

2013



## Reading for 5th Graders

This summer, we are asking all students to read at least four books from the list in this brochure. There is no required book; we are hoping that this freedom will allow everyone to find more books they love.

A student may choose books that are not on the list if they are recommended by their parent (we'd like you to read at least three off the list, though). We will include a form for parent approval in the report card at the end of the year.

Enjoy!

## Real World

***Candymakers*** by Wendy Mass

Four children from the town of Spring Haven have been chosen to compete in a national contest to see who can make the best candy. This story changes perspectives between the four contestants to paint a “tasty” tale.

***Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Not Reading*** by Tommy Greenwald

Charlie Joe Jackson is the world’s greatest non-reader, but now he is in middle school, and it is becoming harder and harder to get away with not reading. He must resort to pretty drastic measures in his attempt to not read one entire book.

***Dead End in Norvelt*** by Jack Gantos

The winner of the 2012 Newbery Medal for the year’s best contribution to children’s literature and the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction, this book tells the “entirely true and wildly fictional” story of a kid named Jack Gantos, as he works for his neighbor in a job which unveils story after story.

***Disasters: Natural and Man-Made*** by Brenda Guiberson

This is a collection of stories of ten famous disasters, each presented with interesting photographs and illustrations which help tell the stories.

***11 Birthdays*** by Wendy Mass

Leo and Amanda have always shared a birthday, but they have had a falling out, and they are not planning to do it this year. When they begin repeating the same day over and over again, however, they find themselves caught up in something bigger than just themselves.

***The Fairy Ring: Or Elsie and Frances Fool the World*** by Mary Losure

This is the true tale of Elsie Wright, 15, and Frances Griffith, 9, who concocted a fairy hoax in the early 1900s that grew well beyond their expectations.

***4th Stall*** by Chris Rylander

Mac and his business manager Vince are running a booming business out of the 4th stall in the bathroom. But they get themselves in trouble, and then they need to get some help themselves.

***Hokey Pokey*** by Jerry Spinelli

Welcome to Hokey Pokey. A place and a time, when childhood is at its best: games to play, bikes to ride, experiences to be had. But when one of the biggest kids, Jack, has his beloved bike stolen—and by a girl, no less—his entire world, and the world of Hokey Pokey, turns to chaos.

***Inside Out and Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai

For all of her ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon. Now she is forced to move to Alabama, where she finds this to be quite different.

***Miracle’s Boys*** by Jacqueline Woodson

Twelve-year-old Lafayette’s close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.

***My Louisiana Sky*** by Kimberly Willis Holt

Growing up in Saitter, LA., in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

***No More Dead Dogs*** by Gordon Korman

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production.

***The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*** by Tom Angleberger

Dwight, a “loser”, talks to his classmates via an origami finger puppet of Yoda. When the puppet starts giving out helpful answers, his classmate Tommy starts building a case for or against this puppet.

***Turtle in Paradise*** by Jennifer Holm

Turtle is growing up in 1935, and is forced to move to Key West, Florida to live with her relatives. This journey forces her to “come out of her shell.”

***Ways to Live Forever*** by Sally Nicholls

Eleven-year-old Sam is nearing the end of his fight with Leukemia. He collects stories, questions, lists, and pictures that create a profoundly moving portrait of how a boy lives when he knows his time is almost up.”

## Flights of Fantasy

***The Alchemyst*** by Michael Scott

Sophie and Josh Newman are twins who find themselves caught up in one of the greatest legends of all time: the story of the eternal Nicholas Flamel.

***A Monster Calls*** by Patrick Ness

Thirteen-year-old Conor wakes up after midnight to find a monster outside, but it is a different monster than the one of which he has been dreaming. “An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor.”

***Bigger Than a Bread Box*** by Laurel Snyder

Rebecca finds a magic bread box in her attic, and she thinks her life is set. But then she starts to create more problems than she bargained for, and she must decide whom she really is.

***Breadcrumbs*** by Anne Ursu

A story of fantasy and magic, this book tells the story of Hazel and Jack, two friends whose relationship changes when Jack disappears into the forest with a woman made of ice. It is up to Hazel to save him.

***Breathe: A Ghost Story*** by Cliff McNish

Jack is able to communicate with ghosts, and he finds himself up against a ghost mother who is trying to hurt both the living and the dead.

***Ghost Cadet*** by Elaine Alphin

Twelve-year-old Benjy, in Virginia visiting the grandmother he has never met, meets the ghost of a Virginia Military Institute cadet who was killed in the Battle of New Market in 1864 and helps him recover his family's treasured gold watch.

