

Assessment

All students are required to complete their reading prior to the start of the school year. In addition to reading the books, students are expected to write the following information about their books. You may use this outline to record your information.

Book Information Requirements

Student Name _____

Book Title _____

Author _____

Setting _____

Characters _____

Problem faced in the book _____

Four events leading to the solution

Solution to the problem _____

Number of pages _____

Chasing Redbird

Sharon Creech

Always the quiet (and often forgotten) middle child in a bustling family, Zinnia's life begins to change when she stumbles upon a hidden, overgrown pathway that stretches from the edge of her family's farm into the great unknown. Determined to find where the path leads, Zinnia begins the daunting task of uncovering brambles and weeds along every inch of its length. In powerful, honest, down-home prose, Newbery-winner Sharon Creech delivers a dazzling portrait of a girl who's not afraid to journey into her family's mysterious past in order to find her own way into adulthood. Watching Zinnia bloom will warm your heart.

Touching Spirit Bear

Ben Mikaelson

Cole Matthews is banished to an Alaskan island for an entire year due to his behavior. Will the punishment kill him — or will it set him free?

Chasing the Falconers—On the Run

Gordon Korman

After their parents' conviction for treason in a high-profile case, Aiden and Meg Falconer were given a different last name and placed at Sunnysdale Farm, a juvenile corrections facility in Nebraska. Still, they remain convinced of their parents' innocence. At the first opportunity, they escape and make their way across the country toward the family's summer cottage in Vermont. With little chance of evading detection, the children do whatever it takes (lying, breaking and entering, hopping a freight train) to remain free and gather evidence that might overturn their parents' conviction. The sympathetic though quickly sketched characters lead readers on an exciting chase that becomes more intense as they near the cottage. There, the young fugitives learn that they now have two pursuers: the police and a mysterious man who wants to kill them.

Please place your information on index cards and be prepared to have them for your ELA teacher the first day of school.

Emerson J. Dillon
Middle School
Phoenix, NY

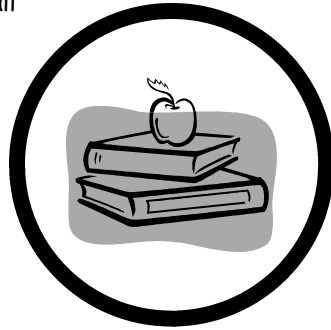
Incoming 5th grade List



Summer 2009
Reading List

Summer 2009 Reading List

This summer you have the opportunity to engage in pleasure reading for its own sake. Your fifth grade teachers have compiled a list of books that should spark an interest with all readers, even those who haven't given themselves over to books. Incoming fifth graders are required to read **two books from this list**. Your second book may be a book not on this list, if it is written by an author represented here.



*Read for the
fun of it!*

Summer Reading List Selections

The Football Genius

Tim Green

Twelve-year old Troy White's athletic ability and his preternatural talent for predicting football strategy are both going to waste, until frustration with a vicious bully on his team pushes him to borrow an official NFL football from local Atlanta Falcons star linebacker Seth Halloway.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Jeff Kinney

Greg is a conflicted soul; he wants to do the right thing, but the constant quest for status and girls seems to undermine his every effort. His attempts to prove his worthiness in the popularity race are constantly foiled by well-meaning parents, a younger and older brother, and nerdy friends. Kinney's background as a cartoonist is apparent in this hybrid book that falls somewhere between traditional prose and graphic novel. Readers will find much to enjoy and relate to in one seventh grader's view of the everyday trials and tribulations of middle school.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

John Boyne

This work was set in Berlin, 1942. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But, Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than what meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

The 39 Clues (any from the series)

Rick Riordan

A series of fantasy adventure books, The 39 Clues deals with the death of fictional character, Grace Cahill. She is the grandmother of the main characters in the series, Amy and Dan Cahill. Grace leaves her relatives a will that invites them to search the globe for 39 clues that will unlock the secret of the Cahill family's hidden power.

Among the Hidden

Margaret Peterson Haddix

Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer ever allowed to go outside. One day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows, but is Luke?

Swindle

Gordon Korman

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 including a menacing guard dog, a high-tech security system, a very secret hiding place, and their general inability to drive—Griffin and his team are going to get back what's rightfully his... even if hijinks ensue.

Al Capone Does My Shirts

Gennifer Choldenko

Moose Flanagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she's denied admittance to the school, the stark setting of Alcatraz begins to unravel the tenuous coping mechanisms Moose's family has used for dealing with her disorder. When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher

Bruce Coville

Jeremy Thatcher is plagued with all of the problems of a 12-year-old plus a few extra. He is pursued by Mary Lou Hutton, whom he detests, and is constantly put down by his art teacher for reasons he does not understand. One afternoon, in an effort to escape Mary Lou, Jeremy runs through alleys, side streets, and byways and finds himself in a part of town he has never seen before. He enters a small magic shop where he purchases a strange egg. A dragon that only Jeremy and Mary Lou can see enters the picture.

The River Between Us

Richard Peck

This historical novel set at the beginning of the Civil War actually opens in 1916, as 15-year-old Howard Leland Hutchings recounts his trip in a Model T to visit his father's childhood home in Grand Tower, IL. When he and his younger brothers meet the four elderly people who raised their father, the novel shifts to 1861, and the narrator shifts to 15-year-old Tilly Pruitt, the boys' grandmother. When a steamboat from New Orleans brings two mysterious young ladies, Mama offers them room and board, and the Pruitts' lives are forever changed. Fair and beautiful Delphine Duval, with her fancy dresses and high-society ways, fascinates the family. And what of Calinda, the darker-skinned young woman? Could she be Delphine's slave?

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a china rabbit, is the main character in this thoughtful tale. Edward is dearly loved by a young girl named Abilene. One day he is lost over the side of a boat. His journey leads him to a older couple who dress him like a girl rabbit, a hobo and his dog, a young girl and her brother and, finally, to a doll shop. Along the way, Edward learns to love the people he encounters.

The Inventions of Hugo Cabret

Brian Selznick

Twelve-year-old orphan Hugo lives in the walls of a Paris train station at the turn of the 20th century, where he tends to the clocks and filches what he needs to survive. Hugo's recently deceased father, a clockmaker, worked in a museum where he discovered an automaton: a human-like figure seated at a desk, pen in hand, as if ready to deliver a message. After his father showed Hugo the robot, the boy became just as obsessed with getting the automaton to function as his father had been, and the man gave his son one of the notebooks he used to record the automaton's inner workings.

The Library Card

Jerry Spinelli

Mongoose, Brenda, Sonseray, and April have nothing in common...until a mysterious blue card appears as if by magic and begins to change each of their lives. None of them guesses it at first, but that strange blue card will be their ticket to the past--and to a future that they never imagined.

The Vet Volunteers Book #1 (or any from the series)

Laurie Halse Anderson

Book #1—This first volume of the Wild at Heart series, a spin-off of the popular American Girl stories, features 11-year-old Maggie, who has been raised by her grandmother since her parents were killed in a car accident. Gran is a veterinarian who owns the Wild at Heart Animal Clinic, where Maggie is a volunteer. The plot centers on a crisis involving 10 sick puppies brought to Gran's clinic. Maggie suspects that they all came from the same place—a puppy mill. With the help of other teen volunteers at the clinic, she sets out to find the person who's behind the mill and shut it down.