

# 2020 – 2021

## **Homeroom 6th Grade**

Accordion folder- each subject labeled

Pens

Pencils -at least 1 box #2

2 red pens

Yellow highlighter

(4) boxes of tissues

Paper towels

(1) Hand wipes (1) disinfecting wipes

3x5 index cards

Earbuds/headphones

### **Art box (must fit in desk)**

#### **Please include in your art box:**

1 Glue stick and Elmer's glue

Scissors

Colored pencils/crayons/markers

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### **English Language Arts 6th**

Variety of post-it notes especially **evidence flags**

3 pocket folders

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

Frightful's Mountain by Jean Craighead George

### **Math 6th**

(1) *3 Subject Notebook*

Pencils

Calculator – basic (4 function)

12" Ruler

### **Social Studies**

1 folder

### **Science /Stem**

1 folder

1pk of small poster-board 11x14

**Please do not purchase a large trapper.** They do not fit in the book bags, nor do they fit in the lockers. If possible, have your child label his/her notebooks and folders before coming to school the first day. We appreciate your help!

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Teachers

Supply List for Art:

grades k- 2:

box of 12 or more crayons (non washable)

3 glue sticks

1 watercolor paint set & brushes

1 box markers

scissors

grades 3-8:

sharpies- 2 black plus basic 4 pack or larger

3 glue sticks

1 watercolor paint set & brushes

1 box markers

scissors

colored pencils

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer 2021

5th into 6th grade Summer Math Packet

***DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL***

**Write the name for each number, using words:**

1) 560.08

2) 7.016

3) 24.47

**Write the number the name represents:**

4) Forty-five thousandths

5) Seventeen and seven hundredths

6) Three hundred thousand twenty-nine and six tenths

**Order each group of numbers from least to greatest:**

7) 9, 6.7, 7.24, 14

8) 1.03, 2.4, 0.89, 0.987

9) 5.3, 5.12, 5.38, 5.29

10) 4.2, 4.19, 4.07, 4.3

**Addition and subtraction** (NO calculators, use scrap paper and staple to back. LABEL and NUMBER the problems!) **Reminder:** fractions need *common denominators*, decimals need to be lined up!

11)  $6,496 + 3,388 =$

12)  $38,904 - 32,899 =$

13)  $\frac{5}{8} + \frac{3}{4} =$

14)  $1\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{1}{3} =$

15)  $\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{2}{3} =$

16)  $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{5} =$

17)  $\frac{2}{5} - \frac{1}{10} =$

18)  $4\frac{3}{6} - 2\frac{5}{6} =$

19)  $87.4 - 56.09 =$

20)  $5.908 - 4.72 =$

21)  $955.3 - 4.7 =$

22)  $2.6 + 64.89 =$

23)  $15.7 + 2.34 + 5.06 =$

24)  $12.9 + 2.008 + 75.9 =$

**Multiply decimals and fractions** (NO calculators, use scrap paper and staple to back. LABEL and NUMBER the problems!) **Reminders:** fractions must be *improper fractions* before multiplying; for decimals you must move the decimals out of the numbers, total how many spaces and then move it back into your answer.

25)  $2.4 \times 0.3 =$

26)  $0.16 \times 0.15 =$

27)  $7.9 \times 1.23 =$

28)  $\frac{1}{10} \times \frac{2}{5} =$

29)  $1\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{4}{5} =$

30)  $3 \times \frac{2}{3} =$

**Divide Whole Numbers**

Rewrite with a remainder: (NO calculators, use scrap paper and staple to back. LABEL and NUMBER the problems!)

31)  $74 \div 10 =$

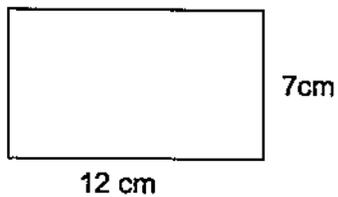
32)  $444 \div 77 =$

33)  $114 \div 14 =$

34)  $58 \div 4 =$

**Find the area and perimeter of each:**

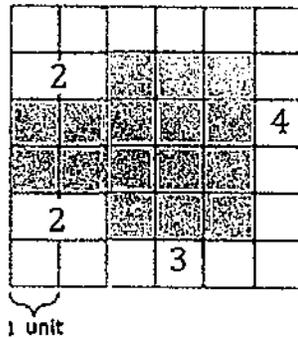
35)



