



## Welcome 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Readers!

Anytime is a great time for reading. Research says that children who read daily are more apt to be successful in school and score better on reading achievement tests. They practice important skills that support learning and thinking. Reading fosters confidence and independence and ultimately, leads to success. Besides, reading is a lot of fun!

Here are some thoughts to encourage your readers:

- Visit the library! Encourage your children to read for pleasure.
- Books that are “just right”, not too hard or not too easy, are best for independent reading. Remember, reading is a meaning making process so if your child can’t read and readily understand most of what is on the page, save it for the future.
- Fifth graders’ decoding and fluency skills are more developed. On their own, and at school, they explore a variety of genres and topics. They use the text to relate to the characters and the world. Through reading they gain information to facilitate future reading and their own writing.
- Older readers still enjoy being read to and reading to you. Great discussions can follow. Reading to children builds background knowledge, encourages vocabulary development, and fosters critical thinking. Besides, what’s better than cuddling with your child and a good book!

*It’s been my pleasure to work with your children. Happy Reading!*

*Cheryl Miller, CTA Library 2020*

### Fiction

**11 Birthdays** by Wendy Mass 2010 Best friends since birth, Amanda and Leo always celebrate birthdays together. But now they’re almost 11 and not speaking to each other.

**23 Under 1 Roof: Book 1 The Big Surprise** by R. Rappaport 2012

With twenty-one kids, the Schneiders are a very big family! Share their fun and excitement as they get ready to go to London for a family simcha. Read all the books in this popular series!

**39 Clues** by various authors Amy and Dan Cahill travel around the world looking for clues to their family’s power. Popular series begins with **The Maze of Bones** by Rick Riordan.

**Absolutely Almost** by Lisa Graf 2015 Albie is at a new school. He’s never been the smartest, tallest or best at anything, but his new nanny helps him learn to be proud of who he is.

**Achdus Club: The Wedding Dance** by Faygie Holt 2019 All the girls are excited to get invitations to their teacher’s wedding. All except Tova Green. Morah Steiner is her favorite teacher so why doesn’t she want to go to the wedding? 4<sup>th</sup> book in the popular series.

**Breaking Stalin’s Nose** by Eugene Yelchin 2013 Sasha admires his father, one of Stalin’s loyal officials. But after his father’s arrest life changes, and so do Sasha’s beliefs and values.

**The Chronicles of Harris Burdick** 2011 Short stories written by well-known children’s authors that are based on Chris Van Allsburg’s illustrations in his 1984 **The Mysteries of Harris Burdick**.

**Classic Stories** written for children like **Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll; **Around the World in Eighty Days** by Jules Vern; **Black Beauty** by Anna Sewell; **Heidi** by Johanna Spyri; **The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett; **Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson

**Crenshaw** by Katherine Applegate 2015 Jackson’s family has fallen on hard times. A big, imaginary cat from his younger days, Crenshaw, has come back into Jackson’s life. Can he help?

**Dear Mr. Henshaw** by Beverly Cleary 1984 Newbery Medal Leigh writes to his favorite author. When Mr. Henshaw answers a friendship develops, and so does Leigh’s writing.

***Ella Enchanted*** by Gail Carson Levine 1998 Newbery Honor A modern take on Cinderella, in which Ella of Frell receives the gift of obedience when she's born.

***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*** by Chris Grabenstein 2013 Famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello designed a state-of-the-art library and invited 12 lucky 7<sup>th</sup> graders to stay the night. They have 24 hours to win a prize. Lock the doors and let the games begin!

***The Fourteenth Goldfish*** by Jennifer Holm 2014 Imagine Ellie's surprise when a visiting teenage boy turns out to be her grandfather, a scientist obsessed with immortality.

***Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, their lives and dreams brought together*** by Ashley Bryan 2017 Newbery Honor Using actual documents from a plantation, this fictional book realistically contrasts slavery with the lives and dreams of the slaves.

***Frindle*** by Andrew Clements 1996 Nicholas Allen is not a troublemaker. He just has lots of ideas. But with his new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Granger, Nick has met his match. When she gives Nick a special assignment involving the dictionary, Mrs. Granger has met *her* match. Who will win this war of the words?

***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*** by e.l. konigsburg 1968 Newbery Medal Two children run away from home and live in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where they investigate the authenticity of a piece of art and meet an unusual woman.

***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang 2018 Mia Tang and her parents are Chinese immigrants. Her parents work hard managing the Calivista Hotel, and after school Mia manages the front desk and takes care of the people at the motel. Sometimes things are hard, but Mia is always kind, helpful and dreams of becoming a writer.

