

5th Grade Summer Reading List

Abel's Island

By: William Steig

Summary: In this delightful fantasy, a gentleman mouse must learn to survive in the wild.

Can't you Make them Behave, King George?

By: Jean Fritz

Summary: The Colonial rebellion is seen from the perspective of King George III, who imposed taxes that enrage the Colonists.

Julie of the Wolves

By: Jean Craighead

Summary: When Julie becomes lost on the Alaskan tundra, she is protected by a pack of wolves.

Brian's Winter

By: Gary Paulsen

Summary: Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Bridge to Terabitha

By: Katherine Paterson

Summary: The life of a 10 year old boy in Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer.

Bud, Not Buddy

By: Christopher Paul Curtis

Summary: Winner of the 2000 Newbery Medal, and the 2000 Coretta Scott King Award

Charlotte's Web

By: E. B. White

Summary: Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be dinner until his spider friend decides to help him.

Egypt Game

By: Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Summary: The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they'll have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt

Finding Buck McHenry

By: Alfred Slot

Summary: Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian Mack Henry to be Buck McHenry, a famous pitcher from the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.

Gathering of Days

By: Joan Blos

Summary: The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend

Hatchet

By: Gary Paulsen

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

Hot and Cold Summer

By: Johanna Hurwitz

Summary: Two inseparable ten-year-old boys discover there is room in their friendship for another person and it really doesn't matter that she is a girl.

Indian in the Cupboard

By: Lynne Reid Banks

Summary: A nine year old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in an adventure when the Indian comes to life.

Inkheart

By: Cornelia Funke

Summary: One cruel night, Meggie's father reads aloud from a book called INKHEART-- and an evil ruler escapes the boundaries of fiction and lands in their living room.

Island of the Blue Dolphins

By: Scott O'Dell

Summary: Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Johnny Tremain

By: Esther Forbes

Summary: A story filled with danger and excitement, Johnny Tremain tells of the turbulent, passionate times in Boston just before the Revolutionary War.

Julie of the Wolves

By: Jean Craighead George

Summary: While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Key to the Indian

By: Lynne Reid Banks

Summary: As Omri, his father, and other members of his family learn more about the cupboard in his room, together and separately they are caught up in several dangerous adventures that reveal more about its powers.

Mystery of the Cupboard

By: Lynne Reid Banks

Summary: After the family moves to the country to a house recently inherited by his mother, Omri finds many secrets revealed to him when he accidentally discovers the link between the house and the magic cupboard. Sequel to "The Secret of the Indian."

Night Swimmers

By: Betsy Byars

Summary: With their mother dead and their father working nights, Retta tries to be mother to her two younger brothers.

Nory Ryan's Song

By: Patricia Reilly Giff

Summary: When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive

Nothing but the Truth

By: Avi

Summary: A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

On My Honor

By: Marion Dane Bauer

Summary: When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

On My Side of the Mountain

By: Jean Craighead George

Summary: A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

On the Far Side of the Mountain

By: Jean Craighead George

Summary: Sam's peaceful existence in his wilderness home is disrupted when his sister runs away and his pet falcon is confiscated by a conservation officer.

Onion John

By: Joseph Krungold

Summary: The story of a friendship between a 12-year-old boy and an immigrant handyman, almost wrecked by the good intentions of the townspeople.

Pinballs

By: Betsy Byars

Summary: Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and about each other.

Return of the Indian

By: Lynne Reid Banks

Summary: A year after he sends his Indian friend, Little Bear, back into the magic cupboard, Omri decides to bring him back, only to find that he is close to death and in need of help. Sequel to "The Indian in the Cupboard."

Rifles for Watie

By: Harold Keith

Summary: Jeff Bussey walked briskly up the rutted wagon road toward Fort Leavenworth on his way to join the Union volunteers. It was 1861 in Linn County, Kansas, and Jeff was elated at the prospect of fighting for the North at last.

Sign of the Beaver

By: Elizabeth George Speare

Summary: Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

Snow Treasure

By: Marie McSwigan

Summary: In the bleak winter of 1940, Nazi troops parachuted into Peter Lindstrom's tiny Norwegian village and held it captive.

Stargirl

By: Jerry Spinelli

Summary: In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Stepping on the Cracks

By: Mary Downing Hahn

Summary: In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully Gordy when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

Stuart Little

By: E. B. White

Summary: The adventures of the debonair mouse Stuart Little as he sets out in the world to seek out his dearest friend, a little bird that stayed for a few days in his family's garden.

Summer of the Swans

By: Betsy Byars

Summary: A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost

Surviving the Applewhites

By: *Stephanie S. Tolan*

Summary: Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Tale of Despereaux

By: *Kate DiCamillo*

Summary: 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.

There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom

By: *Louis Sachar*

Summary: An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too.

Tornado

By: *Betsy Byars*

Summary: As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy.

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

By: *Avi*

Summary: As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

Who Was That Masked Man Anyway?

By: *Avi*

Summary: In the early forties when nearly everyone else is thinking about World War II, sixth-grader Frankie Wattleson gets in trouble at home and at school because of his preoccupation with his favorite radio programs.

Wrinkle In Time

By: *Madeleine L'Engle*

Summary: Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Series and Authors:

Dear America Series

Haddix Series

Hank Zipzer Series

Royal Diary Series

Any book age appropriate by Gordon Korman.

Any book age appropriate by Gary Paulsen.

Any book age appropriate by Jerry Spinelli.

Any book age appropriate by Lawrence Yep.