Area:

Perimeter:

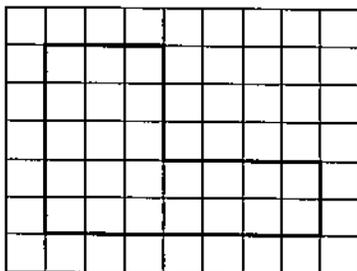
36)



Area:

Perimeter:

37)



Area:

Perimeter:

## Factors and Multiples

List all the factors for the pair of numbers. Circle the *Greatest Common Factor*.

38) 18 and 24

39) 12 and 15

40) 17 and 20

41) 21 and 40

List the first 10 multiples for the pair of numbers. Circle the *Least Common Multiple*.

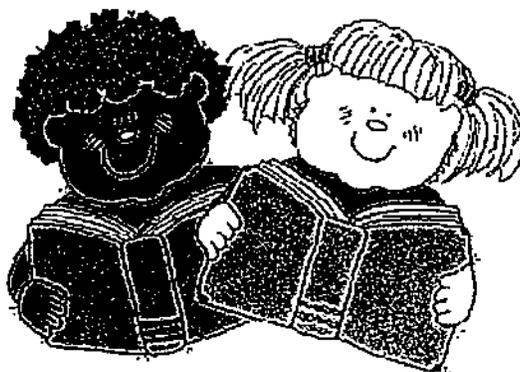
42) 12 and 4

43) 9 and 8

**Word problems:** Show all work.

44) Mia buys 5 yards of ribbon to make bracelets. She needs 18 inches of ribbon to make 1 bracelet. How many bracelets can Mia make if she uses all the ribbon she buys?

- 45) Rodney bought a 25-pound bag of dog food. His dog ate  $10\frac{2}{5}$  pounds of the food in the first month and  $10\frac{4}{5}$  pounds of the food in the second month. How much dog food, in pounds, was remaining in the bag at the end of the two months?
- 46) Sixteen students in a drama club want to attend a play. The ticket price is \$35 for each student, and the transportation and meals for everyone will cost \$960.
- To pay for the trip, the students design sweatshirts to sell for a profit of \$19 per sweatshirt. If each student sells the same number of sweatshirts, how many sweatshirts must each student sell so that there will be enough money to pay for the entire cost of the trip?



June 2021

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders,

I would like to share some research with all of you and your parents as well.

Research shows that if a child does not read during the summer months, they will experience reading loss!!! This is the decline of reading skills during the summer season. Strong reading skills develop strong comprehension skills which are needed for every subject and in every aspect of a person's life. Studies show that three months lost can set the student back three years by 5th grade and students may never catch up.

I ask you to read as much as you can this summer. It is recommended that you include some **non-fiction** books. A suggested reading list is enclosed. When you begin to read the book of your choice, please complete the questions that I have enclosed. It will be collected on the first Thursday of school.

I have also included two articles from [www.readworks.org](http://www.readworks.org). Please read these articles and complete the questions. This will be collected as well.

Summer reading should be accessible and enjoyable, so be sure to choose materials that you are interested in.

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## St. Patrick School

### Sixth Grade Suggested Reading List

We encourage all students to read a variety of materials this summer.

#### Fiction

- Adams: Watership Down
- Avi: Poppy
- Billingsley: The Folk Keeper
- Burnett: The Secret Garden
- Byars: Summer of the Swans
- Clark: The Secret of the Andes
- Clements: Frindle
- Colfer: Artemis Fowl
- Conly: Crazy Lady
- Craven: I Heard the Owl Call My Name
- Creech: ABSolutely Normal Chaos
- Creech: Walk Two Moons
- Curtis: The Watsons go to Birmingham
- Cushman: Catherine, Called Birdy
- Cushman: The Ballad of Lucy Whipple
- Dahl: James and the Giant Peach
- DeAngeli: The Door in the Wall
- Dorris: Sees Behind Trees
- du Bois: The Twenty-One Balloons
- Gauthier: Club Earth
- George: Julie of the Wolves
- George: My Side of the Mountain
- Gibson: The Miracle Worker
- Gilbreth: Cheaper by the Dozen
- Giff: Lily's Crossing
- Gipson: Old Yeller
- Hahn: Stepping on the Cracks
- Henkes: Words of Stone
- Hesse: The Music of Dolphins
- Hesse: Out of the Dust
- Houston: Frozen Fire
- Howe: The New Nick Kramer
- Jiang: Red Scarf: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution
- Konigsburg: The View from Saturday