***Harriet the Spy*** by Louise Fitzhugh 1964 Harriet is a writer and spy. She observes friends and neighbors and writes about them in her notebook. But what happens when she loses her book?

***The Homework Machine*** by Dan Gutman 2007 5<sup>th</sup> grader Brenton is a computer genius, or is he a nerd? Then he invents a homework machine! Great invention, or is it?

***I, Funny*** by James Patterson 2015 Jamie Grimm won't let his wheelchair stop him from becoming the world's greatest stand-up comedian! Can he succeed? Series

***I Survived: The Great Chicago Fire, 1871*** by Lauren Tarshis 2015 In the 11<sup>th</sup> book in this series a boy struggles to stay alive during the great Chicago fire. Follow this with Newbery Honor nonfiction, ***The Great Fire*** by Jim Murphy.

***Lemonade Girls Forever*** Sara Miriam Gross 2014 Chavi, Devorah, Shiffy, and Avigayil are the Lemonade Girls. They're good friends who love to solve problems with creative solutions. Their motto, "When you have lemons, make lemonade"!

***The Lemonade War*** by Jacqueline Davis 2007 Evan's sister, Jessie, is skipping a grade – into his 4<sup>th</sup> grade class! So begins the competition. Who can earn the most selling lemonade?  
***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan 2005 Percy's mother tells him he's Poseidon's son and sends him to Camp Half Blood where he meets others who go with him to the Underworld to prevent a catastrophic war. Book 1 of ***Percy Jackson & the Olympians***.

***Long Shot*** by Mike Lupica 2010 Point guard Pedro decides to run for class president, but his opponent, the team's star, isn't happy about that. *Great author of sports fiction.*

**Matilda** by Roald Dahl 1988 Matilda uses her intelligence to get rid of evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and help her teacher, Miss Honey.

**My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish** by Mo O'Hara 2014 When Tom's brother decides to be an evil scientist, Frankie's pet goldfish falls victim. Frankie saves him but he's changed!

**The Mysterious Benedict Society** by Trenton Lee Stewart 2007 "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" This ad brings many but only four get to go to the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened.

**No Talking!** By Andrew Clements 2007 It's boys vs. girls for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class when they compete to see who can go the longest without talking. Great school stories author.

**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate 2013 Newbery Medal Told in the voice of a gorilla living in a mall sideshow and based on the real story of a gorilla kept captive for 30 years! This book will soon open in movie theaters.

**The One and Only Bob** by Katherine Applegate 2020 Bob goes in search of his long-lost sister with the help of his two best friends, Ivan and Ruby. As a hurricane approaches Bob finds courage and learns the importance of friends and family. *Sequel to The One and Only Ivan*

**Pax** by Sara Pennypacker 2016 This is a story of struggle, of love and of loss when a boy and his pet fox are separated during wartime. Told in their alternating viewpoints.

**The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy** by Jeanne Birdsall 2007 The Penderwick sisters and their father spend the summer at a Massachusetts estate and befriend the boy who lives there.

**Rain Reign** by Ann M. Martin 2014 An inspiring story of hope about a young girl's struggle to fit in. It's also one of her love for her dog, and her search to find him.

**The Report Card** by Andrew Clements 2004 No one know Nora's a genius and she likes it that way. But when she decides there's too much importance on test scores and grades, she purposely brings home a bad report card just to prove a point! Author of great school stories.

**Restart** by Gordon Korman 2018 Chase fell off the roof. When he wakes up in the hospital Chase knows who he is, but there's a lot he can't remember. Once back at school Chase begins to learn things about himself that make him want to change.

**Sadako** by Eleanor Coerr Based on the true story of a Sadako Sasaki, who became sick from radiation after Hiroshima, and her race against time to fold 1,000 paper cranes that legend says will heal illness. Her story remains a symbol for world peace.

**Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 1992 Newbery Medal When Marty finds a lost beagle in the West Virginia hills, he tries to hide it from his family and the dog's abusive owner.

**A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning** by Lemony Snicket 1999 First book in the series about the Baudelaire orphans placed in the custody of their cousin, Count Olaf, who plots to steal their inheritance.

**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda** by Tom Angleberger 2010 When Dwight shows up at school with a weird finger puppet it's up to Tommy and his friends to figure out if it really has unusual powers. Popular series

***Swindle*** by Gordon Korman 2009 After being duped out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing plots to recapture it. Read all 7 books in this series!

