

5th Grade Reading List for Summer 2015

All students are encouraged to read throughout the summer. Please keep a log of all that you read! You can download the *5th Grade Summer Reading Log* from the library website, or create a journal of your own. **Students entering 5th grade are to read at least 3 books.**

1. Please read the following book for English:

Hiassen, Carl. *Scat*. Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

2. Choose 2 more books to read: at least one should be from the following list:

Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes*. In 1960, all of America watched as a six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. This is her story complete with photographs of the events.

Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece*. After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Little Princess*. An imaginative, wealthy, good little girl retains her royal composure even when banished to the attic as a charity pupil after her English boarding school mistress hears that her father has died in poverty.

Byars, Betsy Cromer. *Moon and I*. Betsy Byars recounts the humorous results of her recent encounter with a very large, slightly mysterious black snake. It becomes a springboard for tracing her lifelong love of animals, and also her likes and dislikes, successes and failures as a writer.

Cushman, Karen. *Alchemy and Meggy Swann*. In 1573, the crippled, scorned, and destitute Meggy Swann goes to London, where she meets her father, an impoverished alchemist, and eventually discovers that although her legs are bent and weak, she has many other strengths.

Dahl, Roald. *Boy: Tales of Childhood*. Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood which includes summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Magician's Elephant*. When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*. Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy, plans to be a writer and keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her after-school spy route. Her classmates find out, read her notebook, and retaliate. Harriet learns that writing is not to be used against your friends.

Fritz, Jean. *Homesick: My Own Story*. The author's Newbery Honor-winning memoir of growing up in China in 1920's.

Funke, Cornelia. *Dragon Rider*. After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven. Encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, they struggle to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Eleven*. When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Turtle in Paradise*. It's 1935 and 11-year-old Turtle moves to Key West to live with her Aunt Minnie. Her mom is a live-in housekeeper, and her new employer does not want children around. Key West turns out to be fascinating, complete with a Diaper Gang, hidden pirates' treasures, and first cousins named Beans, Buddy, and Kermit. (2011 Newbery Honor) **or**

The Fourteenth Goldfish. Eleven-year-old Ellie Cruz's life changes dramatically when her mother brings a teenage boy home one night and she learns it is her estranged grandfather. Melvin is a scientist who has figured out how to reverse aging and is now 13 again. Tensions are high between Melvin and his adult daughter, Ellie's mother, but Ellie feels like she now has the opportunity to really get to know her grandfather. Her interest in science blossoms, and she is eager to help Melvin retrieve the jellyfish specimen he used in his experiments so he can publish his discovery. Fascinated, Ellie learns about the work of Jonas Salk, Robert Oppenheimer, and Marie Curie. .

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*. In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery. (2010 Newbery Honor)

Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. That's near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public. The summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and her life changes: she has to ask "What is normal?"

Lowry, Lois. *The Willoughbys*. The Willoughby's—Timothy; his twin brothers, Barnaby A and Barnaby B; and their little sister, Jane—are old-fashioned children who adore old-fashioned adventures. Little do they know that their neglectful mother and father are hatching an evil plan to get rid of them! Not to worry—these resourceful adventurers have a few plans of their own.

Mass, Wendy. *Eleven Birthdays*. Amanda and Leo, best friends with the same birthday, had a falling out on their tenth birthday and have not spoken since, but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their eleventh birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Based on a true story about a young Native American girl who lives alone on an island for eighteen years.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Park, Linda Sue. *Project Mulberry*. 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.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*. - After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Riordan, Rick. *Any of the Olympian or Percy Jackson series*

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *The Dreamer*. A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Loser*. Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."