- Korman: Schooled
- L'Engle: A Wrinkle in Time
- Levine: Ella Enchanted
- Levitin: Journey to America
- Lewis: Chronicles of Narnia Series
- Lowry: See You Around, Sam
- Lowry: Number the Stars
- Lowry: The Giver
- Lupica: Heat
- Lupica: Travel team
- McGraw: The Moorchild
- McGraw: The Golden Goblet
- Mikaelson: Countdown
- Montgomery: Anne of Green Gables
- Morey: Kavik the Wolf Dog
- Morgan: Camp Confidential
- Myers: The Keeping Room
- O'Dell: Island of the Blue Dolphins
- Opper: Silverwing
- Paterson: Jip
- Patterson: The Great Gilly Hopkins
- Patterson: Jacob Have I Loved
- Paulsen: Hatchet
- Paulsen: The Island
- Paulsen: The River
- Peck: A Long Way from Chicago
- Pullman: The Golden Compass
- Rawls: Where the Red Fern Grows
- Reeder: Shades of Gray
- Rorby: Hurt Go Happy
- Rowling: Harry Potter Series
- Sachar: Holes
- Saint-Exupery: The Little Prince
- Snicket: A Series of Unfortunate Events
- Synder: The Egypt Game
- Temple: The Ramsay Scallop
- Tolkein: The Hobbit
- Voigt: Bad Girls
- Voigt: Cynthia A Solitary Blue
- Watkins: Premonitions
- Waugh: Space Race
- White: Belle Prater's Boy
- Winthrop: Castle in the Attic
- Yolen: Passager

## Popular 6th Grade Nonfiction Informational Books

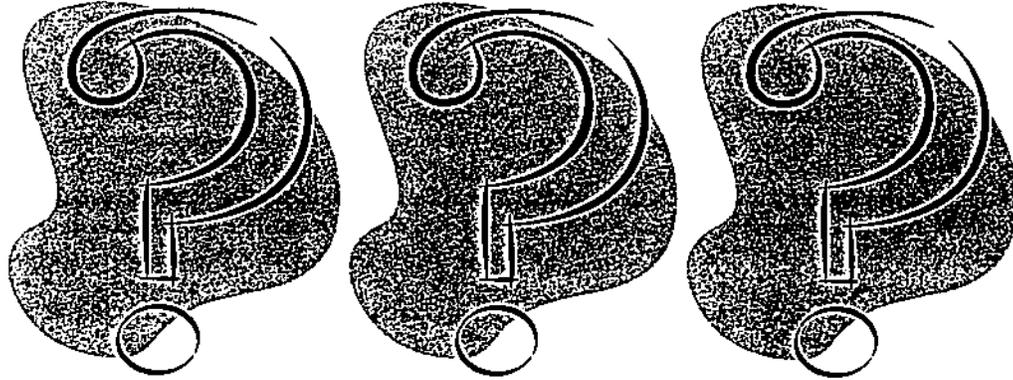
- Ardley, Neil: Music (eyewitness)
- Bachrach, Susan: Tell Them We remember: The Story of the Holocaust
- D'Aulaire, Ingri, and Edgar D'Aulaire: D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths
- Driscoll, Michael: A Child's Introduction to Poetry
- Fritz, Jean: Around the World in a Hundred Years From Henry the Navigator to Magellan.
- Kaminsky, Mary and Bobby Valentine: Uncommon Champions: Fifteen Athletes who battled Back.
- Lasky, Kathryn: The Man who Made Time Travel.
- Mah, Adeline Yen: Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter.
- McKissack, Patricia: Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues.
- Stanley, Diane: Michelangelo
- **Thimmesh: Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon**
- Swanso: Chasing Lincoln's Killer
- The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat (ebook) ...
- Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and The Endurance (Paperback) ...
- Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon (Hardcover) ...
- Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle (Hardcover)
- Fred Korematsu Speaks Up. ...
- March Forward, Girl : From Young Warrior To Little Rock Nine. ...
- Back From The Brink. ...
- Crash : The Great Depression And The Fall And Rise Of America. ...
- Higher, Steeper, Faster : The Daredevils Who Conquered The Skies. ...
- Speaking Our Truth : A Journey Of Reconciliation.

