

Incoming 5th Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

Listed Alphabetically by Author

Summer provides many opportunities for parents and young children to enjoy unforgettable books together. A suggested list of titles is listed below. Parents of elementary students may also want to consult one of the *Read-Aloud Handbooks* by Jim Trelease for additional selections. We also encourage you to visit your local public library. Be sure to fill out the elementary reading log and bring it to school when you return in September in order receive a summer reading certificate.

| Title | Author | Synopsis | Genre | Suitable for |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| The Lost Years of Merlin | Barron, T. A. | Spat out by the sea, the boy lay on the rocks, as still as death. Even if he survived the day, he had no home, no memory, and no name. This is the boy who will become the greatest wizard of all time. | Fantasy | *** |
| Fudge-a-Mania | Blume, Judy | Peter Hatcher can't get a break. First, his little brother, Fudge, has big plans to marry Peter's sworn enemy, Sheila Tubman. Second, Peter's parents have decided to rent a summer home next door to Sheila the Cootie Queen's house for three whole weeks! | Realistic Fiction | * |
| A Boy Called Slow | Bruchac, Joseph | A dramatic story in which we learn how a young Sioux brave named Slow earned his name-Sitting Bull. Leading his tribe against the attack of the enemy Crow, Slow proves himself to be brave. ALA Notable Book | Biography Multicultural | ** Picture book |
| The Chocolate Touch | Carling, Patrick Kene | Everything that touches John's lips turns to chocolate! Is this a dream come true or a curse? | Fantasy | * |
| Dirt Bike Racer | Christopher, Matt | 12-year-old Ron Baker finds a mini-bike and, with the help of a former motorcycle rider and racer, restores the bike and enters a competition. | Realistic Fiction Sports | ** |
| Sadako & the Thousand Paper Cranes | Coerr, Eleanor III. By Ed Young | Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes. This picture book is based on a classic Japanese legend. | Biography IRA Teacher's Choice Book | ** Picture book |
| The 13 th Floor: A Ghost Story | Fleischman, Sid | Buddy is transported 300 years back in time to a pirate ship captained by a distant relative. He is now set on an adventure that involves ghosts, witchcraft, razzle dazzle treasure, pirates, and more! | Fantasy | * |
| Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key | Gantos, Jack | Joey has big problems. He has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. | Realistic Fiction | ** |
| Jack on the Tracks: Four Seasons of Fifth Grade | Gantos, Jack | The incredible Jack Henry stories continue in 5 th grade as Jack deals with a teacher who loves all things French, his know-it-all sister, the railroad tracks in his backyard, a series of crazed cats, tapeworm and so much more! | Realistic Fiction Humor | ** |
| Jackie and Me | Gutman, Dan | Joe has to do a report on an African-American who has made a contribution to society, so he travels back in time to when Jackie Robinson became the first black baseball player. When Joe arrives in the time period as a young black boy himself, he learns more than he ever expected. | Historical Fiction Multicultural | ** |

Incoming 5th Grade Summer Reading List

Listed Alphabetically by Author

| Title | Author | Synopsis | Genre | Suitable for |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Misty of Chincoteague | Henry, Marguerite | Phantom, a mysterious, wild pony comes into the lives of a young boy and girl in a way they never would have suspected. Newbery Honor | Animal Realistic Fiction | *** |
| Hoot | Hiaasen, Carl | Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. | Realistic Fiction Animal | *** |
| Ella Enchanted | Levine, Gail Carson | In this richly entertaining novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her. | Fantasy/Folktale Newbery Honor | *** |
| My Life As a Fifth Grade Comedian | Levy, Elizabeth | Bobby is the class clown. He can be counted on to crack up his friends and sometimes the teachers. But he can't always be counted on to stay out of trouble even when in danger of being expelled. | Realistic Fiction Humor | * |
| Judy Moody | McDonald, Megan | Judy Moody is definitely not looking forward to the new school year and all the changes that come with it. When her teacher assigns a "Me" collage, Judy has several weeks to explore who she really is. | Realistic Fiction | * |
| Basher Five-Two | O'Grady, Scott | U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down in his F-16 over Bosnia while helping to keep the peace. The plane exploded. And Captain O'Grady fell 5 miles to the ground below. In exciting detail, Captain O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and, with little water and no food, he was able to survive on his own in enemy territory. | Nonfiction | *** |
| Esperanza Rising | Ruan, Pam Munoz | Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. They must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. | Realistic Fiction Multicultural | *** |
| War With Grandpa | Smith, Robert | Peter is thrilled that Grandpa is coming to live with his family until Grandpa moves right into Peter's room, forcing him upstairs! Peter loves Grandpa, but wants his room back so he declares war! | Realistic Fiction | ** |

Incoming 5th Grade Summer Reading List
Listed Alphabetically by Author

| Title | Author | Synopsis | Genre | Suitable for |
|-------|-----------------|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Crash | Spinelli, Jerry | Seventh-grader John “Crash” Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather’s stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family. | Realistic Fiction | ** |

*the student who struggles or who does not like to read

**the student who likes to read and can read on his/her own without help

***the student who would like a challenge

Some annotations taken from the Barnes and Noble website: www.bn.com