



PRINCE
AVENUE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Middle School (Entering grades 6-8)
Summer Reading List**

Revised March 2026

Overview: Prince Avenue Middle School Summer Reading Program

Philosophy:

The PACS reading program is designed to promote the love of reading while maintaining or advancing the student's current reading level and cognitive skills. Assignments are meant to be academic in nature, developmentally appropriate, student-manageable and "stress free."

Book lists:

Book lists are provided as a compilation of engaging and well-written stories that represent a variety of genres. Many of the selections complement the PACS history curriculum. While we endeavor to choose books that are representative of appropriate content, age level, and maturity, teachers recommend each family research the suggested selections. You may find sites such as www.squeakycleanreviews.com, www.commonsemmedia.org, or www.thrivingfamily.com helpful as you discern the best publication for your student.

Assignments:

Assignments are based on the revised version of Bloom's taxonomy called *A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching, and Assessing*, a classification system used to define and distinguish different levels of human cognition; this revised version classifies cognitive skills as *Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating, and Creating*, in that order. One way PACS addresses the development of increased cognitive skills is through written expression. Beginning in third grade, students are assigned a writing component through which they demonstrate understanding and analysis of the text.

Grade- specific objectives:

Grades 6-8 (analyzing, evaluating, and creating)

As students transition from elementary school to middle school, they read increasingly difficult texts and begin to analyze those texts through personal connections and relationships. Students recognize important textual passages and articulate connections as they quote texts then choose a response based on given prompts such as "This character reminds me of..." or "I agree with this character's decision because..."

ENTERING 6TH GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Read ***Rascal* by Sterling North**. Students will produce a written response as described below, which will count as a test grade. Please submit the written portion of the assessment to your language arts teacher **Thursday, August 6, 2026 (periods 3-8) or Friday, August 7, 2026 (periods 1-2)**. This will count as your first **test** grade.

This assignment must be HANDWRITTEN! Purchase a marble composition notebook (any color), write your name neatly on the front and use it for this assignment.

Instructions:

1. Read ***Rascal* by Sterling North**.

2. Create a response journal in your marble composition notebook (see example on the next page).

- On the first page of your notebook, create a cover page with your name, the book's title, the book's author, and the book's total page count.
- Starting on the second page, draw a vertical line down the middle of the page
- Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE

3. Divide your novel into four (4) equal sections. Choose one meaningful passage from each of the 4 sections of your novel; quote it and write the page number of the passage.

(E.g.: Your book has 200 pages ... $200/4 = 50$. This example shows you should write a response every 50 pages.)

- In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have FOUR.
- In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**

3. Use one response below to give your personal insight (NOT a summary) for each of the four passages. Provide a word count at the end. (Use the following examples only once so that you have a variety of four responses.)

- a. This passage is important because...
- b. This passage reveals the character's...
- c. This passage fits with the book as a whole since...
- d. Christians can relate to this quote because...
- e. This excerpt makes me feel (angry/sympathetic/confused etc.) because...
- f. This character reminds me of...
- g. This character exhibits the quality of courage (honesty, etc.) ...
- h. The point the author wants to make here is...
- i. I have felt the same emotions as this character when...
- j. The author uses the literary device of (imagery/symbolism/theme etc.)...
- k. This setting is significant because...
- l. I agree/disagree with this character's decision because...
- m. This is exciting /boring because...
- n. The author does a good/bad job of...

Each commentary should be no less than 50 words in length. You should have a total of four entries.

IMPORTANT: It is important to always explain why you think something or like something or don't understand something.

See Example on Next Page

Sample Journal Entry

TEXT	RESPONSE
<p>“The puddle had frozen over, and me and Cathy went stompin in it. The twins from next door, Tyrone and Terry, were swingin so high out of sight we forgot we were waitin our turn on the tire. Cathy jumped up and came down hard on her heels and started tap dancin. And the frozen patch splinterin every which way underneath kinda spooky. ‘Looks like a plastic spider web,’ she said. ‘A sort of weird spider, I guess, with many mental problems’” (35).</p> <p>NOTE the quotation marks, punctuation, and MLA format</p>	<p>This first paragraph is important because...</p> <p>Bambara indirectly characterizes the narrator by using rural Southern dialect to let us know that the story is set in the South. The narrator’s use of improper grammar lets us know she is not highly educated. We also learn from the activities the author describes that the characters are children. (57- words)</p> <p>NOTE word count</p>