***Gracie, the Pixie of the Puddle*** by Donna Jo Mapoli

When she realizes that her friend Jimmy can change from frog to human and back again with the aid of a magic ring, Gracie the frog tries to find a way to persuade him to remain a frog permanently.

***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*** by J. K. Rowling

The first in the chronicles of Harry Potter. Learn how the adventure begins.

***Hero*** by Mike Lupica

Zach Harriman has just lost his remarkable father in a plane crash, but he is starting to feel himself changing and becoming "super" like his dad.

***Jinx*** by Sage Blackwood

A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond--and within--the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson seems to have a hard time staying in a school, but who can blame him when there are monsters always after him. The first in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series.

***The Son of Neptune*** by Rick Riordan

The "next Percy Jackson series" started by Rick Riordan, this picks up with a confused Percy, a new set of allies, and a different camp for half-bloods. Percy and his new friends Hazel and Frank still have their share of monsters as they head on yet another quest for the good of all mankind.

***The Magic City*** by Edith Nesbit

An unhappy ten-year-old magically escapes into a city he has built out of books, chessmen, candlesticks, and other household items.

***Leviathan*** by Scott Westerfeld

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically engineered beasts.

***The Mirror of Merlin*** by T. A. Barron

Through adventures involving a haunted marsh, talking trees, and the creature called the ballymag, the young wizard Merlin continues to experience both his growing powers and his essential humanity.

***Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*** by Jonathon Auxier

Peter Nimble is a blind orphan who is an excellent thief. But when he steals some magic eyes, he is taken to another world, where adventures await.

***Powerless*** by Matthew Cody

When Daniel Corrigan and his family move to Noble's Green, he notices that some of the kids there seem rather odd. After one of them miraculously saves his life, they admit that they have superpowers, but that they come with a price.

***Small Persons with Wings*** by Ellen Booraem

Mellie has always trained herself to look at life logically and scientifically. When she goes to her grandfather's inn, however, she learns about a world of fairies, a world in which she will quickly become deeply entangled.

***Starry River of the Sky*** by Grace Lin

This adventurous story follows a boy named Rendi, who has run away from home and is living in a remote village. The moon is missing, but no one except Rendi seems to notice.

***Super*** by Matthew Cody

In this sequel to *Powerless*, the superpowered kids of Noble's Green are once again threatened by an unknown force. The twist in this installment is that Daniel is now able to "borrow" his friends' powers.

***13 Treasures*** by Michelle Harrison

Tanya can see fairies, but these fairies are evil. She is forced into their world, and she finds herself fighting not to vanish into their realm forever.

***Throne of Fire*** by Rick Riordan

The second book in the series picks up where the other left off, following the Kane children as they continue the work their parents started. Set in the world of the Egyptian gods, they must battle to survive and find the Book of Ra.

## Animals: Real & Imaginary

### ***Cryptid Hunters*** by Roland Smith

Marty and Grace O'Hara find out their parents are missing, and they are sent to live with their mysterious Uncle Wolfe, a "cryptid hunter". They are looking for a dinosaur, and they get plenty of mystery and adventure along the way.

### ***Forest*** by Janet Lisle

Twelve-year-old Amber's invasion of an organized forest community of squirrels starts a war between humans and beasts, despite the protests of an unconventional squirrel named Woodbine.

### ***Man O'War*** by Walter Farley

A fictionalized biography of the American race horse who won twenty of twenty-one races, told by a stable boy who grew up with the great horse.

### ***Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95*** by Phillip Hoose

This intriguing non-fiction book tells the story of the Moonbird, also known as B95 (after being tagged and labeled).

### ***The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate

The Newberry Award Winner for 2013 uses first person perspective to tell the story of an easy-going gorilla named Ivan who lives at The Big Top Mall. With some help from his human friends, his dream of a better life for all the Big Top's animals just might come true.

### ***Poppy*** by Avi

Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

### ***Rascal*** by Sterling North

The story of the author's carefree life in a small midwestern town at the close of World War I, and his adventures with his pet raccoon, Rascal.

### ***Shiloh*** by Phyllis Naylor

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to mistreat his dogs.

### ***Souder*** by William Armstrong

Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read with the help of his devoted dog.

### ***The Tale of Despereaux*** by Kate DiCamillo

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

### ***Tentacles*** by Roland Smith

The sequel to *Cryptid Hunters*, this book follows Marty and Grace as they go with their Uncle Wolfe in search of giant squid. Unfortunately, their boat may be haunted, and it definitely has a stowaway who is trying to sabotage their plans.

