



## Fifth Grade Recommended Reading List

- Caddie Woodlawn (Carol Ryrie Brink)-Chronicles the adventures of eleven-year-old Caddie growing up with her six brothers and sisters on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-nineteenth century. Newbery Medal.
- Julie of the Wolves (Jean Craighead George)-While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack. Newbery Medal.
- Old Yeller (Fred Gipson)-Travis is thirteen when his father goes off on the long cattle trail to Abilene, leaving him as man of the house with Old Yeller, a big ugly cur, whom Travis hates at the start and grows to love and trust and depend on, up to the tragic and dramatic end. Newbery Honor.
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe [series] (C.S. Lewis)-Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.
- The Indian in the Cupboard (Lynne Reid Banks)-A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.
- The Sign of the Beaver (Elizabeth George Speare)-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. Newbery Honor.
- The Borrowers (Mary Norton)-Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock.
- Cooper Kids Adventures series (Frank E. Peretti)
- Where the Red Fern Grows (Wilson Rawls)-A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.
- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Barbara Robinson)-The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.
- Black Beauty (Anna Sewell)-A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.
- Lunch Money (Andrew Clements)-Twelve-year-old Greg, who always has been good at money-making projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with this lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.
- No Talking (Andrew Clements)-When the loud and disorderly 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys challenge the girls in their class to a "no talking" duel, the result has lasting effects on everyone, including the teachers and principal.
- Because of Winn Dixie (Kate DiCamillo)-Ten-year-old Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. Newbery Honor.
- Bridge to Terabithia (Katherine Paterson)-The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. Newbery Medal.
- Island of the Blue Dolphins (Scott O'Dell)-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. Newbery Medal.
- Ginger Pye (Eleanor Estes)-When the Pye family's puppy, Ginger, disappears on Thanksgiving Day, the children are convinced that he has been abducted by a stranger in a yellow hat. Newbery Medal.
- Pinky Pye (Eleanor Estes)-While spending a bird-watching summer on Fire Island, the Pye family acquires a small black kitten that can use a typewriter.
- Understood Betsy (Dorothy Canfield Fisher)-Timid and small for her age, nine-year-old Elizabeth Ann discovers her own abilities and gains a new perception of the world around her when she goes to live with relatives on a farm in Vermont.
- Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime (Janet and Geoff Bengel)-Rcounts the life story of the Englishwoman who financed her own overland trip to China to become a missionary.
- Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo [series] (Obert Skye)-When fate brings fourteen-year-old Leven and thirteen-year-old Winter together, they discover that for mankind to continue dreaming, the gateway between reality and dreams needs to be found and demolished.
- In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson (Bette Bao Lord)-In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.
- Number the Stars (Lois Lowry)-In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. Newbery Medal.
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (E.L. Konigsburg)-Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself. Newbery Medal.
- Brightly of the Grand Canyon (Marguerite Henry)-Relates the story of a little burro who blazed through the Grand Canyon and met many famous people in the process.
- The Year of Miss Agnes (Kirkpatrick Hill)-Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athapascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher.

