



2011 Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 5

Choose at least two titles from this list and be prepared to share your favorite one in reading class in September. Most of these books are available at your public library and in paperback editions in bookstores.

- ◆ **The Liberation of Gabriel King** – K.L. Going
Gabriel King is afraid of spiders, loose cows, and just about everything related to the fifth grade. Gabe’s best friend, Frita Wilson, thinks Gabe needs liberating from his fears. But it turns out that Frita has her own list of fears, and while she’s helping Gabe confront his, she’s avoiding the thing that scares her the most.
- ◆ **Black Book of Secrets** – F.E. Higgins
Running from his past, young Ludlow Fitch is hired as the assistant to a mysterious pawnbroker who trades dark secrets for cash. Ludlow’s job is to transcribe the confessions in the Black Book of Secrets. What the pawnbroker doesn’t know is that his new apprentice may have the most troubling secret of all.
- ◆ **Into the Woods** – Lyn Gardner
When their parents die and the three sisters are put under the care of the sinister Dr. DeWilde, Storm, Aurora, and Anything flee into the woods in the hopes of finding a better life, but dangerous encounters with kidnapers and hungry wolves make their trek to find a place to call home more treacherous than they could have ever imagined.
- ◆ **Candyfloss** – Jacqueline Wilson
When her mother plans to move to Australia with her new husband and baby, Floss must decide whether her loyalties lie with her mother or her father, while at the same time, her best friend begins to make fun of her and reject her.
- ◆ **Every Soul a Star** – Wendy Mass
Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at the one place the Great Eclipse can be seen in totality, each carrying the burden of different personal problems, which become dim when compared to the task they embark upon and the friendship they find.
- ◆ **The Last Dragon** – Silvana De Mari
Struggling to survive in a post-apocalyptic world after his village is destroyed, Yorsh, the earth’s last elf, must embark on a perilous quest to decipher a powerful prophecy and find the last dragon, who holds the key to saving the world from the Dark Age that has begun.
- ◆ **Redwall** (or any book in the **Redwall** series) – Brian Jacques
When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, becomes determined to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall’s inhabitants destroy the enemy.
- ◆ **Pictures of Hollis Woods** – Patricia Reilly Giff
Newbery Honor
A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.
- ◆ **Frindle** – Andrew Clements
Nicholas Allen is not a troublemaker—he’s just creative. His fifth grade teacher is Mrs. Lorelei Granger, a no-nonsense, serious teacher who is obsessed with the dictionary. When Nick invents a new word for “pen” and convinces his friends and classmates to use it, a battle of wills ensues.
- ◆ **Hoot** – Carl Hiaasen
Newbery Honor
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, befriends a mysterious boy who introduces him to potty-trained alligators, burrowing owls, and sparkly-tailed poisonous snakes.

- ◆ **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key** (or any **Joey Pigza** book) – Jack Gantos
Joey Pigza has attention deficit disorder or, as he puts it, “At school they say I’m wired bad, or wired mad, or wired sad, or wired glad, depending on my mood and what teacher has ended up with me. But there is no doubt about it, I’m wired.” Follow Joey as he charges through each day while the adults in his life search for a solution.
- ◆ **The Book of Three** (or any book in the **Prydain Chronicles** series) – Lloyd Alexander
Taran, the assistant pig-keeper, longs to be a hero. He begins his journey to heroism with a strange assortment of companions on a dangerous mission to save his beloved homeland, Prydain.
- ◆ **Whales on Stilts** – M.T. Anderson
Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.
- ◆ **Bud, Not Buddy** – Christopher Paul Curtis
Newbery Medal
Coretta Scott King Award
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
- ◆ **Midnight for Charlie Bone** (or any book in the **Charlie Bone** series) – Jenny Nimmo
Ten-year-old Charlie Bone doesn’t realize he has inherited the family’s magical powers until one day he discovers he can hear people in photographs talking. His nasty Grandma Bone and his scheming aunts pack him off to Bloor’s Academy, a school for gifted children, where he faces great dangers.
- ◆ **Jason and the Gorgon’s Blood** – Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris
Jason, who will grow up to become the head of the Argonauts, leads five other boys on a dangerous quest to save the kingdom of Iolcus, learning along the way what it means to be in command.
- ◆ **Running Out of Time** – Margaret Peterson Haddix
Jessie lives in 1840, or so she believes until her Mother sends her on an escape mission outside of the fence where it is 1996! Will she make it back in time to save the sick children of Clifton?
- ◆ **Belle Prater’s Boy** – Ruth White
Newbery Honor
Very early on a warm Sunday morning in October 1953, Gypsy’s Aunt Belle left her bed and vanished from the face of the earth. Twelve-year-old Gypsy befriends her cousin Woodrow, Aunt Belle’s son, and together they search for the truth.
- ◆ **Baseball Crazy: Ten Short Stories that Cover all the Bases** – edited by Nancy E. Mercado
These stories celebrate the joy, drama, and excitement of America's favorite pastime.
- ◆ **Ginger Pye** – Eleanor Estes
Newbery Medal
Meet Ginger Pye, the smartest dog you'll ever know. Jerry Pye and his sister, Rachel, feel pretty smart themselves for buying Ginger. It was the best dollar they ever spent. Ginger steals everybody's heart...until someone steals him!
- ◆ **Stop the Train!** – Geraldine McCaughrean
Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Runner railroad in 1893, the new settlers of Florence, Oklahoma, are determined to build a real town. This is a rollicking, beguiling tale of clever shenanigans and faith in the promise of a new land.
- ◆ **Yolonda's Genius** – Carol Fenner
Newbery Honor
Moving from Chicago to a small town, cool and streetwise fifth-grader Yolonda struggles to adapt to her new school and to persuade her mother and other adults that her little brother, Andrew, is a not a slow learner, but a true musical genius.
- ◆ **Silverwing** (or one of the sequels) – Kenneth Oppel
Shade is a young Silverwing bat, the runt of his colony. But he’s determined to prove himself on the long, dangerous winter migration to the south. During a fierce storm, he loses the others and soon faces the most incredible journey of his young life.