

The Reading Trail



You have reached the library

PRESS SPACE BAR TO CONTINUE

2026 ANNUAL READING CHALLENGE

INSPIRED BY THE OREGON TRAIL VIDEO GAME



Madison County
Public Library

Embark on a literary adventure with our 2026 Annual Reading Challenge! Discover new stories, explore uncharted genres, and travel through time and your imagination with every book you read. You get to choose the path that fits your reading style and pace.

**Choose
your own
adventure!**

Trailblazer: 12 prompts (one book a month)

Pathfinder: 52 prompts (one book a week)

Pioneer: 104 prompts (two books a week)

New this year!

Accept the Side Quest Challenge by keeping track of how long you read, and every 250 hours earned gets you a special prize button.

Let's see how many hours Madison County can read in 2026!

Grab your books, saddle up, and set out on a reading journey you won't forget!

Return your completed challenge by January 10, 2027.

**CIRCLE YOUR WAGONS
AND GET READY FOR A
READING JOURNEY!**



Track your reading below with the list of prompts and space to write your book titles!

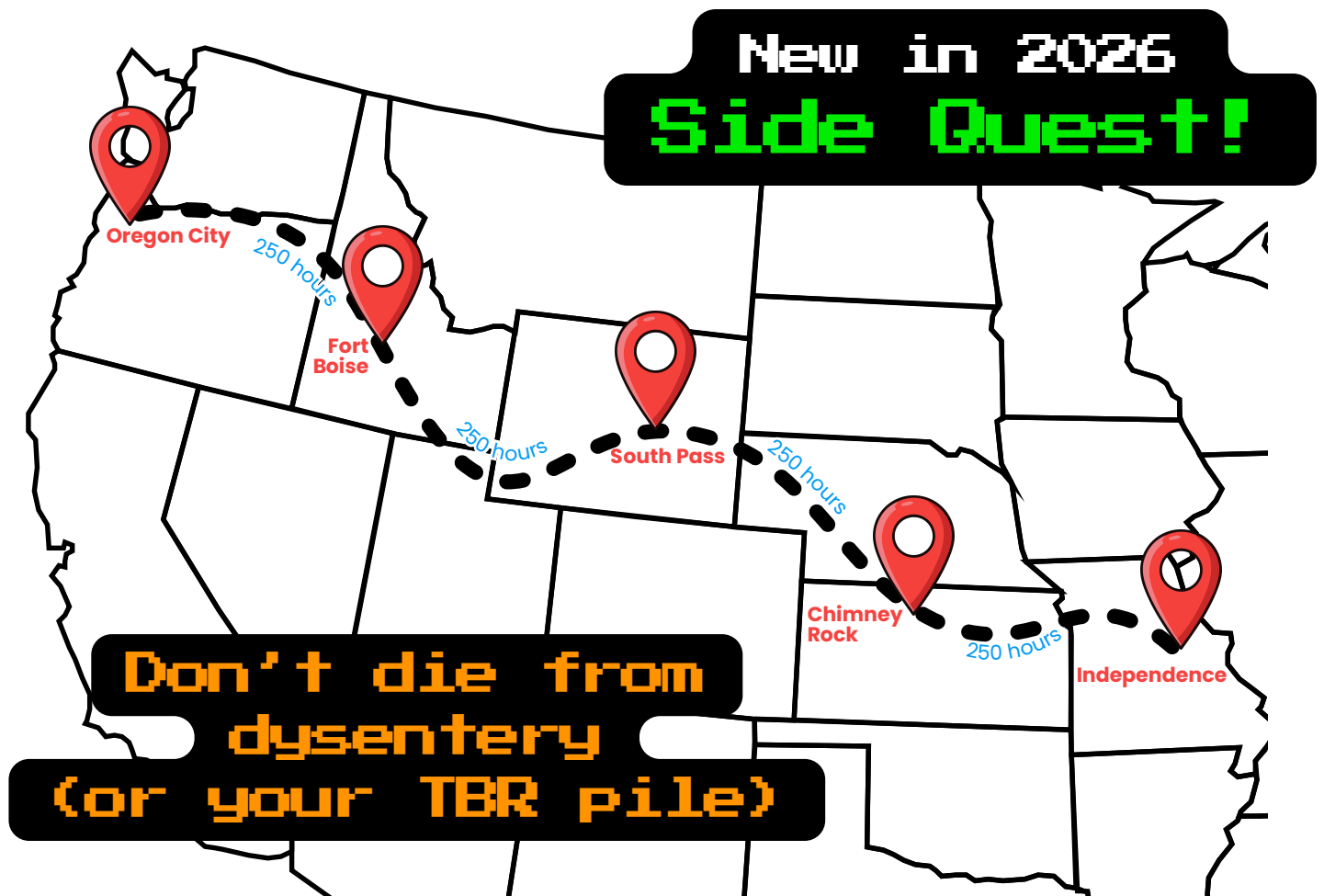
1	Historical fiction set in the United States	8	Set in a state you have never visited
Title		Title	
2	Historical fiction set outside the United States	9	Historical mystery
Title		Title	
3	Set in a small town	10	Set in or featuring a theater
Title		Title	
4	Set in a big city	11	Includes a voyage by water
Title		Title	
5	Alternative history	12	Includes a voyage by land
Title		Title	
6	Memoir	13	Includes a voyage through space
Title		Title	
7	Set in the state you were born	14	Includes a name in the title
Title		Title	