- A Caldecott Celebration (Leonard S. Marcus)-Profiles seven Caldecott award winning books and their authors.
- Fireflies in the Dark (Susan Rubin)-Friedl Dicker taught art to Jewish children at a concentration camp during WWII, and many of their paintings are included.
- Joseph's Choice (Bonnie Pryor)-During the Civil War, Joseph must decide whether to defend his stepfather's abolitionist beliefs and pro-Union beliefs.
- Orphan Journey Home (Lisa Ketchum)-Left orphans in 1828, three children try to make it back to their grandmother's home on their own.
- Star in the Storm (Joan Harlow)-Maggie tries to hide her Newfoundland dog because of a new law in their village.
- Thunder from the Sea (Joan Hiatt Harlow)-Just when his dreams of being part of a family and having a dog seem to be coming true, Tom wonders if trouble with neighbors on his new island home and the impending birth of a new baby will change everything.
- Toys (Don Wulffson)-Describes the creation of a variety of toys and games, from seesaws to Silly Putty.
- Black Whiteness (Robert Burleigh)-Admiral Richard Byrd stayed alone on the continent of Antarctica for almost six months in 1934. He battles the elements, the loneliness, and an illness that nearly killed him, all the while continuing to record his scientific observations.
- Mary on Horseback (Rosemary Wells)-Mary Breckinridge, trained as a nurse during WWI, rode on horseback into the isolated mountains of Appalachia to bring medical help to those in need. Joined by others, her work became a model for rural health care worldwide.
- Saving Shiloh (Phyllis Naylor)-Sixth-grader Mary and his family try to help their rough neighbor, Judd Travers, change his mean ways, because they believe everyone deserves a second chance, even though their West Virginia community continues to expect the worst of him.
- The Turnabout Shop (Colby Rodowsky)-When Livvy's mother dies, she must move from New York City to Baltimore, to live with her mother's college friend-a woman Livvy has never met. Slowly she learns that, even without her mother, she can still learn and laugh and love, and take root in a whole different world.
- The Mary Celeste (Jane Yolen)-Become a detective as you read this true story of how the *Mary Celeste* was found adrift on the open sea-the entire crew and passengers had vanished. You might be the first to solve this one hundred-twenty-nine-year-old mystery.
- You're a Brave Man, Julius Zimmerman (Claudia Mills)-Not only has Julius agreed to baby-sit a three-year-old for the summer, he is also taking an intensive French course. Since Julius doesn't even like to read, he may have bitten off more than he can chew!
- The Green Dog: a Mostly True Story (Suzanne Staples)-During the summer before fifth grade, Suzanne, a daydreaming loner who likes to fish and walk through the woods, acquires a canine companion. Based on Ms. Staples' childhood in Pennsylvania.
- Hippos in the Night (Christina Allen)-Biologist Christina Allen describes her fascinating adventures in Africa, including watching the shadow of a hippo lurking outside her tent!
- Buddy is a Stupid Name for a Girl (Willo Davis Roberts)-When her father disappears mysteriously, Buddy must live with dysfunctional relatives and learns of the whole family's past secrets.
- Saving Lilly (Peg Kehret)-A class of sixth-graders tries to save a mistreated elephant from being sold to a hunting park.
- The Great Serum Race (Debbie S. Miller)-A dogsled team is the only way to save an Alaskan community from a diphtheria epidemic by transporting medicine across 1,000 miles of snow and ice.
- A Bear Named Trouble (Marion Dane Bauer)-In Anchorage, Alaska, two lonely youngsters make a connection-a brown bear injured just after his mother sends him out on his own, and a human whose father is the new keeper at the Alaska Zoo and whose mother and sister are still in Minnesota.
- A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray (Ann M. Martin)-Squirrel, a young puppy, tells her story, from her nurturing mother and brother to making her own way in the world, facing busy highways, changing seasons, and humans both gentle and brutal.
- The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey (Louise Borden)-The true story of the harrowing escape of the authors of the Curious George books from Paris, during the Nazi invasion in 1940.
- Willow Run (Patricia Reilly Giff)-During WWII, after moving with her parents to Willow Run, Michigan, when her father gets a job in the B-24 bomber-building factory, eleven-year-old Meggie learns about different kinds of bravery from all of the people around her.
- Jack Plank Tells Tales (Natalie Babbitt)-An out-of-work pirate, Jack Plank, comes ashore to look for a different line of work, but every night he explains how each non-sailing career he has investigated just won't work for him.
- The Trumpet of the Swan (E.B. White)-Knowing how to read and write is not enough for Louis, a voiceless Trumpeter Swan; his determination to learn to play a stolen trumpet takes him far from his wilderness home.
- All Their Names Were Courage (Sharon Phillips Denslow)-During the Civil War, Sallie Burd writes letters to Confederate and Union generals asking about their horses in order to write a book.
- The Cat with the Yellow Star (Susan Goldman Rubin)-This unusual memoir pays tribute to the devoted adults who helped the children of Terezin and tells the story of a girl flowering against all odds.
- Ramona's World (Beverly Cleary)-Follows the adventures of nine-year-old Ramona at home with big sister Beezus and baby sister Roberta and at school in Mrs. Meacham's class.
- Dear Emma (Johanna Hurwitz)-In 1910, through letters to a friend, a young Russian immigrant new to New York, shares her thoughts about an epidemic and a factory fire.

- The Lost Colony of Roanoke (Jean Fritz)-Describes the English colony of Roanoke, which was founded in 1585, and discusses the mystery of its disappearance.
- The Crazy Man (Pamela Porter)-The story, written in verse, of a young girl growing up in Saskatchewan in the 1960's recovering, both physically and emotionally, from a farming accident, with the help of some unusual people-a stern teacher, a shy classmate, and a patient from the local mental hospital.
- My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought to Children Around the World (Margreit Ruurs)-Inspiring stories of how librarians and volunteers around the world deliver books to remote areas, often by unusual means such as boat, train, donkey, and even wheelbarrow.