

*“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn,
the more places you’ll go.*

-Dr. Seuss

Grade 5 Summer Reading List

Dear New 5th Graders,

As your summer begins, we, your 5th grade teachers, have come up with a list of some terrific books we think you would enjoy. Reading every day can be both enjoyable and informative. We encourage you take the time to read various types of materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers. The list below is a great place to start if you need some ideas or suggestions. During the first few weeks of school, you will do some in-class projects to share a favorite summer read. We want you to have fun and read during the summer break. Have a great summer and be sure to enjoy a good book! See you in September!

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade
Teachers

Favorite Series

The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan: a series of fantasy/adventure books. Set around the world, the books are mainly based on Egyptian Mythology. The first book in the series is **The Red Pyramid** and the second is **The Throne of Fire**.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Haddix: In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, third-born Luke has been in hiding for the entire twelve years of his life. What will become of him now that houses are being built near his family's farm? Will he be found out? Read the series to find out!

Ink heart by Cornelia Funke: Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life. One of those characters abducts them and Meggie finds herself in the kind of adventure she has only read about in books.

The World According to Humphrey (and others in the series) by Betsy Birney: Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

Into the Wild (Warriors Book One) (and others in the series) by Erin Hunter: For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by the powerful ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the Thunder Clan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary house cat named Rusty . . . Who may yet turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.

Mysteries

The Sixty-Eight Rooms by Marianne Malone: Housed deep inside the Chicago Art Institute there are a collection of 68 exquisitely crafted miniature rooms-The Thorne Rooms. Each room is set in a different historic period, and every detail is perfect. Some might even say, the rooms are magic. Imagine—what if on a field trip, you discovered a key that allowed you to shrink so that you could sneak inside and explore the rooms' secrets? What if you discovered that others had done so before you? And that someone had left something important behind?

Hoot by Carl Hiaason: Roy becomes intrigued by a strange barefoot boy he sees from the school bus and is drawn into an environmental mystery. (2003 Newbery Honor)

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead: Twelve-year-old Miranda must unravel a puzzle involving increasingly strange notes warning that someone she knows may die. (The 2010 Newbery award Winner)

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett: When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: seemingly unrelated events connect; an eccentric old woman seeks their company, & an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal.

Adventure

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo: A fortune teller's strange prediction and a magician's startling trick lead Peter on an extraordinary journey to find his sister in the kingdom of Baltese.

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George: Miyax, like many adolescents, is torn; but unlike most, her choices may determine whether she lives or dies. At 13, an orphan, and unhappily married, Miyax runs away from her husband's parents' home, hoping to reach San Francisco and her pen pal. She becomes lost in the vast Alaskan tundra, with no food, no shelter, and no idea which is the way to safety. When a pack of wolves begins to accept her into their community, Miyax must learn to think like a wolf as well. If she trusts her Eskimo instincts, will she stand a chance of surviving? (1973 Newbery Award)

Hatchet by Gary Paulson: After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother and his own wits. (1988 Newbery Honor)

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi: Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. (2003 Newbery Award)

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements: Mark didn't ask to move to New Hampshire or to go to a hick school like Hardy Elementary. He certainly didn't request

Mr. Maxwell as his teacher. Mr. Maxwell doesn't like rich kids, or slackers, or know-it-alls and he's decided that Mark is all of those things. The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the wood's tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

StormBreaker by Anthony Horowitz: After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced into continuing his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John: The night Martine Allen turns eleven years old is the night her life changes completely. Martine's parents are killed in a fire, so she must leave her home to live on an African wildlife reserve with a grandmother she never even knew she had. When Martine arrives, she hears tales of a mythical animal living there—a white giraffe. One stormy night, Martine looks out her bedroom window straight into the eyes of the tall silvery animal. Could it be just Martine's imagination, or is the white giraffe real? And if so, why is everyone keeping its existence a secret?

School Stories

Leon and the Champion Chip by Allen Kurzweil: Fifth-grader, Leon uses scientific methods learned in Mr. Sparks's class to compete in a potato chip tasting contest and to seek revenge against the class bully.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos: To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

My Life as a Fifth Grade Comedian by Elizabeth Levy: Bobby tries to channel his unfortunate penchant for humor into a learning experience.

No Talking by Andrew Clements: The fifth grade girls and the fifth grade boys at Laketon Elementary don't get along very well, but the real problem is that these kids are loud and disorderly. Then one day Dave Packer, a certified loud mouth, bumps into an idea. Who can say the fewest words during two whole days—boys or girls? The contest begins!

Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park: While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more.

Relationships

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech: After years of mistreatment, abandoned twins, Dallas and Florida, have created elaborate plans to liberate themselves from adult control. Given one last chance in Ruby Holler, can they recognize love when it finally finds them?

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett: Mistress Mary is quite contrary until she helps her garden grow. Along the way, she manages to cure her sickly cousin Colin, who is every bit as ornery as she. These two are closed up in a gloomy old manor on the Yorkshire moors of England until a locked-up garden captures their imaginations. As new life sprouts from the earth within that garden, Mary's and Colin's lives blossom with new beginnings.

Touch Blue by Cynthia Lord: The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland--and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children. So now Tess and her family are taking a chance on Aaron, a thirteen-year-old trumpet player who has been bounced from home to home. And Tess needs a plan of her own--and all the luck she can muster. Will Tess's wish come true or will her luck run out?

