

## Recommended Summer Reading List Upcoming 5th Graders

Category	Title	Author
Realistic Fiction	Becoming Naomi Leon	Ryan, Pam Munoz
	When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.	
	L830 GRL-Y	
Realistic Fiction	Swindle	Korman, Gordon
	After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card. There are many things standing in their way --	
	L710 GRL-R	
Realistic Fiction	Crash	Spinelli, Jerry
	Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan is comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with a Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.	
	L560 GRL-V	
Realistic Fiction	School Story	Clements, Andrew
	After Natalie writes a novel, Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.	
	L760 GRL-R	
Realistic Fiction	Alex Rider Series	Horowitz, Anthony
	After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1	
	L580-640 GRL-W	
Realistic Fiction	Sammy Keyes Series	Van Draanen, Wendelin
	With this debut book of her mystery series, Wendelin Van Draanen establishes Samantha Keyes as a crime fighter to watch. Though, actually, the book opens with Sammy watching... a crime in progress.	
	L840 GRL-T	
	I am the Ice Worm	Easley, Mary Ann
	While traveling to visit her mother in the Arctic, a California girl learns the meaning of hardship and survival when she is taken in by an Inupiat family.	
	GRL-P	
Adventure	Hatchet	Paulsen, Gary
	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.	
	L1020 GRL-R	
Adventure	The White Darkness	McCaughrean, Geraldine
	Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as an uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone, a troubled fourteen-year-old, discovers that he is obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of Earth.	
	L850 GRL-R	
Adventure	A Week in the Woods	Clements, Andrew
	Mark didn't ask to move to New Hampshire. Or to go to a hick school like Hardy Elementary. And he certainly didn't request Mr. Maxwell as his teacher. Mr. Maxwell doesn't like rich kids, or slackers, or know-it-alls. And he's decided that Mark is all of those things.	
	L820 GRL-T	

- Adventure                      The Spiderwick Series                      diTerlizzi, Tony and  
The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.  
**L600-660**
- Adventure                      The Series of Unfortunate Events                      Snicket, Lemony  
Series  
After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.  
**L1000-1120**  
**GRL-V**
- Classic                      Baseball in April and Other Stories                      Soto, Gary  
A collection of 11 short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California.  
**L830**  
**GRL-U**
- Classic                      The Light Princess                      McDonald, George  
The story of a princess who has lost her gravity.  
**L880**
- Classic                      The Secret Garden                      Burnett, Frances  
Mary Lennox needs some magic in her life. Her parents have died in a faraway land, and Mary has been taken to a strange and mysterious mansion to live with her distant uncle. She has no friends and no happiness . . . until she finds the key to a wonderful secret garden.  
**L970**  
**GRL-U**
- Classic                      The Bridge to Terabithia                      Paterson, Katherine  
Fifth grader Jesse Aaron's dreams of becoming the fastest runner in his class are dashed when newcomer Leslie Burke outruns everybody, even him. But Jess and Leslie begin a friendship, and soon they discover a magical kingdom in the forest, where they reign as king and queen.  
**L810**  
**GRL-T**
- Classic                      The BFG                      Dahl, Raold  
Luckily for Sophie, the BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who carries her off is nothing like his giant neighbors who are headed for England to gobble children and must be stopped.  
**L720**  
**GRL-U**
- Classic                      The Shredderman Series                      Van Draanen, Wendelin  
Alvin Bixby: Hulking, knuckles of steel, hideous breath, foul temper. Kids call him: Bubba. Nolan Byrd: Puny, power walker, math genius, can't keep shoes tied. Kids call him: Nerd. Bubba has been the bane of Nolan's existence for five long years. So when Mr. Green asks the class to become reporters, Nolan decides he'll write an expose-on Bubba.  
**L580-600**  
**GRL-S**
- Mystery                      Chasing Vermeer                      Balliet, Blue  
When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay together, strange things start to happen. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal.  
**L770**  
**GRL-S**
- Mystery                      The Dollhouse Murders                      Wright, Betty Ren  
Amy thinks the dolls in her aunt's dollhouse are trying to tell her something about the unsolved murder of her great-grandparents  
**L670**  
**GRL-S**
- Mystery                      Mysterious Matter of I.M. Fine                      Diane Stanley  
Noticing that a popular series of horror novels is having a bizarre effect on the behavior of its readers, Franny and Beamer set out to find the mysterious author.  
**L650**

