

Future 5th-Graders' Summer Reading List

Read two books from this list. Complete one assignment for one book. Enjoy!

Kit's Wilderness by David Almond

Kit's family moves to Stoneygate, an old coal-mining town where his family has lived for generations, to be near his ailing grandfather. Here, Kit is invited by an odd neighbor boy to play a game called Death. The game and the town's haunted history get under Kit's skin, while the lines between reality and fantasy begin to blur. This multi-generational tale is engrossing and chilling.

Peak by Roland Smith

It is about a boy who goes to climb Mt. Everest with his father and team mates.

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean, old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

Swindle by Gordon Korman

This is Gordon Korman at his crowd-pleasing best, perfect for readers who like to hoot, howl, and heist.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen

A plan that should sink the crooked little casino, once and for all.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Trouble Maker by Andrew Clements

When his older brother gets in serious trouble, sixth-grader Clay decides to change his own mischief-making ways, but he cannot seem to shake his reputation as a troublemaker.

No Talking by Andrew Clements

This is an ear-to-ear-grinningly delightful school story. Parents need to know that there is nothing to be concerned about here and lots to cheer. It's a story that even reluctant readers can love, about good-hearted children

and adults who grow in compassion and understanding. Families can talk about silence and civil disobedience. Why does the silence seem so powerful? How does it change everyone's perceptions? What do you think of the standoff between Dave and the principal?

The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan

The Heroes of Olympus: Book One *(or any of the books in this series) by Rick Riordan

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson and The Olympians: Book One *(or any of the books in this series)

Museum of Thieves by Lian Tanner

Museum of Thieves is a thrilling tale of destiny and danger, and of a courageous girl who has never been allowed to grow up— until now.

Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix

When Bethany's parents suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

The Underdogs by Mike Lupica

New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica tackles football!

After securing funding so his town can field a football team and have another shot at their rival, Castle Rock, twelve-year-old Will must also convince his coach and his teammates to allow a girl to become a part of their team so they have enough players.

Stolen Into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man

by Dennis B. Fradin, Judith Bloom Fradin

The true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man living in upstate New York, who was kidnapped in 1841 and spent 12 years as a slave on deadly Louisiana coastal plantations.

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall

When the three younger Penderwick sisters go to Maine with Aunt Claire and are separated from oldest sister Rosalind for the first time in their lives, an uncertain Skye is left in charge as the OAP--oldest available Penderwick.

The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry

The four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Dolphin Song by Lauren St. John

Martine is just getting used to her new life on the game reserve with her grandmother and the white giraffe, Jemmy, when she must go away.

The View From Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg

Main characters not only compete in an academic contest (contest answers included at the back!) but also outwit the class bullies using brains, not brawn. Nadia, Noah, Ethan and Julian, so closely linked in friendship that they call themselves "the Souls," each narrates a part of the book.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

A brave Danish girl helps smuggle her Jewish friends to safety. Lowry's sense of timing and choice of details put readers in the middle of the story. A riveting read, but your kids may have questions afterward.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Mysterious letters, picture puzzles called "pentominoes" and a stolen painting by the Dutch artist Vermeer unite unlikely friends, Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay, in an effort to solve a mystery.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

The story is about Brian, 13, and how he manages to survive 54 days in the Canadian wilderness after a plane crash. The novel takes us through Brian's days, how he learns patience through his experiences with failures and small successes: building a fire, fishing and hunting, making his shelter a safe one. This is a tale of adventure but, more importantly, it is a tale of character growth.

I Am the Ice Worm by MaryAnn Easley (Boys Mill Press, 1998). This book is sort of a girls' version of Gary Paulsen's classic *Hatchet*. Following a plane crash, 14-year-old Allison is rescued from the Alaskan wild by an Inupiat trapper, who takes her to his village to stay until she can be reunited with her mother.

Allison's upbringing in an upper-class family in southern California certainly didn't prepare her for this icy adventure, but she turns out to have courage and adaptability that she didn't expect.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox

This moderately graphic depiction of the worst of the slave trade, told exclusively from a white boy's point of view, will raise many questions, both historical and moral. Though the reading level is middle to upper elementary, sensitive children may find it very disturbing.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

Meggie's life changed forever one rainy night when she looked out the

window and saw a stranger standing outside her window. This was her first sighting of Dustfinger, one of many colorful characters that her father brought to life from the pages of the book *Inkheart*. This fascinating multi-layered story is an enjoyable but dark read for anyone who loves a good story within a story.

