

Fifth Grade Suggested Reading List

Guided Reading Level Noted in Parentheses

FICTION

(R) *Ava and Pip* by, Carol Weston: Ava is an outgoing girl in the 5th grade who has no problem making friends. Her older sister Pip, however, is so shy that she barely speaks to anyone, causing her parents to pay extra attention to her. So when the opportunity comes to get noticed, Ava jumps at the chance. (*NY Times, SLJ, Kirkus and Booklist Review*)

(R) *The Expeditioners and the Treasure of the Drowned Man's Caynon* by, SS Taylor: Brilliant explorer Alexander West has just died under mysterious circumstances, but not before smuggling half of a strange map to his children. Why are so many government agents trying to steal the half-map? And where is the other half? It's up the Expeditioners, to get to the bottom of these questions, and fast. (*SLJ, Kirkus, NY Times Review*)

(R) *Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906* by, Robert Papp: Tells the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake as seen through the eyes of Jacob, a thirteen-year-old Jewish boy who lives in a boarding house with his father and younger sister. (*SLJ, Booklist Review*)

(R) *Chains* by, Laurie Halse Anderson: After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. (Scott O'Dell National Book Award Finalist)

(R) *Frindle* by, Andrew Clements: When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control. (CA Young Reader Medal)

(R) *Hatchet* by, Gary Paulsen: After a plane crash, 13 year old Brian spends 57 days in the wilderness learning to survive initially with only the aide of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and also learning to survive his parent's divorce. (Newbery Honor Book) pushed from his family's nest by his older brother, he is rescued from certain death on the forest floor by agents from a mysterious school for orphaned owls, St. Aggie's. When Soren arrives at St. Aggie's, he suspects there is more to the school than meets the eye. (*SLJ, Booklist Review*)

(R) *The Trumpet of the Swan* by, E.B. White: Louis is a trumpeter swan. But unlike his four brothers and sisters, Louis can't trumpet joyfully. In fact, he can't even make a sound. And since he can't trumpet his love, the beautiful swan Serena pays absolutely no attention to him. Then his father steals him a real brass trumpet. Is a musical instrument the key to winning Louis his love? (*NY Times Outstanding Book of the Year*)

(S) *Penny Dreadful* by, Laurel Snyder: Penelope Grey is a lonely, wealthy child in a northern big city. Penny's knows her wish came true when her father suddenly quits his job and the privileged life in the city. The family moves into for a ramshackle property in the eccentric town of Thrush Junction, Tennessee and Penny's life starts anew. (*SLJ Review, Booklist Starred Review*)

(S) *The Wishing Spell* by, Chris Colfer: Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, a set of twins leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic. There they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought. (*NY Times, LA Times Review, SLJ Starred Reviews*)

(S) *Horton Halfpott* by, Tom Angleberger: A mystery begins when M'Lady Luggertuck loosens her corset thereby setting off a chain of events in which all the strict rules of Smugwick Manor are abandoned. When, as a result the precious family heirloom goes missing, the Luggertucks look for someone to blame. Is it Horton Halfpott, the good-natured but lowly kitchen boy who can't tell a lie? (Edgar Award)

FICTION *(continued)*

(S) *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by, Jeanne Birdsall: While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Read all the books in the series. (National Book Award Winner)

(S) *Half Magic* by, Edward Eager: Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes. (Top 100 Children's Novels List #54 by *SLJ*)

(S) *The Million Dollar Shot* by, Dan Gutman: Eddie Ball has the chance of a lifetime: to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot during halftime at the NBA finals, no less. But someone really wants Eddie to shoot an air ball on the big day, and will do anything to sabotage the million dollar shot. (CA Young Reader Medal, *SLJ* Review)

(S) *Shadows in the Glass House* by, Megan McDonald: Set in 1621, *Shadows* begins when 12-year-old Merry is kidnapped from London and forced to suffer a grueling journey by ship to the New World. In Jamestown, she is promptly forced to work in a glasshouse. A mystery ensues when someone begins to sabotage the operation and tries to steal the formula for *cristallo*, a valuable clear glass from Italy. American Girl History Mysteries Series. (*SLJ* Review)

(S) *The Lightning Thief* by, Rick Riordan: Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Book one of Percy Jackson & the Olympians series. (*SLJ* Best Book, ALA Notable Book, *NY Times* Notable Book, *VOYA* Top Shelf Fiction)

(S) *Project Mulberry* by, Linda Sue Park: While working on a project for an afterschool club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more. Between the chapters are short dialogues between the author and main character about the writing of the book. (*SLJ*, *Booklist* Starred Review)

(T) *Pax* by, Sara Pennypacker: Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. (*SLJ*, *Kirkus* and *Booklist* Starred Reviews, *NYT Times* Book Review)

