

Summer Reading List

Grade 5

2017

Alvarez, Lorena. **Nightlights**. Each night Sandy creates beautiful creatures with the tiny lights that appear in her room and draws them the next day. Will the mysterious new girl who notices her art turn it into something sinister?

Angleberger, Tom. **Darth Paper Strikes Back: An Origami Yoda Book**. After several Origami Yoda-related incidences, Dwight is suspended for being a troublemaker and Yoda asks Tommy and Kellen to save Dwight by creating a case file that proves Dwight is an asset to Ralph McQuarrie Middle School. **(Series)**

Appelt, Kathi. **The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp**. Twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J'miah, try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs Clydine and Buzzie, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch in this hilarious tall tale from a Texas swamp.

Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Ivan**. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Applegate, Katherine. **Wishtree**. Red, the neighborhood "wishtree," and her crow friend, Bongo, comfort an immigrant family who is threatened by others.

Balliett, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer**. 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. **(Any by this author)**

Bell, Cece. **El Deafo**. This empowering graphic novel memoir of the author/illustrator's childhood struggle being accepted and finding friends with her severe deafness received a **2015 Newbery Honor**.

Bishop, Nic. **Forest Explorer: A Life-size Guide**. Depicts in detail several different deciduous forest habitats, with field notes about the insects and animals shown, as well as tips on how to explore a real forest.

Broach, Elise. **Masterpiece**. Marvin, a beetle, and his family live in the home of eleven-year-old James and his family. When James' birthday party fails miserably, Marvin surprises James with an elaborately intricate pen and ink drawing Marvin has created. Trouble is, the drawing is mistaken for James' work, which sets off action that leads to a fast-paced mystery featuring an unlikely friendship, the discovery of art forgery, and thievery

Brown, Peter. **The Wild Robot**. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try and learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Buyea, Rob. **Because of Mr. Terupt**. Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

Chin, Jason. **Grand Canyon**. A father and daughter learn the Grand Canyon is more than a hole in the ground when they explore the variety of plants and animal that live in the mile-deep canyon.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts.** A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. **Newbery Honor Book. (Series)**

Clements, Andrew. **The Janitor's Boy.** When fifth-grader, Jack finds himself the target of ridicule at school for being the son of one of the janitors, he turns his anger toward his father.

Colfer, Eoin. **Artemis Fowl: The Atlantis Complex.** When an army of fairy space probes programmed to destroy Atlantis returns to Earth, Artemis Fowl attempts to stop the destruction of the city while dealing with his own delusional and obsessive-compulsive disorders. **(Series)**

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **The Watsons go to Birmingham.** The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watson, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. **(Any by this author)**

Creech, Sharon. **The Great Unexpected.** Orphans Naomi and Lizzie are best friends, but Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens, and she knows all the peculiar people in town. Into their lives drops the strangely charming Finn boy. Across the sea, on a grand estate in Ireland, an elderly lady has a plan. These two worlds weave together with the great unexpected gifts of love and forgiveness.

Creech, Sharon. **Moo.** Twelve-year-old Reena, who has recently moved to rural Maine, adjusts to a new environment and unexpectedly bonds with an ornery cow.

Cushman, Karen. **Grayling's Song.** In a medieval kingdom, Grayling finds self-confidence when her mother is turned into a tree by evil forces, and Grayling must venture into the wilds to reverse the spell.

Delano, Marfe Ferguson. **Genius : a Photobiography of Albert Einstein.** Presents a biography of Albert Einstein, in words and photographs, and examines the life of the physicist whose theories revolutionized the way science views the space-time continuum, and integrates Einstein's political, cultural, and social interests with his scientific beliefs.

Delano, Marfe Ferguson. **Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher.** Photographs, illustrations, and text chronicle the life of Helen Keller's tutor, Annie Sullivan.

DeFelice, Cynthia. **Nowhere to Call Home.** When her father kills himself after losing money in the stock market crash of 1929, twelve-year-old Frances, now a penniless orphan, decides to hop aboard a freight train and live the life of a hobo.

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Tale of Despereaux : being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread.** 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.

Draper, Sharon M. **Out Of My Mind.** Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Draper, Sharon M. **Stella by Starlight.** When a burning cross set fire by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

Flanagan, John. **The Royal Ranger**. Will Treaty is a shell of his former self, and his first apprentice may be the only one who can save him. **(Series)**

Gantos, Jack. **Writing Radar: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories**. A fun guide to writing using stories from everyday experiences.