15	Set in Appalachia (non-modern)	30	Survival story
Title		Title	
16	Set in Appalachia (modern)	31	Desert on the cover
Title		Title	
17	Set in or includes a National Park	32	Includes a monster
Title		Title	
18	About or includes an author	33	Feel good read
Title		Title	
19	About or includes an animal	34	Ocean or river on the cover
Title		Title	
20	Winter scene on the cover	35	Spans decades
Title		Title	
21	Spring scene on the cover	36	Family saga
Title		Title	
22	Summer scene on the cover	37	Set in or written in the 1920s
Title		Title	
23	Autumn scene on the cover	38	Set in or written in the 1930s
Title		Title	
24	Includes an expedition	39	Set in or written in the 1940s
Title		Title	
25	Has an aspect of archeology	40	Set in or written in the 1950s
Title		Title	
26	Second chance romance	41	Set in or written in the 1960s
Title		Title	
27	A book you read in high school	42	Set in or written in the 1970s
Title		Title	
28	Set in the wilderness	43	Set in or written in the 1980s
Title		Title	
29	Has a heart on the cover	44	Set in or written in the 1990s
Title		Title	

45	Set in or written in the 2000s	60	American classic
Title		Title	
46	Title is more than five words	61	Classic from another country
Title		Title	
47	Features a historically notable person	62	Includes a dinosaur
Title		Title	
48	Fantasy novel	63	Influenced by folk tales
Title		Title	
49	Features a non-human character	64	Has a cactus on the cover
Title		Title	
50	Has a castle on the cover	65	Dystopian novel
Title		Title	
51	The title is a question	66	Set in the American west (non-modern)
Title		Title	
52	The title has a day of the week in it	67	Set in the American west (modern)
Title		Title	
53	Includes a secret code or codebreaking	68	Includes a chef
Title		Title	
54	Deals with a challenge	69	Set during the American Revolution
Title		Title	
55	Science Fiction novel	70	Features horses
Title		Title	
56	Includes a scientist or a doctor	71	Features a trailblazer
Title		Title	
57	Includes an experiment	72	Historically accurate
Title		Title	
58	Hugo Award winner or nominee	73	Has more than two POVs
Title		Title	
59	Has a horse on the cover	74	Has a character that saves the day
Title		Title	

75	Set in more than one country	90	Has a blue cover
Title		Title	
76	Features an experience different from your own	91	Features or includes a discovery
Title		Title	
77	Mystery novel	92	Features or includes an invention
Title		Title	
78	Features an unlikely hero	93	A book that made you laugh
Title		Title	
79	Inspired by true events	94	A book that made you cry
Title		Title	
80	Psychological thriller	95	A book club book
Title		Title	
81	Features an adventure	96	Has a cake or cupcake on the cover
Title		Title	
82	Trilogy (Book One)	97	A book you liked more than you expected
Title		Title	
83	Trilogy (Book Two)	98	A book you didn't like as much as you expected
Title		Title	
84	Trilogy (Book Three)	99	A debut book
Title		Title	
85	A book about courage	100	Features a pioneer
Title		Title	
86	Features or includes pirates	101	Released in 2026
Title		Title	
87	Has a star on the cover	102	Creature Feature
Title		Title	
88	Features a strong community	103	A book that scared you a little bit
Title		Title	
89	Has a red cover	104	Favorite read of the year
Title		Title	

Take your Reading Challenge to the next level with a Side Quest! Track the time you spend reading, and every 250 hours earns you a special prize button. Let's see how many hours Madison County can read this year as we blaze our trail, one milestone at a time!



