



5th Grade Summer Reading List 2023-2024

CHOOSE **TWO** BOOKS TO READ. WRITE A ONE-PAGE PAPER ON EACH OF THE BOOKS.
(TWO PAPERS IN TOTAL.) PLEASE CHOOSE BOOKS *YOU HAVE NOT READ*.
If there is a book that you would like to substitute instead, it must be approved by Ms. Burke.

DIRECTIONS:

Answer the following questions in two one-page papers about each of the books you read. You may type the papers or hand-write them neatly. Please write in complete sentences and present your best work. Have a friend or parent proofread it before turning it in.

1. What is the title of the book?
2. Who is the author/illustrator?
3. Setting: When and where does the story take place?
4. Characters: Who are the main character(s)?
5. Plot: Summarize how the story unfolds (don't get too bogged down with details!)
6. Opinion: Persuade the reader as to why or why not this book is worth the read! Describe how the book made you feel, what you liked or didn't like, etc.

BOOK CHOICES

1. **Alcott, Louisa May,** *Little Women*

Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely (amazon.com)?

2. **Alcott, Louisa May,** *Little Men*

With two young sons of her own, and twelve rescued orphan boys filling the unusual school at Plumfield, Jo March - now Mrs. Jo Bhaer - couldn't be happier. But the boys have a habit of getting

into scrapes, and their mischievous antics call for the warm and affectionate support of the whole March family to help avoid disaster... (amazon.com).

3. Bagnold, Enid, *National Velvet*

A butcher's daughter in a small Sussex town ends her nightly prayers with "Oh, God, give me horses, give me horses! Let me be the best rider in England!" The answer to 14-year-old Velvet Brown's plea materializes in the form of an unwanted piebald, raffled off in a village lottery, who turns out to be adept at jumping fences—exactly the sort of horse that could win the world's most famous steeplechase, the Grand National (amazon.com).

4. Black, Chuck, *The Kingdom Series*

This is a riveting medieval parallel to the Biblical good and evil clash. Leinad and Cedric are determined to not only survive but claim hope and victory! In *Kingdom's Dawn*, Leinad and Tess, along with all the king's people, must escape slavery by the powerful Lord Fairos. Kingdom's Hope finds them free and arriving in the Chessington Valley. But when they forget the king, will Kergon and the Kessons capture them for good? (amazon.com)

5. Beatty, Patricia, *Eight Mules from Monterey*

During the summer of 1916 thirteen-year-old Fayette and her brother accompany their widowed mother on a mule trip into the California mountains, where she is to establish library outposts in isolated communities (amazon.com).

6. Christopher, Mat, any in the series

Matt Christopher is the writer young readers turn to when they're looking for fast-paced, action-packed sports novels. He is the best-selling author of more than one hundred sports books for young readers (matchchristopher.com).

7. Edwards, Julia, *Mandy*

The magic of finding a home Mandy, a ten-year-old orphan, dreams of a place to call her own. Escaping over the orphanage wall to explore the outside world, Mandy discovers a tiny deserted cottage in the woods. All through the spring, summer, and fall, Mandy works to make it truly hers. Sometimes she "borrows" things she needs from the orphanage. Sometimes, to guard her secret, she even lies. Then, one stormy night at the cottage, Mandy gets sick, and no one knows how to find her—except a special friend she didn't know she had (amazon.com).

8. George, Jean Craighead, *My Side of the Mountain*

Terribly unhappy in his family's crowded New York City apartment, Sam Gribble runs away to the solitude - and danger - of the mountains, where he finds a side of himself he never knew (amazon.com).

9. Levine, Gail Carson, *Ella Enchanted*

How can a fairy's blessing be such a curse? At her birth, Ella of Frell was given a foolish fairy's gift—the "gift" of obedience. Ella must obey any order given to her, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day or chopping off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. She goes on a quest, encountering ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, fairy godmothers, and handsome princes, determined to break the curse—and live happily ever after (amazon.com).

10. Lewis, C.S., *The Chronicles of Narnia Series*

C. S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* has captivated readers of all ages for over sixty years, enchanting them with a magical realm where worlds come and go at the toss of a ring, where boys and girls become kings and queens, where there are more talking creatures than people (amazon.com).