6TH Grade Summer Reading Journal Rubric

Student

Category	<i>Exemplary</i> 25	<i>Accomplished</i> 22	<i>Developing</i> 18	<i>Beginning</i> 15	<i>Your Score</i>
QUOTES/TEXT CITATION OF QUOTE (including page number)	Meaningful passage selections. Quote marks and page numbers are provided for ALL 4 citations	Less detailed, but significant quotes OR missing no more than 1-3 of 8 quotation marks and page numbers	Few significant details from the text OR missing no more than 4-5 of 8 quotation marks and page numbers	Hardly any significant details from the text OR missing no more than 6-8 quotation marks and page numbers	
RESPONSE VARIETY	Includes a variety of unique comments about passages (4 from list)	Includes some variety of comments (3 from list)	Little variety of comments (2 from list)	Comments are limited to the same response	
RESPONSES (#)	4 responses No paraphrasing or summary	4 responses, but 1 is a summary response	2-3 responses; summary in nature	1 response	
WORD COUNT COVER PAGE	Word count (50+) included for each response AND Student name, book title, author, page count	Word count (50+) on 3 responses OR Missing one cover item	Word count (50+) on 2 responses OR Missing 2 cover items	Word count on 1 or less response OR No cover	

Rubric Score _____ (-1 pt for each grammar/spelling mistake)=

Final Grade: _____

ENTERING 7TH GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Students will read ***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat**. Students will produce a written response as described below, which will count as a test grade. Please submit the written portion of the assessment to your language arts teacher **Thursday, August 6, 2026 (periods 3-8) or Friday, August 7, 2026 (periods 1-2)**. This will count as your first **test** grade.

This assignment must be HANDWRITTEN! Purchase a marble composition notebook (any color), write your name neatly on the front and use it for this assignment.

Parents may wish to see the following reviews; the themes mentioned in these reviews will be part of our class discussions, as we help students navigate the biblical themes in the text: [A Wish in the Dark Book Review | Common Sense Media](#) and [A Wish in the Dark by Christina Soontornvat - Redeemed Reader](#)

In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, AI, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating.

Instructions:

1. Read ***A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat**.

2 Create a response journal in your marble composition notebook (see example on the next page).

- On the first page of your notebook, create a cover page with your name, the book's title, the book's author, and the book's total page count.
- Starting on the second page, draw a vertical line down the middle of the page
- Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE

3. Divide your novel into five (5) equal sections. Choose one meaningful passage from each of the 5 sections of your novel; quote it and write the page number of the passage.

- In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have FIVE.
- In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

3. Use one response below to give your personal insight (NOT a summary) for each of the five passages. Provide a word count at the end. (Use the following examples only once so that you have a variety of five responses.)

- a. This passage is important because...
- b. This passage reveals the character's...
- c. This passage fits with the book as a whole since...
- d. Christians can relate to this quote because...
- e. This excerpt makes me feel (angry/sympathetic/confused etc.) because...
- f. This character reminds me of...
- g. This character exhibits the quality of courage (honesty, etc.) ...
- h. The point the author wants to make here is...
- i. I have felt the same emotions as this character when...
- j. The author uses the literary device of (imagery/symbolism/theme etc.)...
- k. This setting is significant because...
- l. I agree/disagree with this character's decision because...
- m. This is exciting /boring because...
- n. The author does a good/bad job of...

Each commentary should be no less than 50 words in length. You should have a total of five entries.

IMPORTANT: It is important to always explain why you think something or like something or don't understand something.

