

2011 Summer Reading List for New Fifth Graders



Dear Fifth Grade Students and Parents:

As the temperatures rise and thoughts turn to summer, we all look forward to the relaxing activities summer vacation brings. One way to relax is to find a good

book and get lost in a new adventure. Summer reading is a great opportunity for parents to support their children's lifelong reading habits and share in the joy that a good book brings. Reading is a skill that takes practice – lots of practice, just like running a marathon, learning to swim or playing an instrument. Summer reading can help students at all ability levels sharpen their skills and become recreational readers for life.

To support summer reading, the Lebanon Schools and the Jonathan Trumbull Public Library have compiled lists of summer reading choices for fifth grade students. Over the summer, students are asked to read at least two books.

- One book must be chosen from the summer reading fiction list.
- The other book may be the reader's own choice.

A book project will be completed when students return to school in the fall on their book chosen from this attached list.

Please participate in the book selection process with your child to ensure that the book's theme, reading level, and content are age appropriate and respect your family's values and interests. Attached to this list is a reading journal that students are asked to bring with them when school resumes in August.

Happy Reading!
The Summer Reading Committee

Lebanon Middle School

Great Reads!

Benched. (Wallace)

Nine-year old Ben, having been benched for aggressive play during an important soccer game, tries to figure out how he can help his team earn a spot in the tournament from the sidelines.

Classic Starts Series. (Various authors)

Classic children's novels are abridged for the young reader. Choose from classics such as Gulliver's Travels, A Little Princess, Black Beauty, Heidi and Swiss Family Robinson. Perfect for the young readers.

Fabled Fifth Graders of Aesop Elementary School. (Fleming)

The reputation of the fifth graders of Aesop Elementary School precedes them and no one wants to teach this rowdy group. Luckily, Mr. Jupiter, their intrepid, world-traveling, fourth-grade teacher, is willing to step up to the challenge.

Fear Itself. (Clements)

The Keepers of the School are back and the stakes are even higher. Time is ticking as the countdown to their school's total demolition continues.

Hot Shot. (Christopher)

Julian was once the star center on his basketball team. But when he joins a new team after his family moves, Julian is afraid he may end up being a benchwarmer. How far will Julian go to get back some playing time?

How to Steal a Dog. (O'Connor)

After their father leaves them and her family is forced to live in a car, Georgina persuades her brother to help her in a scheme to steal a dog, hoping to claim the reward the owners are bound to offer.

Invention of Hugo Cabret. (Selznick)

Hugo lives secretly in the walls of the Paris train station. Orphaned, he now maintains the clocks in the station for his uncle who disappeared. More important, Hugo is trying to complete a project of his father's...rebuilding an old mysterious machine found in a museum attic. To get by, Hugo steals food from station cafés, and parts for the machine from a toy store booth in the station. All goes well until he gets caught by the toy store owner.... Here the story begins where Hugo is forced to befriend the toy store owner's grand daughter, help at the toy store, and unravel the mystery of the machine.

Lawn Boy. (Paulsen)

The summer Lawn Boy was 12, he turned mowing lawns with his grandfather's old riding mower into a big business. And, with advice from Arnold the stockbroker, he learned all about making money. Six weeks and thousands of dollars later, life is getting more and more complicated. Now, even his best friends want a piece of the action. Perfect for the reluctant reader!

Masters of Disaster. (Paulsen)

Henry has a million irresistible ideas, and his loyal pals Rick and Bill are willing to try to pull off Henry's wildest schemes.

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Shoot-Out. (Comeback Kids) (Lupica)

Transferring to a last-place soccer team that forces him to choose between accepting constant losses and quitting the game he loves, Jake receives advice from a teammate about how to be an effective captain, both on and off the field.

Turtle in Paradise. (Holm)

When her mother gets a job as a housekeeper for a rich woman who will not abide children, 11-year-old Turtle is sent to live with her relatives in Key West. Florida's like nothing Turtle has ever seen. It's hot and strange, full of wild green peeping out between houses, ragtag boy cousins, and secret treasure.

Touch Blue. (Lord)

Eleven-year-old Tess doesn't want to leave her island home, but her family will have to move to the mainland if the state of Maine closes their small schoolhouse for lack of students. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children.

