

GRADES 3-5 Summer Reading List

Students **must** read at least four books in order to qualify for the summer reading t-shirts. Please choose books that you **have not read before**.

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| A Long Walk to Water | Linda Sue Park | 5.0 |
| Eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family when the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, and he must walk with other Dinka tribe members in search of a safe haven. | | |
| A Medieval Feast | Aliki | 4.0 |
| Describes the preparations and celebration of a medieval feast held at an English manor house entertaining royal guests. | | |
| B Is For Betsy | Carolyn Haywood | 4.3 |
| Betsy experiences an interesting first year in school and looks forward to summer vacation at her grandfather's farm. | | |
| Behind Rebel Lines | Seymour Reit | 5.7 |
| This biography recounts the story of the Canadian woman who disguised herself as a man and slipped behind Confederate lines to spy for the Union army. | | |
| Borrowers, The | Mary Norton | 5.3 |
| 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. | | |
| Free Baseball | Sue Corbett | 4.3 |
| Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder. | | |
| Greetings From Nowhere | Barbara O'Connor | 4.2 |
| In North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains, a troubled boy, a happy family seeking adventure, a man and his lonely daughter, and the widow who must sell the run-down motel that has been her home, meet and are transformed by their shared experiences. | | |
| Homework Machine, The | Dan Gutman | 4.8 |
| Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments. | | |
| How Tia Lola Came to Stay | Julia Alvarez | 4.8 |
| Ten-year-old Miguel learns to love his colorful aunt, Tía Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother after his parents' divorce. | | |
| How to Steal a Dog | Barbara O'Connor | 4.0 |
| Living in the family car in a small North Carolina town after her father leaves, Georgina persuades her younger brother to help her in a scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming a reward. | | |

Incredible Journey **Sheila Burnford** **7.6**

Three house pets migrate through the wilderness to find their family.

Inside Out and Back Again **Thanhha Lai** **4.8**

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

Island of the Blue Dolphin **Scott o'Dell** **5.4**

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.

Jake **Audrey Coulombis** **4.0**

When ten-year-old Jake's widowed mother breaks her leg just before Christmas while her sister and best friend are both away, a grandfather Jake barely remembers must come to Baltimore, Maryland, to help a neighbor take care of him.

Julie of the Wolves **Jean Craighead George** **5.8**

Common sense and courage enable a young Eskimo girl to survive when she becomes lost in the Arctic wild.

Lemonade War, The **Jaqueline Davies** **4.1**

Evan and his younger sister, Jessie, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for 4th grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn \$100.

My Side of the Mountain **Jean Craighead George** **5.2**

Written in the form of a diary, this story relates the days of a young boy in the Catskill Mountains.

Mystery of the Lost Colony, The **Carole Marsh** **5.4**

Mimi tells Christina and Grant a mystery story about North Carolina's Lost Colony, complete with two boisterous boys, kidnapped coins, a foggy graveyard, a missing friend, and a moonlight trip on an old sailing ship.

Poppy **Avi** **4.5**

A brave young mouse challenges the owl that rules over the territory and saves her family from starvation.

Prairie School **Lois Lenski** **4.0**

This book is the story of things that did or could have happened in a one-room rural school on the prairie of South Dakota.

Reluctant Dragon, The **Kenneth Grahame** **6.5**

A young boy and St. George find a way to calm frightened townspeople and spare the life of a harmless dragon.

Railway Children, The **Edith Nesbit** **5.5**

Roberta, Phyllis, and Peter are growing up in comfort until their happy life ends overnight. Their mother is in distress, and their father is gone.

Room One: A Mystery or Two	Andrew Clements	5.1
<p>Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town's one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family.</p>		
Rules	Cynthia Lord	3.9
<p>Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence, but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a teenage boy in a wheelchair.</p>		
Savvy	Ingrid Law	6.0
<p>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.</p>		
Sign of the Beaver	Elizabeth George Speare	4.9
<p>A young boy in Maine, when rescued by an Indian chief and his grandson, must decide whether to spend the winter alone in the woods waiting for his family to return or move on to a new life with his new friends.</p>		
Sinking of the Titanic, 1912, The	Lauren Tarshis	3.9
<p>Ten-year-old George Calder's life changes forever as he, his little sister, Phoebe, and Aunt Daisy set out across the ocean on the "Titanic" in 1912</p>		
Skylark	Meagan Spooner	5.8
<p>Lark has yearned to have her magical energy harvested, but when she is finally chosen, a special talent is revealed and rather than become a human battery powering the dome that protects her city, she escapes, hoping to find others like herself.</p>		
Smells Like Dog	Suzanne Selfors	4.3
<p>When Uncle Drake mysteriously disappears, Homer Pudding inherits a lazy, droopy dog with no sense of smell and a mystery. Homer, his sister, and Dog have an adventure that will test their wits and courage.</p>		
Summer of the Swans	Betsy Byars	4.9
<p>A fourteen-year-old girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost.</p>		
Sword in the Tree, The	Clyde Robert Bulla	3.2
<p>After his father is reported dead and his wicked uncle takes over the castle, Shan hides his father's precious sword and, after escaping with his mother, makes his way to King Arthur's court to seek help in winning back his inheritance.</p>		
Trouble With Chickens, The	Doreen Cronin	3.8
<p>A hard-bitten former search-and-rescue dog helps solve a complicated missing chicken case.</p>		
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	5.0
<p>Winnie Foster discovers a magic spring that has given the Tuck family eternal life. She is faced with the difficult decision of whether to drink from it and whether to tell all when a stranger wants to know the secret in order to sell the water.</p>		

Tuesday at the Castle**Jessica Day George****5.8**

Eleven-year-old Princess Celie lives at Castle Glower, which adds rooms, stairways, or secret passageways most every Tuesday. When the king and queen are ambushed while traveling, it is up to Celie, the Castle's favorite, to protect their home.

Turtle in Paradise**Jennifer Holm****3.7**

In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in faraway Key West, Florida.

Woods Runner**Gary Paulsen****5.5**

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, 13-year-old Samuel, who is a highly skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.