Sample Journal Entry

TEXT	RESPONSE
<p>“The puddle had frozen over, and me and Cathy went stompin in it. The twins from next door, Tyrone and Terry, were swingin so high out of sight we forgot we were waitin our turn on the tire. Cathy jumped up and came down hard on her heels and started tap dancin. And the frozen patch splinterin every which way underneath kinda spooky. ‘Looks like a plastic spider web,’ she said. ‘A sort of weird spider, I guess, with many mental problems’” (35).</p> <p>NOTE the quotation marks, punctuation, and MLA format</p>	<p>This first paragraph is important because...</p> <p>Bambara indirectly characterizes the narrator by using rural Southern dialect to let us know that the story is set in the South. The narrator’s use of improper grammar lets us know she is not highly educated. We also learn from the activities the author describes that the characters are children. (57- words)</p> <p>NOTE word count</p>

7th Grade Summer Reading Journal Rubric

Student

Category	<i>Exemplary</i> 25	<i>Accomplished</i> 22	<i>Developing</i> 18	<i>Beginning</i> 15	<i>Your Score</i>
QUOTES/TEXT CITATION OF QUOTE (including page number)	Meaningful passage selections. Quote marks and page numbers are provided for ALL 5 citations	Less detailed, but significant quotes OR missing no more than 1-3 of 10 quotation marks and page numbers	Few significant details from the text OR missing no more than 4-6 of 10 quotation marks and page numbers	Hardly any significant details from the text OR missing no more than 7-9 quotation marks and page numbers	
RESPONSE VARIETY	Includes a variety of unique comments about passages (5 from list)	Includes some variety of comments (4 from list)	Little variety of comments (3 from list)	Comments are limited to the same response	
RESPONSES (#)	5 responses No paraphrasing or summary	5 responses, but 1 is a summary response	2 responses are summary	3 responses are summary	
WORD COUNT COVER PAGE	Word count (50+) included for each response AND Student name, book title, author, page count	Word count (50+) on 4 responses OR Missing one cover item	Word count (50+) on 3 responses OR Missing 2 cover items	Word count on 2 or fewer responses OR No cover	

Rubric Score _____ (-1 pt for each grammar/spelling mistake)=

Final Grade: _____

ENTERING 8TH GRADE READING LIST (CP and Honors)

Assignment: Each student should read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. Students will produce a written response as described below, which will count as a test grade. Please submit the written portion of the assessment to your language arts teacher **Thursday, August 6, 2026 (periods 3-8) or Friday, August 7, 2026 (periods 1-2)**. This will count as your first **test** grade.

Your summer reading journal is a written conversation with yourself about a piece of literature that encourages the habit of literary reflection and analysis. You will use a double-entry format to examine details of a passage and illustrate your understanding of the text. Students will produce a written response as described below, which will count as a **test** grade. **This assignment must be HANDWRITTEN.**

In this process, there is to be NO collaboration with other students. Any assistance from the internet, movies, or secondary sources such as Sparknotes, Cliff Notes, ChatGPT, or Wikipedia will be viewed as cheating.

Instructions:

1. Purchase a marble composition notebook and write your name neatly on the cover.
2. Create a response journal using your marble composition notebook.
3. Write the number of pages in your novel here _____. (Round up or down to the tenth's place.)
4. Divide your novel into eight (8) equal sections and write a response for every section. (E.g.: 400 pages ... $400/8= 50$. This example shows you should write a response every 50 pages.)
5. On the first page, write the title of the book, the author's name, and the page count.
6. Starting on the second page, create a vertical line down the middle.
7. Label the left column TEXT and the right column RESPONSE
8. In the TEXT column, copy passages word for word from the novel, including quotations marks and page numbers; you should have EIGHT.
9. How do you choose what passages to write down? Passages become important if they cause you to react, connect, predict, or reflect. Passage are also important when they cause you to identify characterization, theme, mood, or literary device.
10. In the RESPONSE column, write about the passages. **DO NOT MERELY SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OR RESTATE THE PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**
11. Label your response with one of the letters below (RE, CO, P, RF, CH, T, M, LD). You may use responses a-g **ONCE**; you may use literary devices (see list on other page) more than once.
 - a. (Reaction) RE= Describe what the passage makes you think or how it makes you feel and why.
 - b. (Connection) CO= Make connections to other places in the novel or to your life, or to the world, or another story that you have read.
 - c. (Prediction) P= Anticipate what will occur based on what is in the passage.
 - d. (Reflect) RF= Think deeply about what the passage means in a broad sense – not just to the characters in the story. What conclusions can you draw about the world, about human nature, or just about the way things are?
 - e. (Characterization-) CH= Analyze details or dialogue uses to show you aspects of the identities of the characters.
 - f. (Theme) T= Determine the passage contributes to the author's overall message or messages about some aspect or aspects of life.
 - g. (Mood) M= Determine the way the passage establishes the mood or tone of a scene and explain how that might be important.
 - h. (Literary Device) LD= Analyze the author's writing using literary terms (see list of possibilities on the next page)
12. Each RESPONSE **must be at least 50 words** (include word count at the end of each response. First person writing (using the pronoun "I") is acceptable in the RESPONSE column.