The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester. (O'Connor)

An amazing secret has tumbled off a freight train into Carter, Georgia, and Owen Jester is the only person who knows about it. If he can simply manage to evade his grandfather's snappish housekeeper, organize his two best friends, and keep his nosy neighbor, Viola, at bay, he just might be in for the summer of a lifetime.

Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose (Stauffacher)

In the Animal Rescue Team's first adventure, a small alligator has mysteriously arrived at the city pool, which will seriously interfere with opening day, especially Keisha's cannonball practice. It's up to the Carter family to figure out what to do.

Wild life. (DeFelice)

When 12-year-old Erik's parents are deployed to Iraq he goes to live with grandparents he hardly knows in small town North Dakota, but his grandfather's hostility and the threat of losing the dog he has rescued are too much and Erik runs away.

The Genius Files: Mission Unstoppable. (Gutman)

On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.



Historical Fiction

Charley Skedaddle. (Beatty)

A young boy from New York City enlists in the Union Army as a drummer boy after his brother is killed at Gettysburg and then "skedaddles" away from the Army and hides in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Mr. Tucket. (Paulsen)

Fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is heading west on the Oregon Trail with his family by wagon train when he is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild. A real knock 'em, sock 'em ripsnorter... Be sure to check out the sequels to this great adventure story!

Lebanon Middle School

Attack of the Turtle. (Carlson)

In 1776, fourteen-year-old Nathan Wade wants to help the Patriots win the Revolutionary War but he's too young. Despite his fear of boats, he attempts to pilot a crude submarine that can explode bombs underwater to hurt the British fleet in New York harbor. Will Nathan's nerve and air holdout long enough to complete the mission?

Principal's Pick!

Recommended by Mr. Laskarzewski

Bread and Roses, too. (Katherine Paterson)

Rosa Serutti has a great deal to worry about. Ever since Papa died in a mill accident, Mamma has ceased to sing around their cramped tenement apartment. When a strike against the corrupt mill owners is declared, Mamma goes out singing union songs and marching with the strikers. What will happen to Rosa and Little Ricci? They are sent to Barre, Vermont, with other children to live safely until the strike is over. On the train, a strange boy begs her to pretend that he is her brother so that he can stay in Barre long enough to find money to go to New York. Alone and far from home, she agrees to protect him... even though she suspects that he is hiding some terrible secret.

Teacher Picks!

Miss MD suggests...

Thunder by the Sea by Joan Hiatt Harlow

Harsh weather brings an orphan boy, Tom, and a stranded dog, Thunder, together on the island of Newfoundland. They struggle to find a family despite a blizzard, a tidal wave, and worst of all, Thunder's former owner.



Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpugo

While sailing in the Pacific Ocean, eleven-year-old Michael falls overboard and ends up stranded on a nearly deserted island. He is befriended by an old Japanese man, the island's other inhabitant, in this exciting tale of friendship and survival.

Coolies by Yin

A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather and his brother who came to the United States to make a better life for themselves helping to build the transcontinental railroad.

Miss Reynolds suggests...

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Once upon a time, there was a magnificent china rabbit who did not know how to love. He only cared about his looks and only half listens to the young girl he belongs to. But this will all change when Edward is tossed overboard on the way to England and begins a journey from the depths of the ocean through many new homes and adventures. Will Edward ever come to realize that love is not something you should take for granted?

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Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

When a peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. (And you, dear reader, can test your wits right along with them.) But in the end just four very special children will succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and resourceful children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Mrs. Morris-Scata...

Dinotopia by James Gurney

A biologist and his young son are shipwrecked on the lost island of Dinotopia, where dinosaurs and humans live together in peaceful interdependence.

Charlie's Raven by Jean Craighead George

Charlie's beloved grandfather is ill, and Charlie will do anything to save him. He brings home a baby raven, Blue Sky, because his Native American friends claim they have powerful medicine. But caring for and protecting a wild creature is a huge responsibility. Charlie learns wondrous things about ravens — and some surprising lessons about humans.

Ms. Picard suggests...

Matilda by Roald Dahl

Matilda, a brilliant, sensitive little girl, uses her talents and ingenuity to seek revenge on her crooked father, lazy mother, and the terrifying Miss Trunchbull, her wicked headmistress, and save her beloved teacher, Miss Honey.

Mrs. Rubega suggests...

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

The White Giraffe by Laurent St. John

After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met in Africa. When Martine arrives, she hears tales of a mythical animal living there—a white giraffe. Could it be just Martine's imagination, or is the white giraffe real? And if so, why is everyone keeping its existence a secret?