- Traditional                                      The Giant Toe                                      Cole, Brock  
 In this Jack and the Beanstalk related book, we meet a giant who accidentally slices off his toe. Immediately the toe turns into a little boy who foils the giant's every attempt to do away with him. In fact, he disposes of all the giant's treasures in the process. When Jack shows up, there's no goodies left for him to steal.
- Traditional                                      Jack and the Beanstalk                                      Kellogg, Steven  
 A boy climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk, where he uses his quick wits to outsmart a giant and make his and his mother's fortune.  
**L660**  
**GRL-N**
- Traditional                                      The Frog Prince Continued                                      Scieszka, Jon  
 After the Princess kissed the frog, he turned into a handsome prince and they lived happily ever after... or did they? The Prince is unhappy and decides that it would be best if he were changed back to a frog.  
**L600**  
**GRL-K**
- Traditional                                      Ella Enchanted                                      Levine, Gail Carson  
 Since her birth, Ella of Frell has been the unfortunate recipient of an addled fairy's gift--the "gift" of obedience. But spunky Ella does not tamely accept her fate and embarks on a quest to break this curse once and for all.  
**L670**  
**GRL-U**
- Traditional                                      The Wish                                      Levine, Gail Carson  
 Wilma is left out, forgotten, and ignored at Claverford Middle School...until she meets an extraordinary old lady who grants her wish: to be the most popular kid in school. Presto! Everything changes.  
**L490**
- Traditional                                      The Trumpet and the Swan                                      White, E.B.  
 Louis, a romantic swan, is in love with the angelic Serena, but he can't tell her how he feels — he has no voice. When he meets eleven-year-old Sam Beaver, a human friend, he goes to school with him to learn how to read and write.  
**L750**  
**GRL-R**
- Biography                                      Woodsong                                      Paulsen, Gary  
 The author's adventures in the wild and the harrowing account of his first Iditarod dogsled race across Alaska. "Combines wild adventure and precise observation with intensely private discovery."  
**L1090**  
**GRL-T**
- Autobiography                                      Knots in my Yo-Yo String: The  
 Autobiography of a Kid                                      Spinelli, Jerry  
 For his first 16 years, Newbery Award-winning author Jerry Spinelli didn't even like to read books. Instead, he was a rock skipper, snowball thrower, yo-yo tangler, salamander finder, dark-sky watcher, and aspiring professional shortstop.  
**L980**  
**GRL-U**
- Autobiography                                      Carver: A Life in Poems                                      Nelson, Marilyn  
 George Washington Carver (1864–1943) earned the respect of both blacks and whites in the rural South by freeing the Southern economy from the environmental ravages of cotton with his innovative agricultural methods, and went on to win the respect of the nation and the world as one of the great inventors of the early Twentieth Century.  
**L890**
- Non-fiction                                      Pick Me UP: Stuff You Need to                                      Leslie, Jeremy  
 Information-packed and graphically astounding, *Pick Me Up* aims to **get children and teens hooked on books** and **make them more knowledgeable** about the answers to some very good questions.
- Non-fiction                                      The Grapes of Math                                      Tang, Gregory  
 Can math be creative? Absolutely! These number puzzles test kids' ability to use symmetry and number patterns to decipher math problems in their heads.
- Non-fiction                                      Show, Don't Tell! Secrets of Writing                                      Evans, Lady Hestia



**Non-fiction**                      **The Man Who Walked Between the Towers**                      **Mordicai, Gerstein**

In 1974, French aerialist Phillippe Petit threw a tightrope between the two towers of the World Trade Center and spent an hour walking, dancing, and performing high-wire tricks a quarter mile in the sky.

**L480**

**Memoirs/ Autobiography**                      **Boy Tales of a Childhood**                      **Dahl, Raold**

Tales of his own life, by the best selling author Raold Dahl.

**Roald Dahl's Even More Revolting Recipes**                      **Dahl, Raold and Felicity**

Features foods from the author's best-loved books. Derived from James and the Giant Peach, "Pickled Spines of Porcupine" is made of meringue; "Toad-in-the-Hole" a meat stuffed potato comes from Danny the Champion of the World. Quentin Blake's humorous illustrations transform full-color photographs by Jan Baldwin.

**Fiction**                      **Baseball Saved Us**                      **Ken Mochizuki**

A Japanese-American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp during World War II. His ability to play helps him after the war is over.

**GRL-O**  
**L-550**

**Fiction**                      **Dust for Dinner**                      **Ann Warren Turner**

Jake narrates the story of his family's life in the Oklahoma dust bowl and the journey from their ravaged farm to California during the Great Depression.