[https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_books/sr\\_week07.shtml](https://www.educationworld.com/a_books/sr_week07.shtml)

The link above from Education World offers fun activities and articles for great summer reading!!!

## Summer Reading Suggestions (Advanced Books)

- Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer
- Tangerine by Edward Bloor
- Janitor's Boy by A
- The Andrew Clements
- Cat Ate my Gymsuit by Paula Danziger
- Phoenix Rising by Karen Hesse
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- The White Fox Chronicles by Gary Paulsen
- White Water by P.J. Peterson
- Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
- Witch Child by Celia Ree
- Hero by Susan L. Rottman
- Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt
- Miracle's Boys by Jacqueline Woodson
- The Hunger Games Series by S. Collins



## Before, During, After Reading

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of book:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ask and answer **BEFORE** reading:

What clues does the title give you about the text?

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What type of text is this? Fiction or nonfiction? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you reading this text? To entertain? To gain information? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you already know about the topic?

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What predictions can you make?

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Ask and answer **DURING** reading:

Name one thing you learn from what you just read

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Do you need to reread? Slow down? Use a different strategy?

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What is the main idea so far? Can you summarize?

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What picture is the author "painting" in your head? What details from the text help to paint this picture?

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Are there words you do not know? Does not knowing these words affect your understanding of the text? Do you need to look them up in the dictionary or can you figure them out in context?

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Ask and answer **AFTER** reading:

What predictions were confirmed?

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What details in the text confirmed them?

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What were the themes (morals or lessons to be learned) presented in the text?

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How did the author present the information? Through illustrations, figurative language, strong vocabulary. Give examples or explain.

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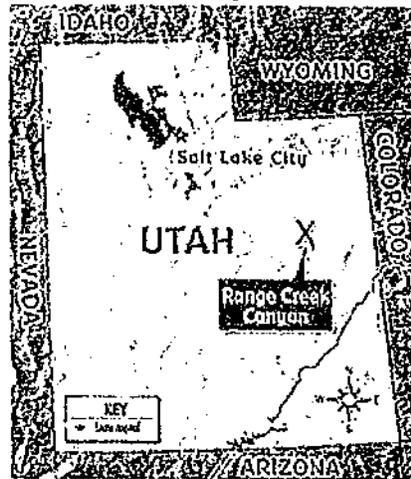
What connections did you make to the text? Can you relate to another story or other characters from another story or can you relate this text to yourself or anyone else you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## A Well-Kept Secret



Leigh Haeger

In the 1940s, a young cowboy named Waldo Wilcox stumbled upon an ancient treasure in a remote area in Utah called Range Creek Canyon.

He found an elegant woven basket of grass and willow in an old stone-walled house. When he looked around some more, the young cowpoke couldn't believe his eyes. Pottery, weapons, and other ancient houses dotted the area.

"I thought, this stuff has got to be protected," he told *The Washington Post*. Wilcox was afraid that if word got out about his discovery, tourists, collectors, and vandals would ravage the site, as they had done other ancient sites of the Southwest.

So Wilcox protected the 4,200-acre area the best way he knew how: He didn't tell a soul. He even bought the land in 1951 to raise cattle. He and his family went to great lengths to keep the secret. They even built gates to keep people out.

When Wilcox decided to sell his land, he wanted to make sure that whoever bought the property would preserve the site. To do that, he sold the ranch to a local preservation group. The group then transferred the land to the state of Utah.

Scientists came to know that the site was littered with historic relics. Once Wilcox's secret was out of the bag, they began visiting the remote canyon. Scientists hoped to unravel the mysteries of an ancient Native American culture that had roamed Utah thousands of years ago. Those Native Americans were called the Fremont people.

## Long Live the Vikings

Peter Adams wasn't searching for anything in particular when his metal detector went off in a farmer's field in northwestern England. He knelt and began sifting through the dirt for a piece of scrap metal or perhaps a coin.

