

Community

Section F

January 31, 2017

Summer excitement strikes the library, prizes galore for local readers

JAYBURG – While a long, hot summer may be ahead of us, the Jayburg Public Library is offering a chance for patrons to stay cool. The annual “Reading is Radical” summer reading program will officially start at noon on June 1st in the Bluebird Reading Room. Carol Hathaway, the mayor of Jayburg, will begin the program by reading a book to Jayburg Elementary School students.

This year, the summer reading program will be in its 35th year. Several people from the community have taken part in it over the years. Three public school teachers started the program in the 1980’s to encourage more students to read during the summer. The program has since blossomed to include all Jayburg schools, and it has been a big success.

Students participating in the contest can choose from an approved collection of books that the library has on reserve. The approved books have been classified by grade level according to the difficulty of the book and by length. However, students may read any of the books regardless of their current grade level. All Jayburg students will receive a free library card that will let them participate in the program.

Each school teams up with the Jayburg Public library to award prizes. Jayburg Middle School will be awarding a five hundred dollar college scholarship to the overall winner. Numerous other prizes such as T-shirts, gift certificates from local restaurants, computer programs, and books are available for each grade winner. To register and to receive the free library card,

students need to stop by the Jayburg Public Library or the nearest school. No registration fee is necessary.

The contest ends on August 12th to allow organizers time to analyze the results. Typically, analyzing the point totals and selecting winners takes a long time, so winners usually are not announced until mid-September. Tammy Swanson, the program director, mentioned that this year they will be trying to announce the winners much earlier, hopefully by the end of August.



Ready to Go: Carter Johnson chooses a book for the “Reading is Radical” summer reading program.

EXAMPLES OF APPROVED BOOKS

TITLE	AUTHOR	READING LEVEL (BY GRADE)	PAGES	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BOOK
Sarah, Plain and Tall	Patricia MacLachlan	4	58	When their father invites a mail-order bride to come and live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.
Are You There God? It's Me Margaret	Judy Blume	4	149	Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.
Awesome Athletes	Multiple Authors	5	288	Sports Illustrated for Kids
Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of Pablo's Nose	Donald J. Sobol	5	80	America's Sherlock Holmes in sneakers continues his war on crime in ten more cases.
Get Real (Sweet Valley Jr. High)	Francine Pascal, Jamie Suzanne	6	144	Describes the trials and tribulations of twins that moved to a new junior high school.
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred Taylor	6	276	A black family living in the South during the 1930's is faced with prejudice and discrimination that its children do not understand.
The Tell-Tale Heart	Edgar Allan Poe	6	64	The murder of an old man is revealed by the continuous beating of his heart.
Little Women	Louisa Mae Alcott	7	388	A story of family, of hope, of dreams, and of growing up as four devoted sisters search for romance and find maturity in Civil-War era 19 th century New England.
The Scarlett Letter	Nathaniel Hawthorne	7	202	Hawthorne's masterpiece about Hester Prynne, hapless victim of sin, guilt and hypocrisy in Puritan New England.
Aftershock (Sweet Valley High)	Kate Williams, Francine Pascal	8	208	Twins deal with the pain and shock of an earthquake.
Jurassic Park	Michael Crichton	8	400	A modern-day scientist brings to life a horde of prehistoric animals and dinosaurs.
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	9	384	A highly charged examination of human suffering and human sacrifice, private experience and public history, during the French Revolution.
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	9	184	The classic tale of a group of English school boys who are left stranded on an unpopulated island.
Much Ado About Nothing	William Shakespeare	10	75	Shakespeare comedy.

Summer Reading Program Readiness Questions

Answer the following questions using the newspaper article and the tables given.

1. Drew read *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Should he receive the same number of points for each book? Why or why not?
2. If a sixth grader and a ninth grader both read *A Tale of Two Cities* should they both earn the same number of points? Why or why not?
3. If Shelly reads *Jurassic Park* and *Much Ado About Nothing* should she get the same points for each? Why or why not?

Summer Reading Program

Information: The Jayburg Library and Jayburg Middle School are teaming up to provide the prizes for the “Reading is Radical” summer reading contest. Jayburg Middle School students in grades 6-9 will read books and prepare written reports about each book to collect points and win prizes. The winner in each grade will be the student who has earned the most reading points. The overall winner will be the student that earns the most points. A collection of approved books has already been selected and put on reserve. See the previous page for a sample of this collection.

Students who enroll in the program often read between ten and twenty books over the summer. The contest committee is trying figure out a fair way to assign points to each student. Tammy Swanson, the program director, said that whichever procedure is used it should take into account the following:

- (a) Number of books,
- (b) Variety of the books,
- (c) Difficulty of the books,
- (d) Lengths of the books, and
- (e) Quality of the written reports. (Reports will be graded and assigned one of the following grades: $\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$)

Project: The Jayburg Public Library has asked you to determine a method for assigning points and determining winner(s) of the summer reading program. The details of the written project will be given later.

Preparation:

1. Together with your group, decide how you would like to assign points to the participants, in order to determine the winners. Determine how to assign points for each of the factors (a-e) above. Consider whether you want to give more weight to some factors over others.
2. Once you have a general method determined, look at the given data for the 5 students. Give a “gut-reaction” as to how you expect these 5 students to rank in the competition based on the method you are considering. [This is a gut-reaction. Do not perform calculations.]

[Note: Project modified from Chautauqua Short Course *Models and Modeling in the Science and Mathematics Classroom: A Window into Students' Way of Thinking.*]