### ***The Trouble with Tuck*** by Theodore Taylor

A young girl trains her blind dog to follow and trust a seeing-eye companion dog.

### ***Warhorse*** by Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo's moving story of a young horse and the boy who raised him is filled with moments of tension, loss, triumph, and contentment. Morpurgo's mingling of history, character, and the horse's narration makes for a memorable experience.

## All in the Family

### ***Danny the Champion of the World*** by Roald Dahl

Danny's dad has a secret, and, when Danny finds it out, the pair embark on a great father/son adventure.

### ***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of privilege in Mexico to go to work in the labor camps of southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

### ***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams-Garcia

The funny story of Delphine and her two sisters as they spend the summer in Oakland, searching for their mother and learning about themselves.

### ***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.

### ***The Penderwicks*** by Jeanne Birdsall

The four Penderwick sisters spend the summer at a beautiful estate called Arundel, creating all kinds of comedy and adventure as they befriend the boy who lives there.

***Surviving the Applewhites*** by Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

***Zach's Lie*** by Roland Smith

Jack Osborne's family is entering the Witness Security Program after a adventurous start to the book. Jack becomes Zach, and, though they try to disappear, they end up having to face danger again in their new lives.

## Spy and the Sleuth

***Apothecary*** by Maile Meloy

Fourteen-year-old Janie moves to London and meets a boy Benjamin and his father, a mysterious apothecary. When the father is kidnapped, they try to solve this mystery and foil Russian spies with evil plans. This is an exciting story made better by "breathtaking" illustrations.

***Aviary*** by Kathleen O'Dell

Twelve-year-old Clara Dooley has spent her whole life in a crumbling mansion, scared of the birds that live there. But now they reveal a mystery to her, and she is facing dark truths about her family and possibly herself.

***The Calder Game*** by Blue Balliett

When both Calder Pillay and a famous Calder sculpture vanish, his friends Petra and Tommy try to solve yet another mystery. The 3rd in the series.

***Chasing Vermeer*** by Blue Balliett

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

***Grounded*** by Kate Klise

A quirky mystery, where our heroine, Daralynn, dabbles in hairstyling and "living funerals" to solve the mystery and help her family.

***Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact*** by A. J. Hartley

Eleven-year-old Darwen Arkwright has moved from England to Atlanta, where he finds an enchanted world through a mirror in his new house. He and his friends become involved in a mystery with the fate of their school in their hands.

***Last Shot*** by John Feinstein

After winning a reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the game.

***IQ #3: Kitty Hawk*** by Roland Smith

The third book in this popular series (read *Independence Hall* and *The White House*) again follows Quest and Angela on their adventures. This time, the President's daughter has been kidnapped, and they head down Interstate 95 to North Carolina and into all kinds of trouble including a Category 1 hurricane.

***Liar and Spy*** by Rebecca Stead

Georges and Safer track a mysterious building resident who Safer is sure is hiding a sinister secret. As the investigation progresses, Georges grows increasingly uncomfortable with Safer's actions and the story leaves you guessing until the end.

***My Life as a Book*** by Janet Tashjian

12-year-old Derek finds a newspaper article in his attic which leads him on a cross country investigation. You'll love the illustrations.

***The Mysterious Benedict Society*** by Trenton Lee Stewart

A group of talented children join together to save the world. The first in an enjoyable series.

***The Ruins of Gorum*** by John Flanagan

Fifteen-year-old Will is chosen to become a Ranger's Apprentice. His training and the adventures that follow make for a great series.

***When You Reach Me*** by Rebecca Stead

Miranda seems to have her life in New York City figured out until she begins receiving mystery notes that convince her only she can stop a tragic death.

***Wonderstruck*** by Brian Selznick

The second book by the author of *Hugo Cabret*, this story follows Ben and Rose, two characters some fifty years apart from each other who both follow journeys to solve mysteries. The beauty comes in the way these stories reflect each other, and in the way they intertwine in the book.

## Against the Odds

***Among the Hidden*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

The first in the series, this story tells the tale of Luke, a third child who is not allowed to exist in this bleak view of the future. He will come to discover he is not the only shadow child.

***Flygirl*** by Sherri L. Smith

Ida Mae Jones is a Louisiana girl who longs to be a pilot on the eve of America's entrance into World War II. She is driven and smart, but she has two huge strikes against her: she is black, and she is a woman.

