

Still Time to Read This Summer
Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News Review

There still is time to read for prizes during Roseburg Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

Reading logs and book review forms are available in person at the front desk or on the library's website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org. Click on "Summer Reading Program."

The program ends Saturday, Aug. 24.

Young readers looking for inspiration may be interested in these recommendations.

Picture Book

A book about everyday things can be both informative and fun, and that's what you will find in "Pajamarama!" written by Julie Gonzalez and illustrated by Rob Sayegh Jr. This story has fun with many different color options for pajamas.

Pajamas are cozy and come in a variety of styles with kids imagining themselves as superheroes, princesses and princes, merpeople and more. Kids of different colors and abilities are illustrated in their different pajamas, including soft, worn-in pajamas. All these pajamas lead to good sleep and dreams.

This is a fun story to share with children aged 2 years and up to talk about different colors and patterns of pajamas while calming down to go to sleep and dream.

Junior

I picked up The Great Mathemachicken series written by Nancy Krulik and illustrated by Charlie Alder because one of our young patrons raved about it, and I have to agree that it's great for beginning chapter book readers.

The first book, "Hide and Go Beak," introduces a flock of chickens, including our main character, Chirpy, a chick who likes to solve problems - especially those of the science and math variety.

Chirpy wants nothing more than to learn at the human school, so she hitches a ride on top of the bus. Chirpy learns all kinds of things, such as gravity, how tally marks look different all over the world and how music works like fractions. She uses her newfound knowledge to solve problems back in the chicken coop.

Chirpy also makes a friend in Quackers the Duck, who joins her at school. The classroom is oblivious to their presence, although one student continually claims to hear a chicken. Of course no one listens to him.

The series continues with “Have a Slice Day” and “Sing High, Sing Crow.” There are lots of laughs and a hands-on activity at the end of each book.

Young Adults

“The Blood Years” is a novel based on the teen years of Frieda Teitler, author Elana K. Arnold’s grandmother. It’s a World War II, coming-of-age story set in a place I knew nothing about.

That place is Czernowitz, in 1939 a city in Romania, now in Ukraine, and the story follows Rieke’s Jewish family as the Soviets and then the Germans and then the Soviets again march into the city and rule with their iron fists.

At the beginning of the book, Rieke is an innocent teenager who sees her parents’ marriage break up because of her dad’s infidelity. Rieke and her mom and sister live with her grandfather, who is a larger-than-life character. He repairs watches, is an elder in the community and becomes Rieke’s North Star.

Then the war starts, and at the same time Rieke’s older sister, Astra, pulls away because she’s interested in dating. She actually ends up in a situation much like her mother before her: Her husband is a respected doctor, but he’s also a philanderer.

The story becomes increasingly bleak as the war progresses, and as Rieke matures, the content does, too. She suffers from tuberculosis at a time when her coughing could alert soldiers of her family’s existence, and she is repeatedly assaulted by a Jewish man who is friendly with the occupiers, whoever they happen to be at the moment.

There is tragedy upon tragedy – and then it gets even worse before the bittersweet ending.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.biblionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

This Month’s Youth Programs

10 a.m. every Tuesday through Aug. 20 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last at library

10:30 a.m. every Wednesday through Aug. 21 – Storytime with Aurora at Stewart Park Pavilion

10:15 a.m. every Thursday through Aug. 22 – Storytime with Aurora at library

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5 through Saturday, Aug. 10 – StoryWalk® at Eastwood Park

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6 – Children’s program: basket weaving, day 1

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8 – Teen program: beads & bracelets

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 9 – Children’s program: Butterfly Garden and seed bombs at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12 through Saturday, Aug. 17 – StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by Half Shell

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13 – Children’s program: basket weaving, day 2

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 – Teen program: bath bombs & soap

3-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 – Teen volunteer hours at library

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 16 – Children’s program: outside games at Stewart Park Pavilion

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19 through Saturday, Aug. 24 – StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by YMCA

1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20 – Children’s program: Ozobots color coding robots

1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 – Teen program: virtual reality headsets

10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 23 – Children’s program at Stewart Park Pavilion