(T) *Where the Mountains Meet the Moon* by, Grace Lin: In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, Minli lives in a ramshackle hut. Her father regales her with folktales of the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on a journey to change her family's fortune. (Newbery Honor)

(T) *A Boy No More* by, Harry Mazer: After his father is killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Adam, his mother, and sister are evacuated from Hawaii to California. Now he must deal with his feelings about the war, Japanese internment camps, his father, and his own identity. (*Booklist* Starred Review)

(T) *The Great Brain* by, John Fitzgerald: The best con man in the Midwest is only ten years old. Tom, a.k.a., the Great Brain, is a silver-tongued genius with a knack for turning a profit. When the Jenkins boys get lost in Skeleton Cave, the Great Brain saves the day. (*Kirkus* Starred Review)

(T) *Dragon Rider* by, Cornelia Funke: After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy. (*Booklist* Starred Review)

(T) *Midnight for Charlie Bone* by, Nimmo: The fabulous powers of the Red King were passed down through his descendants, after turning up quite unexpectedly, in someone who had no idea where they came from. This is what happened to Charlie Bone who has discovered an unusual gift-he can hear people in photographs talking! (*NY Times* Best Seller)

(T) *Gregor the Overlander* by, Suzanne Collins: When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. (*Booklist* Starred Review)

(T) *Atherton: The House of Power* by, Patrick Carman: Edgar, an eleven-year old orphan, finds a book that reveals significant secrets about Atherton, the strictly divided world on which he lives, even as geological changes threaten to shift the power structure that allows an elite few to live off the labor of others. (*SLJ*, *Booklist* Review)

(U) *Liar & Spy* by, Rebecca Stead: Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building. (*Kirkus*, *SLJ*, *Horn Book* Best Book of the Year)

(U) *Bud, Not Buddy* by, Christopher Paul Curtis: 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. (Newbery Winner)

(U) *City of Ember* by, Jean DuPrau: The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! (*Kirkus*, *VOYA* Starred Review)

(U) *Chasing Vermeer* by, Blue Balliet: When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect; an old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, they themselves at the center of an art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI? (*Kirkus* Starred Review)

(U) *On The Wings of Heroes* by, Richard Peck: A boy in Illinois remembers the home front years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war. (*SLJ* Starred Review)

(U) *Boston Jane* by, Jennifer Holm: The arrival from Philadelphia of her spiteful nemesis Sally Biddle and the return of her corrupt ex-fiancé Richard Baldt spell trouble for seventeen-year-old Miss Jane Peck, who has survived on her own in Shoalwater Bay, a community of white settlers and Chinook Indians in 1850s Washington Territory. (*Booklist* Starred Review)

(U) *The Boggart* by, Susan Cooper: Returning home to Toronto, Canada, after visiting the Scottish castle inherited by her family, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes. (*Kirkus* Starred Review)

(U) *The Book Of Three* by, Llyod Alexander: Taran the Assistant Pig-Keeper is on a mission to become a hero. He is joined by a cast of characters all of whom have become involved in an epic struggle between good and evil. The outcome will shape the fate of the legendary land of Prydain. (The sequel, *The Black Cauldron* won Newbery Honor Book, and the final volume, *The High King*, won the Newbery Medal.)

(U) *My Side of the Mountain* by, Jean Craighead George: Unhappy in his family's crowded New York City apartment, Sam Gribble runs away to the solitude-and danger-of the mountains. There he finds a side of himself he never knew. (Newbery Winner)

FICTION (continued)

(V) *A Long Way From Chicago* by, Richard Peck: Joey and his sister Mary Alice, two city slickers from Chicago, make their annual summer visits to their grandmother's seemingly sleepy Illinois town. Grandma Dowdel, a remarkable larger-than-life character, continually astounds her grandchildren with her nonconformist behavior and her gutsy, take-charge attitude. Set during the years 1929–1942, and told in eight engaging episodes. (Newbery Honor Book, National Book Award Finalist, ALA Notable Book, *SLJ* and *Horn Book* Starred Review)

(V) *Who Could That Be at This Hour?* By, Lemony Snicket: In town, far from anyone he knew or trusted, a young Lemony Snicket began his apprenticeship in an organization nobody knows about. He started by asking questions that shouldn't have been on his mind. Now he has written an account that should not be published, in four volumes that shouldn't be read. This is the first volume. (*Kirkus* and *VOYA* Starred Reviews)

(V) *The Bad Beginning* by, Lemony Snickett: 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. (Book Sense Book of the Year)

(V) *Holes* by, Louis Sachar: As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. (Newbery Winner)