Instead, Adams turned up two copper brooches that looked quite old. He reported his find to archaeologists. They determined that the brooches were more than 1,000 years old!

A few days before the soil was to be plowed under to grow potatoes, archaeologists returned to the field. They unearthed swords, spears, more jewelry, and other artifacts. What Adams had stumbled on was a rare Viking graveyard more than a thousand years old. It's no wonder he described it as "the find of a lifetime."

## The Viking Age

Archaeologists determined the graveyard, near the village of Cumwhitton, included the graves of four men and two women. Researchers said it is one of the few Viking burial grounds ever found in Britain and helps explain more about the culture of the ancient people.

For more than three centuries, from about A.D. 800 to 1100, the Vikings lived in Scandinavia, a region of northern Europe that includes present-day Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. The Vikings were known for their seagoing adventures, which they made in long, narrow longships powered by wind and dozens of oarsmen.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Use the article "A Well-Kept Secret" to answer questions 1 to 2.**

1. What did Waldo Wilcox find in Range Creek Canyon?
2. Scientists found that the Fremont left behind granaries in the villages, as well as on some cliff ledges. What did scientists conclude about the Fremont's lifestyle based on the granaries?

**Use the article "Long Live the Vikings" to answer questions 3 to 4.**

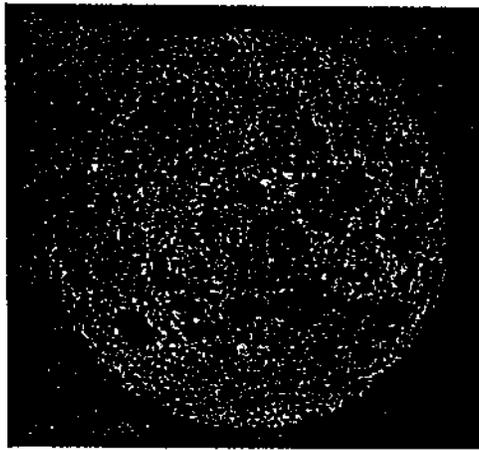
3. What did Peter Adams and archaeologists find in a farmer's field in England?
4. What has led archaeologists to believe that Vikings were wealthy settlers, rather than plunderers?

**Use the articles "Long Live the Vikings" and "A Well-Kept Secret" to answer question 5.**

5. How can ancient sites help scientists today learn about ancient cultures? Use evidence from both texts to support your answer.

# An Unexpected Trip

by ReadWorks



Sarah wasn't quite sure what was going on. She had been sitting in the back of the car for hours as it rumbled up the highway's six spotless lanes. There were not many other cars. When they turned off the main highway, Sarah wasn't very worried. This was the way to the house her parents had far, far out in the country. She'd been before, for summers. Sometimes she got to bring her friend, Sam. Going to the house by itself did not worry Sarah. The chains rattling around the back seat next to her, though, were a different story.

Sarah's mom and dad had said not to worry and that everything was fine. If everything was fine, though, why had they gotten so upset when the phone had rung last night? This time of month, Sarah usually spent the night with her grandmother, watching old movies and eating popcorn that Grandma made on the stove in a pot (not in the microwave). It was delicious. She couldn't quite make out what her mom had been saying into the phone. Something like, "What do you mean, you can't come, Mom? I need you. No, you don't understand; it has to be tomorrow night!" Later, her mom and dad told her that Grandma wasn't coming, and that she'd have to come on a little car ride with them.

"Can I still have popcorn the way Grandma makes it?" Sarah had asked. Her parents had seemed nervous before, but when she asked this, they'd looked at each other and had a nice, loud laugh, collapsing into a hug.

"We'll see what we can do, ladyface," her dad said, giving her a kiss on the cheek.

Today her parents had woken her up very early in the morning. They'd told her they'd only be gone for a night but let her pack as many toys and movies as she wanted. Sarah was a little confused—normally one night meant two toys and two movies. Her mother was very strict about this, and Sarah had often gotten a stern talking-to when her mother found an extra game or stuffed animal packed in-between her sweaters.

Today, however, there weren't any toy restrictions. There were no restrictions on soda, junk food or TV watching. Her parents didn't seem to be paying much attention to her. They weren't doing much of

anything, actually, except staring out the windows as the flat countryside rolled past.