The Winter Room by Gary Paulsen

The winter room is where Eldon, his brother Wayne, old Uncle David and the rest of the family gather on icy-cold Minnesota nights, sitting in front of the stove. There the boys listen eagerly to all of Uncle David's tall tales of bygone loggers. When the boys begin to doubt their uncle's stories, he stops telling them altogether, until they discover something special about him.

Airborn by Kenneth Opper

Matt is a cabin boy on board a luxurious airship, the *Aurora*. Matt meets Kate, who has arranged for a flight on the *Aurora* so that she can investigate diary entries her grandfather made regarding large, feline creatures with bat-like wings. Attack by pirates strands the two on a tropical island. You won't want to stop turning the pages of this riveting adventure!

On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck

This book is a funny, poignant book about life on the home front during World War II. There is some violence: a father is knocked out with a wrench, a girl's hand is caught in a rat trap, and an old lady likes to tell tales of gruesome injuries. This story will spark great discussions about differences in life then and now.

The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood

Fourteen-year-old orphan Widge works for a mean and unscrupulous master named Falconer who sends him on a mission of theft in Elizabethan London. Nothing goes as planned and a very surprised Widge finds himself enjoying a new life experience as he faces a crisis of loyalty. *The Shakespeare Stealer* introduces us to Shakespearean stagecraft, life on the streets of London and to the truth behind the youthful appearance of Queen Elizabeth I!

The Light Princess by George MacDonald, illustrated by Maurice Sendak

Just when you think you might be getting too old for fairy tales, along comes this amazing 19th-century princess story to change your mind. Chock-full of puns and mixed with just the right blend of whimsy and ethics lessons, *The Light Princess* deserves a fresh set of 21st-century eyes.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein Twelve seventh-graders win a chance to spend an overnight lock-in previewing their town's new public library — it's a marvel of technological delights conceived by Luigi

Lemoncello, the Willy Wonkalike founder of Mr. Lemoncello's Imagination Factory, which is a source for every kind of game imaginable.

During the lock-in the winners, who include game-lover Kyle Keeley and a group of multicultural classmates with a mix of aptitudes and interests, take on an additional challenge. This tale celebrates team work, perseverance and sharp wits.

The House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton

In this Edgar Allan Poe Award-winning novel, Thomas Small, a 13-year old African American boy moves with his family into an enormous house once used to hide runaway slaves making their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Mysterious sounds and events as well as the discovery of secret passageways make the family believe they are in grave danger.

The Mystery of Drear House by Virginia Hamilton

In this sequel to *The House of Dies Drear*, Thomas Small faces important decisions about right and wrong. Hidden treasures, Indian legends, secret passageways turn up on almost every page in this thrilling continuation of the Small family's adventures.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but he's on a mission. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue. Bud's got an idea that he can find his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson.

Jess Aaron's greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to show his classmates what he can do. But on the first day of school, a new girl boldly crosses over to the boy's side of the playground and outruns everyone! Even so, Jess and Leslie become best friends and together create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods where the two of them reign as king and queen.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

This stirring and unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself. Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby

elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.

Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto

Set in a Latino community in Fresno, California, these contemporary short stories take on universal life lessons. Perfect for a fifth-grade reader, Soto is gifted at telling tales that intrigue and instruct kids. *Baseball in April* is sure to inspire discussion, so chat about it with your child.

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade, her old best friend--even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy, cranky and. . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. With a lighthearted touch and plenty of humor, Jennifer Holm celebrates the wonder of science and explores fascinating questions about life and death, family and friendship, immortality . . . and possibility.

Operation Bunny by Sally Gardner. (1st of a series)

When Emily Vole inherits an abandoned shop, she discovers a magical world she never knew existed. And a fairy-hating witch, a mischievous set of golden keys, and a train full of brightly colored bunnies are just a few of the surprises that come with it. With the help of a talking cat called Fidget and a grumpy fairy detective called Buster, it is up to Emily to save the fairies and get to the bottom of Operation Bunny.

Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka. Frank

Einstein loves figuring out how the world works by creating household contraptions that are part science, part imagination, and definitely unusual. After an uneventful experiment in his garage-lab, a lightning storm and flash of electricity bring Frank's inventions—the robots Klink and Klank—to life!

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.