(V) *The Root Cellar* by, Janet Lunn: 12-year-old orphan Rose, sent to live with unknown relatives on a farm in Canada, ventures into her aunt's root cellar and finds herself making friends with people who lived on the farm more than a century earlier – during the Civil War. (CA Young Reader Medal)

(V) *Bloomability* by, Sharon Creech: When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers an expanding world and her place within it. (*SLJ*, Booklist Review)

(V) *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by, Avi: 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. (Newbery Honor Book)

(V) *Esperanza Rising* by, Pam Munoz Ryan: Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, & servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. (*SLJ*, *Publisher's Weekly* Starred Review)

(V) *Letters From Camp* by, Klise, Kate: The brother-sister pairs who arrive for the summer at Camp Happy Harmony are almost too busy fighting with each other to notice how strange the camp really is. Not only are the campers forced to wear bizarre uniforms, eat gross food, and do chores all day, but the members of the family that runs the camp fight constantly--with each other. Are the campers in danger? (*SLJ*, *Kirkus* Review)

(W) *A Family Apart* by, Joan Lowery Nixon: In 1860, when their widowed mother can no longer support them, six siblings are sent on the orphan train by the Children's Aid Society of New York City to live with farm families in Missouri. (*SLJ* Review)

(W) *Crispin: Cross of Lead* by, Avi: Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14th-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. (Newbery Winner)

(W) *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by, JK Rowling: Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. (Book of the Year by British Book Awards)

FICTION *(continued)*

(W) *Hoot* by, Carl Hiassen: Roy is the new kid--again. But it's still the same old routine: no real friends, and thick-headed bullies like Dana pushing him around. But if it wasn't for Dana mashing his face against the school bus window he might never have seen the running boy, or bully-beating Beatrice, or the burrowing owls living in the lot on the corner of East Oriole Avenue -or the adventure of a lifetime. (Newbery Honor Book)

(W) *Invention of Hugo Cabret* by, Brian Sleznick: When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. (Caldecott Award)

(W) *Magyk* by, Angie Sage: After learning that she is the Princess, Jenna is whisked from her home. She is carried toward safety by the Extraordinary Wizards, whom she always believed were her father, her brother, and a young guard known only as Boy 412. They are pursued by agents – connected to her mother's killer a decade before. (*Kirkus* Starred Review)

(X) *The White Giraffe* by, Lauren St. John: After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa. There she befriends a mythical white giraffe. (*SLJ*, *Booklist* Review)

(X) *All of a Kind Family* by, Sydney Taylor: Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie -- who live with their parents in New York City at the turn of the century. They enjoy doing everything together, especially when it involves holidays and surprises. But no one could have prepared them for the biggest surprise of all! (*SLJ* Review)

(X) *Dark is Rising* by, Susan Cooper: Will Stanton discovers on his 11th birthday that he is the last of the Old Ones, dedicated to fighting the forces of evil. Will searches for the six magical signs that will be needed for the battle between the Dark and the Light. (Newbery Honor Book)

(X) *Running Out of Time* by, Margaret Peterson Haddix: When an epidemic hits her 1840 village, and thirteen year old Jessie discovers a major secret, she is the only hope for her village and the key to saving the lives of the dying children. (*SLJ*)

(X) *The Mark of the Dragonfly* by, Jaleigh Johnson: Piper finds a girl amid the wreckage of a caravan in the Meteor Fields who doesn't remember a thing about her life. But the intricate tattoo on her arm is proof that she's from the Dragonfly Territories and that she's protected by the king. Which means a reward for Piper if she can get the girl home... (*SLJ* and *Kirkus* Starred Reviews)

(X) *Eragon* by, Christopher Paltoni: In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. (*Wall Street Journal* and *NY Times* Bestseller, Book Sense Book of the Year, *Kirkus* Starred)

NONFICTION

***How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark* by, Rosalyn Schanzer:** Schanzer condensed much of the excitement and adventure of the original 40 volumes into this. The book follows the route mapped out on the end papers beginning with President Jefferson's request that the two explore the west, and ending when Lewis and Clark return two years later long after everyone thought they'd died. (*SLJ* Starred Review, *SF Chronicle* Book of the Year)

***Dog of Discovery* by, Laurence Pringle:** Meet Seaman, the Newfoundland dog who joined the Lewis and Clark expedition into the uncharted western wilderness. Noted children's author Laurence Pringle follows the expedition closely and highlights the adventures of Seaman as they appear in the journals of Lewis and Clark. Intriguing sidebars, historical illustrations, journal excerpts, and original art included. (*SLJ* and *Booklist* Review)

NONFICTION *(continued)*

***George vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen from Both Sides* by, Rosalyn Schanzer:** Explores how the characters and lives of King George III of England and George Washington affected the progress and outcome of the American Revolution. (*SLJ* Starred Review)

***King George: What Was His Problem?* By, Steve Sheinkin:** It's the story of the birth of our nation, complete with soldiers, spies, salmon sandwiches, and real facts you can't help but want to tell to everyone you know. (Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year.)