When they made it to the cottage, it seemed strange. It was fall, and what looked beautiful in the summertime seemed odd and spooky now. The friendly green trees had lost their leaves, and now had sharp-looking branches pointing in every direction. In summer, Sarah loved playing in the little barn-shaped garage. Today Sarah couldn't tell what was hiding in its shadows. She hurried out as soon as the car engine shut off.

True to their word, Sarah's parents made her popcorn as soon as they got to the house in the late afternoon. Her mom put one of her favorite movies on the TV, covered her in a blanket and sat in the kitchen. Her father brought things into the house, and then disappeared into the garage for a long time. She heard banging. She could not imagine what was going on. Eventually, she fell asleep.

When she woke up, the sun was setting. Her mom sat in a chair across the room, looking her in the face. It was not usual for Sarah's mom to be there when she woke up, lovingly looking into her eyes. Tonight she seemed nervous.

"Where's Dad?" Sarah asked, rubbing her eyes.

Her mom looked down, and twisted her fingers together. "Your dad . . . he has some things he has to do. Alone. We'll see him in the morning." Suddenly, she stood up. "Sarah, it's time for bed."

"Mom! It's not even dark out!"

"Sarah."

"And I'm not tired! I just woke up!"

"Don't argue with me!" Sarah's mom yelled. She hardly ever yelled. Sarah was a little scared. Mom let out a deep sigh. "Sarah, honey, we should go to bed. It's been a long day. I'll lie down with you."

They went to her room, and read books together. Sarah was not tired. They talked and read for a long time. Eventually, Sarah's mom fell asleep. Sarah tossed and turned, burrowing her head into her mom or rolling far across the bed. She decided she needed to walk around a bit. Her legs were crampy. Plus, she *had* had an awful lot of soda to drink. She got up to walk to the bathroom.

The bedroom door opened with a long, low creaking sound. All the lights in the house were off. Sarah could only see because of the big full moon shining through the windows. She put her hands on the wall, feeling her way forward, bumping into tables and tripping on shoes. Just as she got near the bathroom, she realized she could hear a sound. It was like a wailing, crying sound. It was like a dog that was hurt, but also somehow . . . different. Mixed in with the howls and yelps were the sounds of the chains rattling. Sarah remembered that sound—the one the chains next to her in the car made every time it hit a bump in the road. What was going on?

She realized the sound was coming from the garage, which connected to the house via a small door. As Sarah crept towards the door, the howling stopped. What was in there? It sounded hurt and afraid. Maybe Sarah could help it?

She eased open the door, which made its own low creak, like a very old ghost waking up in the morning. At first, Sarah saw nothing. Then out of the darkness, a huge shape lunged at her. It was

covered in wild, dark fur. It had a huge snout full of long, sharp teeth that snapped and trailed froth. It made the loudest sound Sarah had ever heard as it came at her. Then at the last minute, she heard the sound of chains, and the animal seemed to snap backwards. Sarah screamed as loud as she could. The thing came at her again and snapped back towards the wall a second time. Then a lot of things happened at once: Sarah heard her mom yell her name. She fell to the floor. Things started to go dark. Just before they did, Sarah noticed something very odd. The thing was wearing a torn up pair of red pants. "Just like my dad's," she thought as she drifted off.

The next morning, Sarah was in bed. Birds chirped. Sun streamed in the window. Had it all been a dream? Sarah stood up and went into the house. Everything looked normal. She smelled bacon and heard it sizzle and pop in the pan. She made her way to the kitchen where her mom was happily frying up eggs and bacon. The waffle maker was out too, sending steam up towards the ceiling. Her dad sat at the table sipping coffee. When he saw her come into the room, he put down the paper he was reading. He motioned for her to come over.

Sarah hesitated a little, and went over and sat. Her dad looked at her kindly. "Hey, ladyface," he said. "Do you know what a werewolf is?"

# The Run [The Run Series, #1]

by ReadWorks



Dennis and Mac had been driving for almost a week, and they hadn't seen a single soul. They were worried. When they'd left the ranch, they'd thought maybe they'd run into someone, another survivor. But there was no one. The roads were almost empty. There was the occasional abandoned car, but that was it. They drove mostly on highways, to make better time. Mac wondered if they might not have better luck on the smaller country roads, but Dennis wouldn't have it. Those roads had curves and were thick with trees. There was no way of seeing danger coming. If someone wanted to spring a surprise on you, you wouldn't know it until it was too late.