***Island of the Blue Dolphins*** by Scot O'Dell

Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

***Ninth Ward*** by Jewel Parker Rhodes

Laneshia and her Mama Ya-Ya prepare to survive Hurricane Katrina in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans. An emotional story of love and hope.

***Peak*** by Roland Smith

It starts with an exciting climb up a skyscraper in New York City and never slows down. This is the story of 14-year-old Peak Marcello, who is trying to become the youngest person to ever climb Mount Everest.

***Steps*** by Peg Kehret

The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

***Summer Ball*** by Mike Lupica

Danny Walker, the pint-sized hoopster from *Travel Team*, is back as he takes his game to a prestigious summer camp for basketball players trying to take their game "to the next level."

***Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*** by Sy Montgomery

Temple Grandin's story shows how she overcame the odds and conquered the obstacles in her path. Her life and experiences are highlighted with numerous sidebars, photographs, and diagrams.

***Travel Team*** by Mike Lupica

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot.

***The View from Saturday*** by E. L. Konigsburg

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

***What Would Joey Do?*** by Jack Gantos

Joey tries to keep his life from degenerating into total chaos when his mother sends him to be home-schooled with a hostile blind girl, his divorced parents cannot stop fighting, and his grandmother is dying of emphysema.

## Past Times

***A Diamond in the Desert*** by Kathryn Fitzmaurice

Twelve-year-old Tetsu is a California boy who loves baseball. When the Japanese invade Pearl Harbor, however, he becomes a suspected enemy because of his Japanese heritage. This is a great story about baseball and honor.

***All the Lovely Bad Ones*** by Mary Downing Hahn

Travis and Corey decide to "haunt" their grandmother's Vermont inn as a practical joke. But when they do, they find they have awakened some real spirits, as well as an evil presence with which they must deal.

***Amelia Lost*** by Candace Fleming

This is the unique, non-fiction account of Amelia Earhart's famous journey. Written with chapters which change between the flight and the search in later years, this book uses pictures and sidebars to tell an entertaining and informative story.

***A Tale of Dark and Grimm*** by Adam Gidwitz

It starts out as Hansel and Gretel, but this devilish story takes its own path as the pair venture into 8 other Grimm-inspired fairy tales and create their own ending. A fresh, irreverent look at some classic stories, albeit a little gruesome at times. You will love it!

***BAT 6*** by Virginia Euwens Wolff

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

***The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*** by Kristin Levine

"Dit" Sims does not expect to strike up a friendship with brainy Emma Walker when she moves to town. But they end up working together to help the town barber, a black man who is put on trial for a horrible crime in the early 1900's.

***Blue*** by Joyce Moyer Hostetter

When Ann Fay Honeycutt's father goes off to war in 1944, the 13-year-old steps into his overalls and learns a lot about herself as she helps her family survive.

***Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*** by Steve Sheinkin

Non-fiction that reads like an international spy thriller, *Bomb* recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos.

***The False Prince*** by Jennifer Neilsen

No one knows that the king, queen, and heir to the throne of Carthya are dead. Conner, a king's regent, chooses three orphans to vie for the role of the heir. On the day of the announcement, a truth is revealed that changes everything for Conner, the orphans, and especially a boy named Sage.

***Candy Bombers*** by Michael Tunnell

Curious about the city into which he ferried goods during the Berlin Airlift in 1948, pilot Gail Halvorsen stayed over to visit, met some children, and offered to drop candy and gum when he next flew over. This simple idea grew into a massive project with reverberations today.

***The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale*** by Carmen Agra Deedy

The cat and mice of Ye Old Cheshire Cheese Tavern seem to have an unusual relationship; it seems that this cat would rather eat cheese than catch mice! Billed as a “spry hybrid of historical fiction and animal story”, this one will be a clever read.

***The Dreamer*** by Pam Munoz Ryan and Peter Sis

Neftali follows a mysterious voice that calls him into the rain forest and into the sea ... and beyond. He ignores the taunts of others to find the source.

***Elephant Run***

Nick Freestone has left London to live with his Dad in Burma. WWII finds him there, however, as the Japanese invade, taking over his family's plantation. He and his friend Mya try to escape these dangers on the back of an elephant.

***Fair Weather*** by Richard Peck

In 1893, thirteen-year-old Rosie and members of her family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

***Lily's Crossing*** by Patricia Reilly Giff

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

***Little Women*** by Louisa May Alcott

The classic story of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy in nineteenth-century New England.

***A Single Shard*** Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.