Complete a side quest and draw a mystery button—each one reveals a surprise event from the Oregon Trail. Will you ford a river, find a shortcut, lose an ox, or strike it lucky? Collect them all and chart your adventure westward!



DOUBLE RATIONS

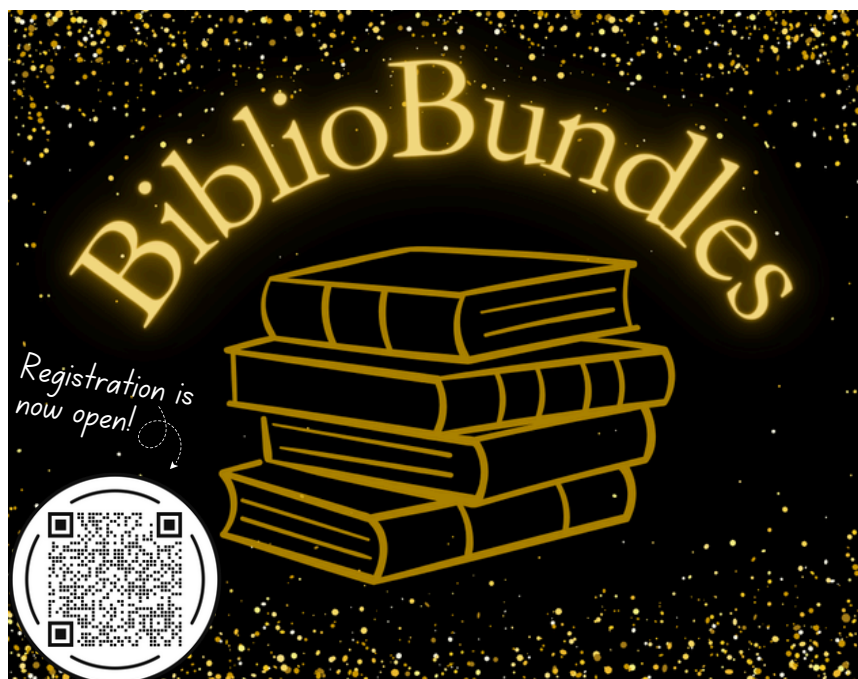


Any book club book counts for two prompts, doubling the fun and helping you complete those harder challenges!

BOOK BESTIES

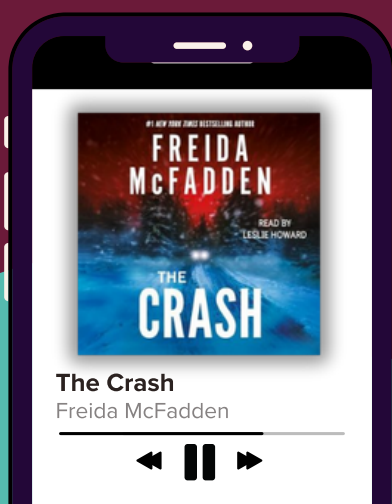
Starting January 2, visit our website to request your 2026 Book Bestie Bundles! Fill out a quick form and select the Reading Challenge prompts you'd like us to fill. We'll curate a selection of books to guide you on your literary journey, helping you discover new favorites while blazing your trail through the 2026 Reading Challenge.

Request your bundle!



Embark on a new literary journey each month in 2026! Register to receive a themed book bundle and a bookish surprise, carefully selected to keep your reading adventure exciting. Bundles are available for pickup the second Monday of each month, so be sure to register each month to claim your bundle and keep blazing your trail through the Reading Challenge!

Check out the Libby app for easy ways to find your next read!



Scan here to get started!



TOTALLY TUBULAR TEEN READING CHALLENGE

Have a teen reader at home?

Our Teen Reading Challenge offers the same flexibility as our Annual Reading Challenge, with prompts tailored just for teens. See a Youth Librarian to learn more!

Join our 2026 Annual
Reading Challenge Club
on Facebook!



Join us on our Facebook
group for giveaways,
reading suggestions and a
fun bookish community

**THE FIRST RULE OF
BOOK CLUB IS...**

View our upcoming
book clubs:



**...WE ABSOLUTELY TALK
ABOUT OUR BOOK CLUBS!**

Tear this off and turn it in
Return by January 10, 2027

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

of Books Read: _____

2026 Annual Reading Challenge