**L-390**  
**GRL-M**

**Fiction**                      **The Yellow Star**                      **Carmen Agra Deedy**

King Christian X of Denmark was loved by his people, and he loved them. When the Nazis invaded his country during World War II, the wise king had to think of a way to save the Danish Jews. Would his bravery and loyalty be enough?

**L-550**  
**GRL-L**

**Fiction**                      **The Other Side**                      **Jacqueline Woodson**

This book is a moving narrative about the racial tensions that Clover discovers as she wonders why a fence separates the black side of town from the white side. Annie, a white girl, sits on the fence in rain or shine, and Clover becomes friends with her.

**L-300**  
**GRL-M**

**Fiction**                      **Freedom Summer**                      **Deborah Wiles and Jerome Lagarrigue**

This story, about the friendship of a white child named Joe and black child named John Henry, recalls the racism prevalent in America during the period just before the Civil Rights Movement. Joe and John Henry wait for the day when they will both be able to play in the town pool together.

**L-460**  
**GRL-M**

**Historical Fiction Sadako**                      **Eleanor Coerr**

Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy. **L 500 GRL- R**

**Always Remember Me: How**

**Non-Fiction**                      **One Family Survived World**                      **Marisabina Russo**

When she visits her Oma, Rachel, while going through family albums, learns the awful truth about the Nazis' rise to power and the hardships her grandmother, her mother, and her aunts were forced to endure during the Holocaust. This is a discovery of the power of love, family, and faith. **L720 GRL- S**

**Nonfiction:**

**Social Studies:** Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Thomas Jackson; 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments; sharecropping, Jim Crow; Black Cowboys of Texas, Great Western Cattle Trail, Wright Brothers, Spanish-American War, Emigration; Westward Expansion, Native Americans; WWI, WWII, Stock Market Crash, Cold War, Communism, Vietnam War, *Brown vs. Board of Education*; The War on Terrorism, technology-television and space exploration Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks; Constitutional Rights of Citizens

**Science:** Constructive and destructive processes; physical and chemical changes; electricity; light and sound; organisms- vertebrates and invertebrates; genes- inherited and learned traits; plant and animal cells

**NONFICTION Favorite Authors/Series:** *Books by these authors or in these series vary in level by titles. Use <http://www.booksource.com/> or <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/> to support you in looking up levels.*

Gail Gibbons  
Jerry Pallotta  
Melvin Berger  
Steven Jenkins  
Jim Arnosky  
Seymour Simon  
Nicola Davies  
Barbara Taylor  
Nic Bishop

Who Would Win Series...- Jerry Pallotta

True or False Series- Melvin Berger  
National Geographic Kids Readers Series

Fly Guy Presents Series – Tedd Arnold

Disgusting Critter Series – Elise Gravel  
DK (Eyewitness) Readers – various authors

Where Is Series – various authors

**Historical Fiction:**

Stella by Starlight – Sharon Draper  
Jump Into the Sky - Shelley Pearsall  
The Mighty Miss Malone – Christopher Paul Curtis (U)  
Zane and the Hurricane – Rodman Philbrick (V)  
Brown Girl Dreaming – Jacqueline Woodson  
Shooting the Moon- Frances O’Roark Dowell (T)

**Fantasy/Fairy Tale:**

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin (T)  
Twice Upon a Time – Wendy Mass

**Mythology:**

Percy Jackson & the Olympians (S-W)

**Biography:**

Who Was Series...  
I am Series...

**Series:**

Goddess Girls- Joan Holub (S-T)  
Geronimo Stilton – Geronimo Stilton (O-R)  
Whatever After – Sarah Mynowski (S)  
I Survived – Lauren Tarshis  
Grimtastic Girls – Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams (S-T)  
Dork Diaries – Rachel Renee Russell (S-V)  
The Genius Files- Dan Gutman (S)  
Harriet the Spy – Louise Fitzhugh (T)  
Island – Gordon Korman (S)  
Swindle – Gordon Korman (S)  
The Heroes of Olympus – Rick Riordan ( W-X)  
I Funny- James Patterson (T)  
Dear America- various authors  
My Weirder School- Dan Gutman (O)  
Diary of a Wimpy Kid- Jeff Kinney  
Series of Unfortunate Events- Lemony Snicket

**Fiction:**

The Magician's Elephant- Kate DiCamillo (U)  
Flora & Ulysses- Kate DiCamillo (U)  
Jake and Lily –Jerry Spinelli (S)  
The One and Only Ivan – K. A. Applegate (S)  
Holes- Louis Sachar (V)  
Out of My Mind- Sharon Draper (S)  
Half a Chance- Cynthia Lord (T)  
Chasing Redbird- Sharon Creech