***A Tangle of Knots*** by Lisa Graff 2013 In this magical town people have Talent. Cady can bake the right cake for you. Miss Mallory matches children to parents, but she can't find ones for Cady. And there's the talent thief. Plots and sub-plots intertwine with lots of suspense.

***There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*** by Louis Sachar 1988 No one likes fifth grader Bradley Chalkers. He lies and picks fights with girls. But the new counselor sees the good in him and knows he can change. But will he?

***When Jessie Came Across the Sea***, by Amy Hest 2003 This is a story about a young girl from a poor village in eastern Europe. She's sad to go to America and leave her grandmother but her new home brings surprising changes. Picture book

***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*** by Grace Lin 2010 Newbery Honor Filled with Chinese folklore, a girl takes a magical journey to answer life's questions from the Old Man in the Moon. Companions ***Starry River of the Sky*** 2012 & ***When the Sea Turned to Silver*** 2016.

***The Wishing Spell*** by Chris Colfer 2012 A favorite book's mysterious power takes Alex and Conner into a fairy tale world full of magic and familiar characters, but will they make it back home? First book about the adventures these brothers have in ***The Land of Stories***.

***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio 2012 August Pullman was born with a facial deformity. No longer homeschooled, he's in 5th grade at Beecher Prep and just wants to be treated like an ordinary kid.

***Wonderstruck*** by Brian Selznick 2011 In the format of his award-winning ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret***, two stories, 50 years apart, are told simultaneously, through words and pictures.

### **Nonfiction**

***A Black Hole is Not a Hole*** by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano 2013 Find out what black holes are, what causes them, and how scientists first discovered them.

***Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote*** by Kirsten Gillibrand 2018 These are the stories of 10 women who worked to get all women the right to vote.

***Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Maker's Strike of 1909*** by Melissa Sweet 2014 True story of Clara Lemlich who led the biggest strike of women workers in U.S. history.

***DK Eyewitness Books*** various authors More than 100 Eyewitness books support non-fiction interests like dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt, chemistry, Titanic, animals, American Revolution and much more.

***Drawing from Memory*** by Allen Say 2011 In this autobiographical account of his life as an artist the Caldecott winning author and illustrator tells of his experiences and his friendship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist.

***Grand Canyon*** by Jason Chin 2018 Caldecott Honor; Sibert Honor Learn about Grand Canyon National Park - its geology, flora and fauna in this beautifully illustrated book.

***Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)*** Margot Lee Shetterly 2016. The story of four African American women mathematicians who fought discrimination within NASA and were important to some of the great successes of the U.S. space program.

***The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey*** by Louise Borden 2010 Its 1940 and the Reys flee Paris and the approaching German army. Among their possessions are the precious manuscripts with the lovable chimp we all know.

***The Man Who Walked between the Towers*** by Mordicai Gerstein 2004 Caldecott Medal Read about Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers

***Neighborhood Sharks*** by Katherine Roy 2015 Sibert Honor Visit California's Farallon islands, a wildlife refuge where scientists study the great whites living on the island's rocky coasts.

***Pink and Say*** by Patricia Polacco 1994 A civil war tale of friendship between soldiers, one white and one black. Beautiful picture book based on a story passed down by the author's family.

***The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus*** by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet 2014 Learn about the life of Peter Roget, a boy who compiled lists, became a successful doctor, and created one of the most important reference books. Wonderfully illustrated and informative.

***Scaly, Spotted Feathered Frills*** by Catherine Thimmesh 2013 Learn how a paleoartist figures out what a dinosaur must have looked like.

***Separate is Never Equal*** by Duncan Tonatiuh 2015 Belpre Honor, 2015 Sibert Honor Almost 10 years before Brown vs. the Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her family helped end segregation in California schools.

***Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White*** by Melissa Sweet 2016. This biography of the beloved children's author is an inviting, colorful collage of photos, art, letters, and examples of E. B. White's writing.

***We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*** by Kadir Nelson 2008 The story of the many heroes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do the one thing they loved more than anything else in the world – play ball.

***What Was...?*** Various authors Learn about events in history in this easy to read and fact-filled series. Topics include California Gold Rush, Pearl Harbor, Pompeii, Ellis Island and more.

***What is the Super Bowl?*** By Dina Anastasio 2015 Learn about this American event.

***What is...?/What was...?*** is a great series for all interests – sports, history, science and more.

**Lots of wonderful nonfiction is available for children. Your reader's interests are a good guide in making choices.**