No Talking by Andrew Clements

How will the teachers and principal react when a normally way-too-talkative class nicknamed the "unshushables" suddenly become SILENT? Is it because of a student rebellion? A strange disease? Or is it just a result of a contest between the boys and girls?

Mr. McLean suggests...

SLOB by Ellen Potter

Owen might be the fattest kid in school but he's a genius. While some kids might be tempted to run away from their fears- Owen decides to face them head on. Be that fear the school psycho who is stealing cookies from his lunch or the next PE class. He's learned from the past that some fears you can never run from.



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Sisters Grimm by Michael Buckley

The Sisters Grimm is a children's fantasy series about two sisters Sabrina and Daphne who have lost their parents, literally - they can't find them. They are forced to live in dreadful foster homes, until they are shipped off to their grandmother's house - a person they were told had died long ago. And then the real adventure begins, because their grandmother is a detective in a town where fairies and humans live together. Funny, suspenseful, and fast-paced, The Sisters Grimm books will charm readers with their outrageous takes on familiar fairy tales. There are now eight books in this series.

So B. It by Sara Weeks

Although she lives an unconventional lifestyle with her mentally disabled mother and their doting neighbor, Heidi has a lucky streak that has a way of pointing her in the right direction. When a mysterious word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi's thirst for the truth leads her on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past.

Mrs. Slate's pick...

Storyteller by Patricia Giff

Forced to spend months at an aunt's house, Elizabeth feels a connection to her ancestor Zee, whose picture hangs on the wall, and who reveals her story of hardships during the Revolutionary War as Elizabeth comes to terms with her own troubles.

Mrs. Shea's pick...

Wild River by P.J. Petersen

When twelve-year-old Ryan reluctantly agrees to join his experienced older brother Tanner on a camping trip, he could never have dreamed this would turn into the most frightening day of his life.

Great Nonfiction



Dewey the Library Cat. (Myron)

Abandoned in a library book drop slot in the dead of winter, this remarkable kitten miraculously endured the coldest night of the year. Dewey Readmore, as he became known, quickly embraced his home inside Spencer's public library, charming the struggling small town's library-goers, young and old.

Face to Face with Animals Series. (National Geographic)

Ever had an in-your-face encounter with a caterpillar? What about a grizzly bear? Let the experts at National Geographic take you out of the library, out of the zoo, and into the wild! Go behind the scenes with the people who research and photograph wild animals. This new series puts you right in the action.

Girls Think of Everything. (Thimmesh)

Tells the story of how women throughout the ages have responded to situations confronting them in daily life by inventing such items as correction fluid, space helmets, and disposable diapers.

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2012 CONNECTICUT NUTMEG NOMINEES INTERMEDIATE LIST

The Nutmeg Book Award is a Connecticut children's book award which is decided each year by the children of Connecticut in grades 4-8.

There are ten books nominated for the Nutmeg Award each year by a committee comprised of

children's librarians, school library media specialists and teachers. These are the 2012 nominees.

Masterpiece (Broach)

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Extra Credit (Clements)

Three young middle school-age children, Abby, Amira, and Sadeed, exchange letters back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan and begin to bridge a gap across cultural and religious divides.

Signal (DeFelice)

After moving with his emotionally distant father to the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, twelve-year-old Owen faces a lonely summer until he meets an Abused girl who may be a space alien.

Gollywopper Games (Feldman)

Twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling money from Golly Toy and Game Company.

Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story (Hahn)

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.

Stolen Children (Kehret)

Amy, babysitting for little Kendra, must use her wits to save herself and the child after they are kidnapped by two thugs who are demanding money from Kendra's wealthy parents in exchange for the lives of the girls.

Dying to Meet You (Klise)

In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I.B. Grumpy, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer.

Savvy (Law)

Mibs Beaumont's thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"—a magical power unique to each member of her family—just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Herbert's Wormhole (Nelson)

While Alex is getting to know his inventive neighbor, Herbert, they unexpectedly travel to the twenty-second century through a space-time wormhole where they encounter aliens, jet packs, and their future selves.

The Key to Rondo (Rodda)

Through an heirloom music box, Leo, a serious, responsible boy, and his badly-behaved cousin Mimi enter the magical world of Rondo to rescue Mimi's dog from a sorceress, who wishes to exchange him for the key that allows free travel between worlds.