Gutman, Dan. **Ray & Me : A Baseball Card Adventure**. After recovering from being hit in the head during a baseball game, Stosh travels back in time to try to save Ray Chapman, a batter who was killed by a pitch in New York in 1920. **(Series)**

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Just Ella**. Fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots to escape.

Hale, Bruce. **Give My Regrets to Broadway : From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye**. Chet and his partner, Natalie Attired, take on a case involving an actor gone missing from the school musical. **(Series)**

Hale, Shannon. **Rapunzel's Revenge**. Using her long, braided hair as a lasso, Rapunzel teams up with a wild outlaw named Jack and heads west to start a brand new life filled with grand adventures and crazy characters in this colorful graphic novel.

Halls, Kelly Milner. **Tales of the Cryptids**. Be the judge: are the many mysterious and legendary animals including Bigfoot and assorted sea serpents real based on the descriptions, photographs and drawings?

Holm, Jennifer L. **Full of Beans**. Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, engages in various schemes to earn money while "New Dealers" from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn his town into a tourist resort.

Horvath, Polly. **The Pepins and Their Problems**. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.

Horvath, Polly. **One Year in Coal Harbor**. In a small fishing village in British Columbia, twelve-year-old Primrose tries to be a matchmaker for Uncle Jack, befriends Ked, a new foster child, tries to decide if she is willing to go to jail for her convictions, and together with Ked, publishes a cookbook to raise money for the Fisherman's Aid. Includes recipes. **(Any by this author)**

Jamieson, Victoria. **Roller Girl**. Twelve-year-old Astrid decides she wants to try something new this summer and signs-up for a Roller Derby camp, but her long-time best friend Nicole makes a different choice. How will this summer change Astrid and her friendship with Nicole?

Kerley, Barbara. **Walt Whitman: Words for America**. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War. His poetry gave voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and captured the true American spirit in verse.

Khan, Hena. **Amina's Voice**. A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

Klise, Kate. **Dying to Meet You**. A cranky, burned-out children's mystery writer moves into a dilapidated, old Victorian house, searching for peace and quiet to help him get over writer's block;

unbeknownst to him, the house is already occupied by a boy, his cat, and the ghost of the house's original owner. **(Series)**

Konigsberg, E.L. **T-backs, T-shirts, Coat and Suit.** Spending the summer in Florida with her stepfather's sister, who operates a "meals-on-wheels" van, twelve-year-old Chloë and her aunt become involved in a controversy surrounding the wearing of T-back bathing suits. **(Any by this author)**

Lai, Thanhha. **Inside Out and Back Again.** Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

Leal, Ann. **Also Known as Harper.** Harper Lee Morgan's family is struggling, but she holds close to her passion for writing poetry and this provides her with an opportunity to express her feelings, even as she must skip school to take care of her younger brother Hemingway

Levine, Gail Carson. **Ella Enchanted.** A modern-day Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Levine, Gail Carson. **Fairest.** In a land where beauty and singing are valued above all else, Aza eventually comes to reconcile her unconventional appearance and her magical voice, and learns to accept herself for who she truly is.

Lin, Grace. **The Year Of The Dog : A Novel.** Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

Lord, Cynthia. **Half a Chance.** When twelve-year-old Lucy enters a photography contest, she must decide if the picture that she wants to use showing Nate's grandmother's face and the telltale signs of early dementia is worth the truth it portrays.

Lowry, Lois. **Gossamer.** While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteads.

Lutes, Jason. **Houdini: The Handcuff King.** In bold graphics, author and artist formulate a living picture of this amazing escape artist and show how time and morals shaped him and his art.

Markle, Sandra. **The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees: A Scientific Mystery.** Large numbers of honeybees are disappearing every year...and no one knows why. In this real-life science mystery, scientists and bee-keepers are working to answer these questions and save the world's honeybees before it's too late.

Mass, Wendy. **11 Birthdays.** Best friends since their mothers met at the hospital when they were born, Amanda and Leo always celebrate their birthdays together. However, now that they are turning 11, they are no longer speaking to each other and everything is not as normal as it may appear. This is one birthday that does not seem to end!

