

**Recommended Summer Reading Books
for Upcoming 5th Graders
(or students reading between levels P-V)**

Category	Title	Author
Fiction	<i>Summer Reading is Killing Me</i>	Jon Scieszka
	This installment of the popular Time Warp Trio series is homage to some of the best-ever summer reading lists. Sam, Fred and Joe happen to have in their possession a bona fide time traveling book. When one of the boys absentmindedly puts their summer reading list in the book, they find themselves in the midst of a literary battle of evil against good! Reading Level: P	
Fiction (series)	<i>Dude Where's My Spaceship? (Weird Planet Series)</i>	Dan Greenburg
	Klatu is such a varna! He crashed the spaceship into planet Earth with his brother Lek and sister Ploo onboard. Stuck in the middle of the Nevada desert with nowhere to run, Ploo is captured by army Earthlings who think that she is an enemy of humankind. Can Klatu and Lek rescue Ploo from the terrifying Major Paine? Or will Ploo be held prisoner in Area 51 forever? Reading Level P	
Fiction	<i>The Can Man</i>	Laura Williams
	After watching a homeless man collect empty soft drink cans for the redemption money, a young boy decides to collect cans himself to earn money for a skateboard until he has a change of heart. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Mr. Lincoln's Way</i>	Patricia Polacco
	When Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world," discovers that Eugene, the school bully, knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance. Reading Level: P	
Historical Fiction	<i>Matchlock Gun</i>	Walter Edmonds
	In 1756, during the French and Indian War, ten-year-old Edward is determined to protect his home and family with the ancient, and much too heavy, Spanish gun that his father had given him before leaving home to fight the enemy. Reading Level: P	
Science Fiction/Fantasy	<i>Sideways Stories From Wayside School</i>	Louis Sachar
	Thirty different stories describe the strange things that happen at Wayside School, an architectural accident that was built sideways, thirty stories high with one classroom on each floor. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Dog Days</i>	Karen English
	Gavin wants to make a good impression at Carver Elementary, where no one knows he excels at soccer and skateboarding, but an annoying big sister, a bully, and his great aunt's Pomeranian are not helping. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Westlandia</i>	Paul Fleishman
	Wesley's garden produces a crop of huge, strange plants which provide him with clothing, shelter, food, and drink, thus helping him create his own	

	civilization and changing his life. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Calling the Water Drum</i>	LaTisha Redding
	Henri and his parents leave their homeland, Haiti, after they receive an invitation from an uncle to come to New York City. Only able to afford a small, rickety boat, the family sets out in the middle of the night in search of a better life. Out at sea Henri dreams of what life will be like "across the great waters." Then the small boat overturns, and Henri is placed on top of the boat as his parents drift further out at sea. Overcome with grief, Henri retreats into himself and is no longer able to speak once he reaches land. Encouraged by his uncle and neighbor, Henri takes a bucket and plays on it like a drum. The drumming becomes a link to his past and a conduit for his emotions. Slowly, through his drumming and the kindness of his uncle and friend, Henri learns to navigate this new and foreign world without his parents. Calling The Water Drum is a tender and timely tribute to the bravery of immigrants and refugees, and the resiliency of the human spirit. Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>Summer According to Humphrey</i>	Betty Birney
	When Humphrey hears that school is ending, he can't believe his ears. What's a classroom hamster to do if there's more school? Reading Level: P	
Fiction	<i>After Peaches</i>	Michelle Mulder
	Ten-year-old Rosario Ramirez and her family are political refugees from Mexico, trying to make a new life in Canada. After being teased at school, Rosario vows not to speak English again until she can speak with an accent that's one hundred percent Canadian. Since she and her parents plan to spend the whole summer working on BC fruit farms, she will be surrounded by Spanish speakers again. But when her family's closest friend Jose gets terribly sick, Rosario's plans start to unravel. Neither Jose nor Rosario's parents speak English well enough to get him the help he needs. Like it or not, Rosario must face her fears about letting her voice be heard. Reading Level: Q	
Fiction	<i>The Other Side</i>	Jacqueline Woodson
	A lyrical narrative told in the hopeful voice of a child confused about the fence someone else has built in her yard and the racial tension that divides her world. Reading Level: Q	
Realistic Fiction	<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>	Judy Blume
	Any fourth grader would agree that Peter Hatcher had a terrible problem -- his little brother, Fudge. But the grownups in Peter's life don't see it that way. Peter was always asked to perform so that Fudge would be less of a terror: like standing on his head so that Fudge would laugh. Peter was finding his brother harder and harder to take, and when Fudge got at his pet turtle, that was the living end. Reading Level: Q	
Mystery/Adventure	<i>Help! I'm a Prisoner in the Library!</i>	Eth Clifford
	Two girls spend an adventurous night trapped inside the public library during a terrible blizzard. Reading Level: Q	
Historical Fiction	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i>	Laura Ingalls Wilder

