PRS Summer Reads

Family Suggestions!

The middle school years bring unique challenges, but you don't have to figure them out alone. As young adolescents navigate shifting friendships, big emotions, and an increasingly digital world, it helps to have trusted guides along the way.

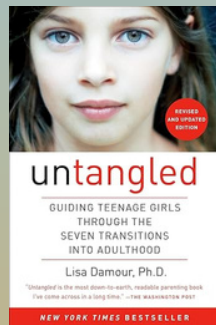
Recommended by our middle school administrators and student support specialists, these books offer reassurance, fresh perspective, and practical advice for supporting your child through this important stage.

We hope you find them as helpful and insightful as we have.



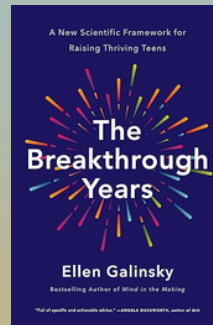
THE EMOTIONAL LIVES OF TEENAGERS

by Lisa Damour



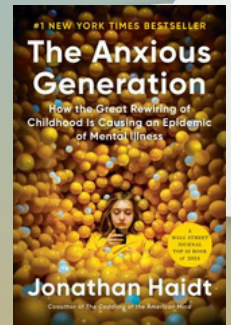
UNTANGLED: GUIDING TEENAGE GIRLS THROUGH THE SEVEN TRANSITIONS INTO ADULTHOOD

by Lisa Damour



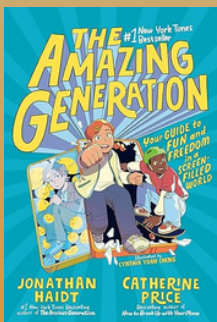
THE BREAKTHROUGH YEARS

by Ellen Galinsky



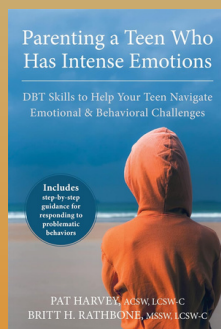
THE ANXIOUS GENERATION

by Jonathan Haidt



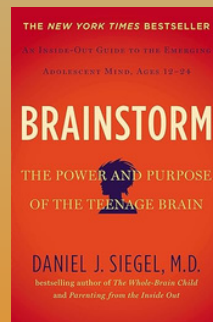
THE AMAZING GENERATION (FOR KIDS)

by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price



PARENTING A TEEN WHO HAS INTENSE EMOTIONS

by Pat Harvey



BRAINSTORM: THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF THE TEENAGE BRAIN

by Daniel Siegel



10 RULES FOR RAISING KIDS IN A HIGH-TECH WORLD

by Jean Twenge