Murphy, Jim. **The Great Fire.** The Chicago fire of 1871 is described with personal accounts and photographs.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Saving Shiloh.** Marty and his family try to help Judd Travers change his mean ways even though his neighbors continue to expect the worst of him. **(Series)**

Newman, Patricia. **Plastic, Ahoy! : Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.**

Informative book about how our overuse of plastics is affecting ocean life and has created the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Lots of photographs help tell the story of three female scientists doing research onboard ship in the middle of the patch.

O'Connell, Caitlin and Donna M. Jackson. **The Elephant Scientist.** While on assignment to study elephants in Namibia, scientist Caitlin O'Connell uncovers fascinating new information about elephant communication. Beautiful photographs of the African landscape and elephants along with the story of a woman's journey to find her professional calling make this a fascinating read.

O'Connor, Barbara. **On the Road to Mr. Mineo's.** Sherman, a one-legged pigeon, sets everyone aflutter in a small southern town.

O'Connor, George. **Hera, the Goddess and Her Glory.** Recounts the stories of the many heroes who sought and won the approval and patronage of Hera, the Queen of the Gods, including the story of Heracles. **(Series)**

Oppel, Kenneth. **The Boundless.** In 1885 Will uses his wits and courage to face dangerous men and mythical creatures on his ride across the Canadian frontier on The Boundless, the greatest train ever built.

Osborne, Mary Pope. **American Tall Tales.** A collection of tall tales about such American folk heroes as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan.

Palacio R.J. **Wonder.** Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Paterson, Katherine. **The Flint Heart: A Fairy Story.** A magical amulet, created by a Stone Age magic man for an ambitious individual wishing to take control of his tribe, brings power and despair to those who touch it, and when the amulet reemerges, Charles and his sister Unity must find a way to rescue the humans, fairies, and animals from the mysterious object.

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet.** After his plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness, thirteen-year-old Brian must survive with only the aid of a hatchet. **(Any by this author)**

Paulsen, Gary. **The Quilt.** During World War II, while his father is in Europe fighting and his mother is working in Chicago, a five-year-old boy goes to live with his grandmother in a rural Norwegian American community in Minnesota. Based on events from the author's life.

Peck, Richard. **Fair Weather.** 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.

Peck, Richard. **A Season of Gifts.** Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel

Pennypacker, Sara. **Pax.** After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

Philbrick, Rodman. **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg.** Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. Newbery Honor, 2010

Riordan, Rick. **The Lost Hero**. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. **(Series) (The Heroes of Olympus)**

Rusch, Elizabeth. **Eruption: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives**. An account of the work of volcanologists Andy Lockhart, John Pallister, and their team describes their life-risking efforts to investigate dangerous volcanoes that pose threats to more than one billion people worldwide.

Selznick, Brian. **The Houdini Box**. A chance encounter with Harry Houdini leaves a small boy in possession of a mysterious box--one that might hold the secrets to the greatest magic tricks ever performed

Selznick, Brian. **Wonderstruck: A Novel In Words and Pictures**. Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

Snicket, Lemony. **“Who Could That Be at This Hour?”** In this "autobiographical" mystery, a teenaged Lemony Snicket recounts his early experiences as an apprentice to S. Theodora Markson, a pretentious woman who is not remotely as intelligent as she pretends. **(Series: All The Wrong Questions)**

Stead, Rebecca. **When You Reach Me**. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy laws of time and space. Newbery Honor book.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict** Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict is moved to one more orphanage: this one filled with nasty bullies who target him, a suspicious orphanage director, and a mystery about lost treasure. Using his superior intellect and fierce determination, Nicholas strives to solve the mystery and makes a couple of fastfriends in the process. **(Series)**

Telgemeier, Raina. **Sisters**. Raina wants a baby sister until she has one who tends to be cranky and difficult. When it appears that their parents are having issues, the girls must figure out how to get along. This humorous look at relationships between siblings will resonate with readers.

Weeks, Sarah. **Honey**. Melody, a girl living in Royal, Indiana learns that her dad may have a new secret girlfriend, so Melody and her best friend Nick try to figure out the secret.

Weeks, Sarah. **Pie**. Alice's Aunt Polly passes away and entrusts the recipe for her world-famous pie crust to her cat, which she leaves in Alice's care, and as everyone, including Alice, tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns some important lessons about faith, love, and family.

Yang, Gene Luen and Mike Holmes. **Secret Coders**. A girl named Hopper is at a new school where everything seems creepy, until she makes a new friend named Eni and they work together to solve a mystery. **(Series)**

(Series) – Any book from the mentioned series may be read not just the book listed.