11. Loring, Hugh, *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*

Doctor John Dolittle, the veterinarian who can actually talk to animals, sets sail on the high seas for new adventures! Accompanied by his young friend Tommy Stubbins and the beloved animals of his household -- Polynesia the parrot, Jip the dog, and Chee-Chee the monkey -- the good doctor is off to forbidding Spider Monkey Island to examine the rare jabizri beetle. But the mysterious island holds another, darker secret: The famous Indian naturalist, Long Arrow, has mysteriously disappeared -- and Doctor Dolittle urgently needs to speak with him.

12. Montgomery, Lucy Maude *Anne of Green Gables series*

Favorites for nearly 100 years, these classic novels follow the adventures of the spirited redhead Anne Shirley, who comes to stay at Green Gables and wins the hearts of everyone she meets.

13. O'Brien, Robert C., *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby, in turn, renders them a great service (amazon.com).

14. Reid Banks, Lynne, *The Indian in the Cupboard*

It's Omri's birthday, but all he gets from his best friend, Patrick, is a little plastic Indian brave. Trying to hide his disappointment, Omri puts the Indian in a metal cupboard and locks the door with a mysterious skeleton key that once belonged to his great-grandmother. Little does Omri know that by turning the key, he will transform his ordinary plastic Indian into a real live man from an altogether different time and place! Omri and the tiny warrior called Little Bear could hardly be more different, yet soon the two forge a very special friendship. Will Omri be able to keep Little Bear without anyone finding out and taking his precious Indian from him (amazon.com).

15. Sewell, Anna, *Black Beauty*

Perhaps the most celebrated animal story of the nineteenth century, *Black Beauty* is the suspenseful and deeply moving account of a horse's experiences at the hands of many owners — some, sensitive riders who treated him gently; others, cruel drivers who thoughtlessly inflicted lasting damage. Written as the animal's autobiography, and as an appeal for the humane treatment of horses, Anna Sewell's beloved classic reveals as much about human conduct and the social ills of the time as it does about the treatment of animals. Scenes from the lives of both the landed gentry and the impoverished working class offer a subtle but well-rounded perspective of social conditions in England during the late nineteenth century (amazon.com).

16. Estes, Eleanor, *Ginger Pye*

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!* (amazon.com)

17. Spyri, Johanna, *Heidi*

At the age of five, little orphan Heidi is sent to live with her grandfather in the Alps. Everyone in the village is afraid of him, but Heidi is fascinated by his long beard and bushy grey eyebrows. She loves her life in the mountains, playing in the sunshine and growing up amongst the goats and birds. But one terrible day, Heidi is collected by her aunt and is made to live with a new family in town. Heidi can't bear to be away from her grandfather; can she find a way back up the mountain, where she belongs (amazon.com)?

18. Napoli, Donna Jo, *Stones in the Water*

When Roberto sneaks off to see a movie in his Italian village, he has no idea that life as he knows it is over. German soldiers raid the theater, round up the boys in the audience, and pack them onto a train. After a terrifying journey, Roberto and his best friend Samuele find themselves in a brutal work camp, where food is scarce and horror is everywhere. The boys vow to stay together no matter what. But Samuele has a dangerous secret, which, if discovered, could get them both killed (amazon.com).

19. Enright, Elizabeth *Thimble Summer*

A few hours after nine-year-old Garnet Linden finds a silver thimble in the dried-up riverbed, the rains come and end the long drought on the farm. The rains bring safety for the crops and the livestock, and money for Garnet's father. Garnet can't help feeling that the thimble is a magic talisman, for the summer proves to be interesting and exciting in so many different ways. There is the arrival of Eric, an orphan who becomes a member of the Linden family; the building of a new barn; and the county fair at which Garnet's carefully tended pig, Timmy, wins a blue ribbon. Every day brings adventure of some kind to Garnet and her best friend, Citronella. As far as Garnet is concerned, the thimble is responsible for each good thing that happens during this magic summer—her thimble summer (amazon.com).

20. Burnett, Frances Hodgson, *The Secret Garden*

"When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen..." So begins the famous opening of one of the world's best-loved children's stories. First published in 1911, this is the poignant tale of a lonely little girl, orphaned and sent to a Yorkshire mansion at the edge of a vast lonely moor. At first, she is frightened by this gloomy place, but with the help of the local boy Dickon, who earns the trust of the moor's wild animals with his honesty and love, the invalid Colin, a spoiled, unhappy boy terrified of life, and a mysterious, abandoned garden, Mary is eventually overcome by the mystery of life itself—its birth and renewal, its love and joy (amazon.com).

21. Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. **WONDER**, now a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. (amazon.com)