IMPORTANT: It is important to always explain why you think something or like something or don't understand something.

Sample Journal Entry

TEXT	RESPONSE
<p>“The puddle had frozen over, and me and Cathy went stomp in it. The twins from next door, Tyrone and Terry, were swingin so high out of sight we forgot we were waitin our turn on the tire. Cathy jumped up and came down hard on her heels and started tap dancin. And the frozen patch splinterin every which way underneath kinda spooky. ‘Looks like a plastic spider web,’ she said. ‘A sort of weird spider, I guess, with many mental problems’” (35).</p> <p>NOTE the quotation marks, punctuation, and MLA format</p>	<p>(LD-dialect) In this first paragraph of the story, Bambara indirectly characterizes the narrator by using rural Southern dialect to let us know that the story is set in the South. The narrator’s use of improper grammar lets us know she is not highly educated. We also learn from the activities the author describes that the characters are children. (57- words)</p> <p>NOTE word count; NOTE labeling of response type</p>

Literary Devices you can use for responses

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| Alliteration | Dialect | Plot: exposition, climax, resolution |
| Fiction | Flashback | Point of view (1 st , 3 rd , limited, omniscient) |
| Allusion | Foreshadowing | Protagonist |
| Antagonist | Hyperbole | Repetition |
| Autobiography | Imagery | Setting |
| Biography | Irony | Simile |
| Characterization | Metaphor | Suspense |
| -static, flat, etc. | Mood | Symbol |
| -direct, indirect | Personification | |
| Conflict | | |

Review of Requirements:

On the FIRST PAGE of your response journal:

___ Write your name; title of book and author; page count for entire book

TEXT side of journal:

- ___ You have eight excerpts from eight evenly spaced sections of the novel
- ___ You have quoted and used quotation marks (watch placement of marks)
- ___ Your citation has a page number and is according to MLA standards (see example)

RESPONSE side of journal:

- ___ You have eight responses
- ___ You have a variety of responses; they are labeled (RE, CO, P, RF, CH, T, M, LD).
- ___ Each response has word count; each must be at least 50 words.

8TH Grade Summer Reading Journal Rubric

Category	<i>Exemplary</i> 25	<i>Accomplished</i> 22	<i>Developing</i> 18	<i>Beginning</i> 15	<i>Your Score</i>
TEXT QUOTES and RESPONSES (#)	8 Text Quotes and 8 Responses	15 Quotes and Responses (missing 1 of either)	14 Quotes and Responses (missing 2 of either)	13 or less total Quotes and Responses (missing 3 of either)	
RESPONSE VARIETY (Literary devices can be identified and used more than once)	Includes a variety of unique comments about passages (8 from list) AND ALL responses are labeled (a-h)	Includes some variety of comments (7 from list) OR 8 responses are labeled (a-h)	Little variety of comments (6 from list) OR 6 responses are labeled (a-h)	Comments are limited to mostly the same response OR Responses are not labeled	
Correct CITATIONS OF QUOTES (including page number)	Meaningful passage selections. Quote marks and page numbers are provided for ALL 8 citations (16)	Less detailed, but significant quotes OR missing no more than 1 quotation marks and page numbers (15 correct)	Few significant details from the text OR missing no more than 2 quotation marks and page numbers (14 correct)	Hardly any significant details from the text OR missing no more than 3 quotation marks and page numbers (13 correct)	
WORD COUNT COVER PAGE	Word count (50+) included for 8 responses AND Student name, book title, author, page count	Word count (50+) on at least 7 responses OR Missing one cover item	Word count (50+) on at least 6 responses OR Missing 2 cover items	Word count on at least 5 or less response OR No cover	

Rubric Score _____ (-1 pt for each grammar/spelling mistake) =

Final Grade: _____