Everything for a Dog by Ann M. Martin: Bone is a stray dog, all alone in the world, looking for a safe place to call home. Charlie is devastated by the death of his older brother, but at least he has his brother's dog to comfort him. All Henry wants is a dog of his own, and even when his best friend moves away, his parents still won't let him have one. Bone, Charlie, and Henry don't know each other, but their lives are about to connect in a very surprising way because dogs, and dog lovers, have a way of finding each other.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio: "I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse. "August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until

now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

Small as an Elephant by Jennifer Jacobson: Ever since Jack can remember, his mom has been unpredictable, sometimes loving and fun, other times caught in a whirlwind of energy and "spinning" wildly until it's over. But Jack never thought his mom would take off during the night, leaving him at a campground in Acadia National Park, with no way to reach her and barely enough money for food. Any other kid would report his mom gone, but Jack knows by now that he needs to figure things out for himself. With nothing but a small toy elephant to keep him company, Jack begins the long journey south, a journey that will test his wits and his loyalties - and his trust that he may be part of a larger herd after all.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau: The world that Lina and Doon inhabit requires constant attention to a generator to avoid the endless darkness that surrounds them. Can Doon fix the generator before the city is plunged into a blackout that will never end? Together, the pair become detectives in search of the truth about their dark world--part of that truth may be buried in some strange words that were hidden in Lina's grandmother's closet.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine: At birth, Ella is inadvertently cursed by an imprudent fairy named Lucinda, who bestows on her the "gift" of obedience. Anything anyone tells her to do, Ella must obey. When her beloved mother dies, leaving her in the care of a mostly absent father, and later, a loathsome stepmother and two treacherous stepsisters, Ella's life and well-being seem in grave peril. As she sets out to track Lucinda down to undo the curse, she befriends elves and giants, fends off ogres, outwits her wicked stepfamily, and even meets her "prince charming".

Savvy by Ingrid Law: Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. And now all Mibs wants is a savvy that will save him. In fact, Mibs is so sure she'll get a powerful savvy that she sneaks a ride to the hospital on a rickety bus with her sibling and the

preacher's kids in tow. After this extraordinary adventure—full of talking tattoos and a kidnapping—not a soul on board will ever be the same.

Historical Fiction

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko: It's 1935 and twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family have just moved to the infamous island that's home to criminals like notorious escapee Roy Gardner, Machine Gun Kelly, and of course, Al Capone. Now Moose has to try to fit in at his new school, avoid getting caught up in one of the warden's daughter's countless plots, and keep an eye on his sister Natalie, who's not like other kids. All Moose wants to do is stay out of trouble, but on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away. (2005 Newbery Honor)

Roberto and Me by Dan Gutman: Aiming to save the life of baseball player Roberto Clemente, Stosh uses a Clemente baseball card as a time machine and unexpectedly lands at Woodstock in 1969. He makes his way to Crosley Field in Cincinnati, befriends Clemente, delivers his warning, and returns home. The story then takes a turn that will surprise devoted fans of the Baseball Card Adventure Series.

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick: Homer, an admitted liar and teller of tales, must rescue his brother, Harold, after Uncle Squinton Leach sells him to the Union Army. (A 2010 Newbery Honor Book)

Miscellaneous Fiction

Travel Team by Mike Lupica: Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-

die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.

Notes from a Liar and Her Dog by Gennifer Choldenko: Eleven year old Ant, stuck in a family that she does not like, copes by pretending that her “real” parents are coming to rescue her, by loving her dog Pistachio, by volunteering at the zoo, and by bending the truth and telling lies.

Ida B...and Her plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World by Katherine Hannigan: In Wisconsin, Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family’s apple orchard. Her life changes dramatically when her mother begins treatment for cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin: A young Chinese girl, long a believer in her father’s fantastic stories, goes on a quest to find the legendary Old Man of the Moon with the hope of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain. (2010 Newbery Honor)

My Life as a Book by Janet Tashjian: Twelve-year-old Derek has been identified as a reluctant reader. He likes to read, but not required materials. He says he prefers having his own adventures (tossing as hand grenades the avocados his mother is saving for dinner, climbing onto the roof with a croquet set to hit wooden balls into the satellite dish) to learning about someone else’s life. When given the class summer reading and writing assignments, Derek finds a way to distract himself from the task. He discovers an old newspaper clipping about a 17-year-old who drowned, and his mother explains that the teen was babysitting him at the time and died saving him. Derek is determined to learn more about her death and his involvement in it.

Non Fiction

A Whiff of Pine, A Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems by Deborah Ruddell: clever rhyming verse showcases a variety of forest animals throughout the seasons.

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! by Jonah Winter: Sandy Koufax’s achievements as a great left-handed pitcher come to life in dramatic and dynamic illustrations coupled with smitherings of alluring facts and figures.

You Never Heard of Willie Mays?! by Jonah Winter: The Say Hey Kid had style to

spare. With a career high of 660 homeruns and lifetime batting average of .302, Willie Mays is believed by many to be the greatest baseball player that ever played the game.

Pharaoh's Boat by David L. Weitzman: Meticulously created hieroglyphic-like illustrations along with a detailed text reveal the riddle of reconstructing a regal boat commissioned by Cheops, the Pharaoh, to journey into the afterlife.

River of Dreams: the Story of the Hudson River by Hudson Talbott: With illustrations that flow along with the text, this book celebrates the river that has played a key role in the settling of the New World, the outcome of the Revolutionary War, and the history of a state and a country.

Jacob's Rescue by Malka Drucker and Michael Halperin. The true story of two brothers rescued from the horrors of the Holocaust by the selfless family who hid and cared for them.