***If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution* by, Kay Moore:** This book is in a Questions and answers format and covers things like: What started the American Revolution? Did everyone take sides? Would you have seen a battle? Before 1775, thirteen colonies in America belonged to England. This book tells about the fight to be free and independent. (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

***If You Were There in 1776* by, Barbara Brenner:** Period prints and drawings highlight a fascinating look back at what life was like in colonial America in 1776, exploring the ways in which children lived on a New England farm, a southern plantation, and on the frontier. (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

The Double Life of Pocahontas* by, Jean Fritz:** Though at first permitted to move freely between the Indian and the white worlds, Pocahontas was eventually torn between her new life and the culture that shaped her. Try other books by this author: ***And Then What Happened, Paul Revere? Will You Sign Here, John Hancock? Can't You Make them Behave, King George? Shhh! We're Writing the Constitution (Horn Book Award, ALA Notable Children's Book)

***Guys Read: True Stories* by Jon Scieszka:** An anthology featuring ten stories that are 100% amazing, 100% adventurous, 100% unbelievable—and 100% true. A star-studded group of award-winning nonfiction authors and journalists provides something for every reader: essays, biographies, how-to guides, and more, all proving that the truth is most definitely out there. (*Kirkus* Starred Review)

***Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* by, Robert Byrd:** Renaissance man and American founding father, Benjamin Franklin, surges to life in “Electric Ben.” From the electrifying cover to the colonial newspaper format, Byrd's life of Benjamin Franklin sparkles with as much energy—written and visual—as a book can contain. (Sibert Honor)

***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by, Deborah Hopkinson:** Hopkinson tells the story of the ill-fated ship in compelling detail, offering a gripping account in the voices of survivors. Drawing upon oral histories, historical photographs, letters, telegrams, maps and menus, she portrays the events that continue to haunt us. (Sibert Honor)

***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone:** What does it take to be an astronaut: excellence at flying, courage, intelligence, resistance to stress and top physical shape But when America created NASA in 1958, there was another unspoken rule: you had to be a man. Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to challenge the government. (Sibert Honor)

Read these books in a series:

***You Wouldn't Want to Sail on the Mayflower* by, Peter Cook**

***You Wouldn't Want to Be at the Boston Tea Party!* by, Peter Cook**

***You Wouldn't Want to Be an American Colonist* by, Jacqueline Morley**

***You Wouldn't Want to Explore with Lewis and Clark* by, Jacqueline Morley**

POETRY

***Paul Revere's Ride* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and illustrated by Ted Rand:**

Longfellow's well-known poem never appeared to better advantage: Rand has created a rich rendition of the Revolutionary landscape. And Revere himself is the perfect patriot, rugged and intense as he saddles up. (SLJ Review)

***Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reverso Poems* by, Marilyn Singer:** A collection of short poems which, when reversed, provide new perspectives on the fairy tale characters they feature. An ALA Notable, Horn Book Fanfare List)

***Rutherford B, Who Was He? Poems About Our Presidents* by, Marilyn Singer:** A sophisticated yet zany look at the last 43 presidents of the United States through zippy rhyme and political cartoon-style pen-and-ink drawings/collage. The poems, presidential quotes, and drawings are ideal for bringing history alive through reader's theater or as a model for presenting factual information in a poetic way. (SLJ, Booklist Reviews)

***Poems to Learn by Heart* by, Caroline Kennedy:** This anthology presents more than 100 poems that are ideal for committing to memory and reciting. They vary in length and theme and include a wide variety of poets and styles. (Booklist Starred Review)

***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs that Squeak, Soar, and Roar!* Selected by J. Patrick Lewis:** Combines photography with lyrical text celebrating the animal world, in a compilation that includes works by such poets as Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and Rudyard Kipling. (Best Children's Books Kirkus)

***Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems* by, John Grandits:** With technical brilliance and goofy humor this fun-filled collection of poems, is brought to life through a brilliant book design. Simple drawings, varied typefaces, unusual arrangements of text, and colors are used to call attention to the words. (SLJ Starred Review)

A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems* by, Paul Janeczko:** This is the first of Janeczko's concrete poems books. All shapes and sizes are carefully laid on large white spreads, extended by quirky watercolor and paper-collage illustrations. Some of the poems bend or turn or fall down the page, some are shaped like an object. Also by this author: ***A Kick in the Head and ***A Foot in the Mouth*** (Booklist, Starred Review)