	The story of the pioneering Ingalls family and how they moved West in a covered wagon to build a new home on the Kansas prairie. Reading Level: Q	
Fiction	<i>Fourth Grade Rats</i>	Jerry Spinelli
	Last year Suds was a Third Grade Angel, but now...it's time to be a Fourth Grade Rat! Reading Level: Q	
Fiction (Graphic Novel)	<i>The Stonekeeper (series: Amulet)</i>	Kazu Kibuishi
	Emily and Navin's mother is dragged down the basement stairs of their old ancestral home by a mysterious creature. Giving chase, the kids find themselves in a magical, dangerous world of man-eating demons, a mechanical rabbit, and shadowy enemies. Reading Level: Q Interested in more graphic novels? Check out this website: http://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/graphic-novels-read-pictures	
Fiction	<i>The Lemonade War</i>	Jacqueline Davis
	Fourth-grader Evan Treski is people-smart. He's good at talking with people, even grownups. His younger sister, Jessie, on the other hand, is math-smart, but not especially good with people. So when the siblings' lemonade stand war begins, there really is no telling who will win—or even if their fight will ever end. Reading Level: R	
Fiction	<i>Because of Winn Dixie</i>	Kate DiCamillo
	Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, FL, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie. Reading Level: R	
Historical Fiction	<i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i>	Patricia MacLachlan
	This Newbery Medal-winning book and children's literature classic is perfect for fans of Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie books, historical fiction, and timeless stories using rich and beautiful language. Sarah, Plain and Tall gently explores themes of abandonment, loss, and love. The 30th Anniversary edition includes author Patricia MacLachlan's Newbery speech, a discussion guide, and a reading list. Set in the late nineteenth century and told from young Anna's point of view, Sarah, Plain and Tall tells the story of how Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton comes from Maine to the prairie to answer Papa's advertisement for a wife and mother. Before Sarah arrives, Anna and her younger brother, Caleb, wait and wonder. Will Sarah be nice? Will she sing? Will she stay? Reading Level: R	
Fiction (series)	<i>The Celery Stalks At Midnight (Bunnicula series)</i>	James Howe
	The sequel to Bunnicula and Howliday Inn finds the neighborhood terrorized by zombie vegetables. Reading Level: R	
Fiction (series)	<i>The Tale of Emily Windsnap (series)</i>	Liz Kessler
	In this glorious undersea setting, mermaids study shipwrecks at school and Neptune rules with an iron trident. A fantasy about family secrets, loyal friendship, and the convention-defying power of love. Reading Level: S	

Fiction (Graphic Novels)-series	Jake Maddox Graphic Novels Series	Jake Maddox
	One Book From Series: Daydream Receiver— reading level: S Gus Charles is a dreamer. He dreams of catching the winning touchdown in the big game. He dreams of being as popular as the team quarterback, and of smooth talking with the girls in his school. But in reality Gus is an oversized, third-string receiver who rides the pine more than running routes on the field. However, with the homecoming game fast approaching, Gus is determined to show his teammates that his size won't keep him from living out his dreams. Combining a high-stakes sports story with a dynamic full-color comic format, this Jake Maddox Graphic Novel is sure to be a win for young athletes and struggling readers alike. Reading Levels: P-S	
Fiction	<i>The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse</i>	Bruce Hale
	This hip, funny mystery series features a clever, wisecracking fourth-grade lizard, Chet Gecko, who keeps busy with the many mysteries at his wacky school. Reading Level: Q	
Fiction (series)	An Artful Escape (Rourke's World Adventure Chapter Books series) Grace, Jaden, and Joy get to visit historical places around the world. Having a mom who is a history professor and a dad who writes for travel magazines has its benefits. Grace and Jaden love exploring their new surroundings and going on adventures with new friends. Reading Level: S	M.M.Eboch
Biography (series)	<i>Jackie Robinson (Series: Rookie Biographies)</i>	Wil Mara
	This Hall of Fame baseball player started playing for the Negro League in 1945. His talent led to him breaking racial barriers and becoming the first African American to play in the Major League. Includes index and "Words You Know" section that highlights Reading Level: O	
Nonfiction	<i>The Biography of Cotton</i>	Carrie Gleason
	Provides a history of the most widely used natural fiber, explaining how it is grown, harvested, ginned, and made into yarn. Reading Level: Q	
Nonfiction	<i>The Cod's Tale</i>	Mark Kurlansky
	Based on Mark Kurlansky's critically-acclaimed bestseller for adults, this story, combined with S.D. Schindler's watercolors, offers a cod's-eye view of 1,000 years of human civilization. Reading Level: N	
Nonfiction	<i>Birds: Nature's Magnificent Flying Machines</i>	Caroline Arnold
	Young nature enthusiasts will learn the mechanics of bird flight. Discover how various wing types meet the survival needs of different species. Reading Level: P	
Nonfiction	Black Jack: The Ballad of Jack Johnson	Charles Smith
	Tells the story of the first black heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Johnson, who rose through the ranks in the early twentieth century Reading Level: Q	