When the plague came, Dennis and Mac had been working as ranch hands on a cattle farm. Both had just finished their first year of college. Dennis went to school on the East Coast, Mac on the West. They found that they were very similar people. They both studied hard and read a lot of books. But they also both liked being outdoors. At the end of a good day, they came home smelling of sweat and dirt. They quickly became friends.

The ranch was a small, family-run operation, with only about 50 head of cattle. The family that ran it, the Greersons, would advertise in college newspapers in the spring. There were plenty of ranch hands in the area who needed work, but Bucky Greerson felt city kids could benefit from an exposure to country life. Young men would apply, and then the Greersons would hire about a half-dozen hands every spring to help them run cattle. It was tough work, but Dennis and Mac felt lucky to be picked.

The farm didn't have a TV or the Internet or a telephone. As a result, the first they heard of the plague was on the radio. Every night, the ranch hands liked to gather in the mess hall and play cards. While they played, they listened to the radio. The ranch was so far up in the hills that the radio only got one

station. At night they listened to the station's best DJ, Petey "The Muskrat" Coltrain, who spun old bluegrass records. Sometimes, between records, The Muskrat told stories. Dennis and Mac thought he was hilarious.

One night, though, The Muskrat's radio show was very different. It couldn't have been more than six months ago, but to Dennis and Mac, thinking back on it now, it felt like another lifetime. The Muskrat had been playing a cheery Bill Monroe song, "Footprints In The Snow," when he cut out the record halfway through the chorus. The ranch hands stopped their game of Gin Rummy. They turned and looked at the radio. The Muskrat always played a record all the way through. What could be wrong?

"Folks," said the Muskrat. "I don't know how to tell you this, but I'm going to ask you to stay very calm. The manager of my station has just passed me a note. It seems that the local health authorities are asking us radio folks to tell you, our listeners, that... well, a disease is spreading."

The ranch hands put down their cards. Dennis and Mac exchanged a glance.

"Now," The Muskrat said, his rich voice sounding uncharacteristically shaky, "they don't quite know what this disease is, but it's real bad. It's very contagious, and people who get it don't have a lot of luck recovering. Now, doctors are trying to figure out a cure, but there's been no luck yet. So, in the meantime, we're asking that you stay in your homes as much as possible and avoid public places until the disease dies down."

One of the ranch hands, a big, cocky boy named T.J., laughed. "Like heck I'm not going into town," T.J. chuckled. "I got a date." The other ranch hands stared at him. T.J. stopped laughing.

"Please, folks, do what the doctors say," The Muskrat pleaded. "I'm sure it'll just be for a few days." He was quiet for a moment. Then the ranch hands heard the sound of a turntable needle hitting the record, and an old Earl Scruggs song came on.

That was the beginning of it. For the next few days, the ranch went about its business. The Greersons told the boys not to worry, that this would all be over soon. They had enough food on the ranch to last months. In the meantime, there were plenty of new calves that needed branding. At night, everyone gathered around the radio and listened to updates. The news seemed only to get worse. More and more people were getting sick. The symptoms were strange. People would become violently ill, then fall into a long, deep sleep. The big cities - New York, Los Angeles, Chicago - had become like ghost towns. No one would go out into the street for fear of catching the disease.

The news kept getting worse until, finally, the radio station stopped transmitting. The Greersons called a meeting in the dining room of the main house. Everyone sat around the big dining room table where Ann Greerson served Sunday supper. After everyone was seated, Bucky Greerson stood up. He was a short, plump man with a droopy handlebar mustache. You wouldn't think it looking at him, but his voice boomed.

"Now," he said, "I know you're worried about your families, and I don't feel right chaining you here while you don't know what's become of your people. So, anyone who wants to leave is free to go. Ann and I will make do."

Dennis and Mac looked at each other. They'd talked about leaving but had tried to pretend they wouldn't need to. They had hoped the plague would be over soon, that the world would return to the way it was, that it had all been a strange hallucination. Now that they had the option to venture out

into the world, to see how bad things really were, they weren't sure they wanted to know.

"By a show of hands," Bucky Greerson asked, "how many of you want to leave?"

Mac and Dennis looked around. They were the only two with their hands up.

