

The Messy Middle

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2026

Welcome to the 11th Annual SRC 😊! Read 7 books out of 25+ categories between June 1st and August 14th and enter to win a \$10 Amazon gift card. To enter . . . simply decide you're in. Near August 14th, I'll put up a blog post that you can comment on with the books you've read. That's all 😊. Join us four Fridays as we "[Read for Good.](#)" Happy reading!

- ⇒ A book someone mentioned in last year's summer reading challenge
- ⇒ A book with cover that uses a color with a plant in the name. Turns out there are 20 colors with plant names!! Greens (moss, sage, fern, clover), Purples (lavender, violet, wisteria, thistle), Yellows (saffron, marigold, dandelion, goldenrod), Pinks and Reds (rose, blush, poppy, amaranth), and a mixed group (indigo, cornflower, eucalyptus, lichen)
- ⇒ A book with a verb in the title.
- ⇒ A book set where you're going on vacation this summer/winter (or would like to vacation)
- ⇒ A book recommended by a child in your life
- ⇒ A book recommended by a bookseller or a librarian
- ⇒ A book that is Science Fiction, Fantasy or a Western
- ⇒ A book featuring nature such as a river, National Park, forest, or mountains
- ⇒ A book that has your favorite color in the title
- ⇒ A book with a great first line
- ⇒ A book whose title is someone's name
- ⇒ A book that takes place in a place that you've been to
- ⇒ A how-to book
- ⇒ A book you stay up late to read
- ⇒ A book about space (I was thinking outer space but "space" could be interpreted in other ways)!
- ⇒ A book set on the opposite side of the world to where you are currently located
- ⇒ A middle grade or YA novel
- ⇒ A book told in epistolary style (letter or diary)
- ⇒ A book featuring travel as a theme
- ⇒ A graphic novel
- ⇒ A cookbook, picture/coffee table book, or wordless book
- ⇒ A mystery, classic, or play
- ⇒ A book for professional development (loosely defined)
- ⇒ An audiobook
- ⇒ A book you want to discuss with others
- ⇒ A book that's outside of your normal reading
- ⇒ Choose your own adventure: Make up your own category!

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A few categories special to Summer 2026

- ⇒ Since this summer is the 250th birthday of the USA, either a book about the birth of that nation or a book with 250 in the title.
- ⇒ In honor of my mom's 90th birthday in August, either a book with an elderly person (at least 80 years old) or the number 90 in the title.
- ⇒ Because the world cup is in June, a book with soccer (football 🏈) or the world cup in it

Bonus: choose a Penalty Book in the first week of the challenge as a way to kick yourself in the pants. If you don't read your penalty book you will subtract two (2) books from your grand total. Your penalty book is: _____

Happy reading!
Amy

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