Nonfiction (series)	<i>Face to Face with Frogs (Series: Face to Face with Animals)</i>	Mark Moffett
	This series of titles goes behind the scenes with the people who research and photograph wild animals to put the reader right in the action, and each title includes a scientific experiment, a glossary, facts at a glance section, and more. Reading Level: P	
Nonfiction	<i>Animal Helps: Raptor Centers</i>	Jennifer Curtis
	Even powerful birds of prey can get sick or hurt. When that happens, animal helpers at raptor centers come to the rescue! Dedicated staff treats injured, sick, and orphaned animals. They return the birds to their native environment or find forever homes at education and raptor centers for those that can't survive in the wild. Follow along in this photographic journal as staff and volunteers come together to care for these remarkable birds. Reading Level: O	
Nonfiction	<i>Tooling Around: Crafty Creatures and the Tools they Use</i>	Ellen Jackson
	Simple, rhyming text introduces eleven animals and the surprising tools they use, including an octopus that hides in a coconut, a dolphin that protects its nose with a sponge, and a deer that bedecks its antlers with heaping piles of mud and grass. Secondary text offers further information about these crafty creatures. Reading Level: O	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>What if You Had Animal Teeth? (series: What if...?)</i>	Sandra Markle
	If you could have any animal's front teeth, whose would you choose? What If You Had Animal Teeth? takes children on a fun, informative, and imaginative journey as they explore what it would be like if their own front teeth were replaced by those of a different animal. Featuring a dozen animals, this book explores how different teeth are especially adapted for an animal's survival. Reading Level: O	
Nonfiction	<i>Experiments in Forces and Motion with Toys and Everyday Stuff</i>	Emily Sohn
	Step-by-step instructions for experiments pertaining to forces, motion, and simple machines. Reading Level: P	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>Chimpanzee (Series: Exploring our Rainforests)</i>	Samantha Bell
	Introduces facts about chimpanzees, including physical features, habitat, life cycle, food, and threats to these rainforest creatures. Photos, captions, and keywords supplement the narrative of this informational text. Reading Level: P	
Nonfiction (series)	<i>The Quest for Personal Best: Individual Sports (series: Science Readings: A Closer Look)</i>	Lisa Greathouse
	True or False: The only reason to play sports is to have fun. False! They also offer opportunities for readers to learn and apply concepts and principles related to force and motion. Readers learn how science plays a critical factor in any athlete's quest to be the best at his or her sport. They read how mass is related to acceleration and velocity. Physics and aerodynamics affect many sports and help athletes strategize their next moves against their opponents. This book covers a variety of interesting sports suitable for the casual to the most fanatic sporting enthusiast. Reading Levels: Q-S	

Nonfiction	<i>Can We Save the Tiger?</i>	Martin Jenkins
	Highlights the ways human behavior can either threaten or conserve the amazing animals that share our planet. Reading Level: S	
Nonfiction	<i>Ellis Island (Series: A True Book)</i>	Elaine Landau
	Discusses why immigrants came to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the difficulties of the journey, the establishment of the Ellis Island Immigration Station and what went on there, and its decline and restoration. Reading Level: Q	
Nonfiction	<i>You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Books!</i>	Alex Woolf
	What would life be like if you had to do without modern inventions? How would you cope without a toilet or live without electricity? Starting from these thought-provoking questions, each title takes us on a historical journey to see how people coped in the past, and how they developed ingenious ways to make life safer and more pleasant. Reading Level: T	
Nonfiction	<i>A River Ran Wild</i>	Lynne Cherry
	Recounts the history of the Nashua River in New England, from its crystal clear beginnings, to its death by pollution, to its amazing recovery, in order to present one of the most remarkable environmental success stories of our time. Reading Level: Q	
Nonfiction	<i>Electricity</i>	Mari Schuh
	An electric eel is an ocean fish that makes and uses electricity to shock prey! Children will learn what electricity is and all about batteries, static, and electric currents Reading Level: P	