The Greersons gave them enough food to last a couple weeks - corn bread and apples and cured ham and syrupy peaches in mason jars. Mac and Dennis packed up their things and loaded everything into Mac's truck, a sputtering old pickup. The Greersons and the ranch hands gathered around to see them off.

"Be safe, boys," said Ann Greerson, kissing them each on the cheeks and hugging them hard. "And remember your manners." As Mac and Dennis pulled away, they saw her husband holding her, her body shaking with sobs.

A week later, Mac and Dennis had zigzagged through dozens of small towns and a few larger cities. What they found frightened them: every place was empty. Not a person was out. Sometimes, they would stop and knock on doors. No one would answer. If they went inside, they wouldn't find a single soul home. Sometimes they'd find the dinner table set, plates piled high with molding food. Every time they entered a new room, they both winced, thinking they'd find a dead body. But they never did. It was indescribably eerie.

Sometimes, if the place still got electricity, they'd try to use the phone. Every time, no matter what number they dialed, the same recorded message came on: "The number is not in service. Please check the number and try again."

Finally, the young men decided to make tracks to the nearest big city. It would be a full day of driving, but there had to be someone there. You can't abandon a whole city.

Dusk had come, and Mac was at the wheel. Dennis had been driving for the last eight hours and was taking a nap in the passenger seat. They were passing through a long, flat piece of pastureland when Mac saw a flicker of movement in the distance. He stopped the car, turned off the engine and shook Dennis awake.

"Look," Mac said excitedly. "I think someone's coming."

Dennis squinted his eyes. The flicker of movement was becoming larger. What had been a dot of motion became a long line, stretching across the horizon. Mac and Dennis strained to see.

"I think it's some people," said Dennis. "Let me get my binoculars."

He rustled in his backpack and pulled out his pair. Dennis put them to his eyes and looked through them. Mac heard him gasp.

"My gosh," whispered Dennis.

What he saw was people. Thousands of people. Hundreds of thousands, maybe a million. A swarm of people like the world had never seen. And the people were all running. They were running as fast as they could go, like something was chasing them, or like they were chasing something. As they grew closer, Dennis could just make out the people's faces. Their eyes were wild.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Use the article "An Unexpected Trip" to answer questions 1 to 2.**

1. Sarah notices that the animal in the garage is wearing a pair of torn red pants.

Whose pants are they just like?

2. Knowing whose pants the torn red ones are just like gives readers a clue about the identity of the animal at the end of the story. Based on this clue, who might the animal be?

**Use the article "The Run [The Run Series, #1]" to answer questions 3 to 4.**

3. Describe the inside of the houses that Mac and Dennis enter after leaving the ranch. Include at least two details from the story.

4. The author's description of the inside of the houses gives readers clues about who the running people at the end of the story are. Based on these clues, who might the running people be?

**Use the articles "An Unexpected Trip" and "The Run [The Run Series, #1]" to answer questions 5 to 6.**

5. What is similar about what happens at the end of "An Unexpected Trip" and what happens at the end of "The Run"?

6. Why might an author provide clues about what is happening in a story instead of simply explaining it? Support your answer with evidence from both texts.

**To the parents, some tips and tricks to enhance summer reading, and keep your students on pace for the new school year.**

**Encourage a place, space and time for reading and be consistent every day.**

**Model reading for them with whatever you need or decide to read such as an article, novel, directions to assemble something , even reading your bills etc.**

**Positivity about reading in general. Get them involved in reading a recipe to you, of directions for a new game they just received.**

**Encourage transitional reading such as while they are in a doctor's waiting room, on a plane, airport, or train, even in the car in traffic if they do not get motion sickness.**

**Use the public library for, not only books and material, but for classes as well.**

**I know that we have a crazy busy schedule now days. However, I do believe that if we can just master one of these, we will be ahead of the game.**

**Unfortunately with distance learning some of this points will be difficult to master. Therefore, I suggest that you look at a couple of these websites. They encourage reading with question sets for all levels and skills. They have current articles in a variety of topics that may interest your child since many are non-fiction. Keep reading!!!!**

**Readworks.com**

**Newsela.com**

**Edcite.com**

**Enjoy your summer, enjoy reading, and I am looking forward to meeting you in a couple of months.**