

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 5th graders



Summer is the season for self-selected reading! Pick three or four (or more) titles that look interesting, curl up in your favorite summer reading spot, and settle into a great new-to-you book. Stick to a genre or series you love, branch out and try something new, or head to your local library or bookstore and find your own great summer read. And don't forget about Summer Reading Bingo. Happy reading!

ACTION ADVENTURE

Bowling, Dusti- Across the Desert, Canyon's Edge
Cody, Matthew- Powerless (series)
Eggers, Dave- The Eyes and the Impossible
Emerson, Kevin- Last Day on Mars (series)
Giles, Lamar- The Last, Last Days of Summer (series)
Gratz, Alan- Two Degrees
Nesbet, Anne- The Long Way Around
Paulsen, Gary- Northwind, Hatchet
Ponti, James- City Spies (series), The Sherlock Society
Stewart, Carl Lee- The Mysterious Benedict Society (series)
Yee, Lisa- The Misfits (series)

SCARY STUFF

Arden, Katherine- Small Spaces (series)
Baptise, Tracy- The Jumbies (series)
Beatty, Robert- Serafina and the Black Cloak (series)
Currie, Lindsay- It Found Us, Scritch Scratch
Hermon, Daka- Hide and Seeker, The Nightmare King
Krampien, Celia- The Bellwoods Game
Marshall, Kate Alice- Thirteens
Oh, Ellen- Spirit Hunters
Romasco Moore, Maria- Krazyland
Senf, Lora- The Clackity

CLASSICS

DiCamillo, Kate- Because of Winn-Dixie*, The Tale of Despereaux*
Erdrich, Louise- The Birchbark House
Juster, Norton- The Phantom Tollbooth
Konigsburg, E. L.- From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Lewis, C.S.- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Park, Linda Sue- A Single Shard*
Paulsen, Gary- Hatchet* (series)
Raskin, Ellen- The Westing Game*
Sachar, Louis- Holes*
Taylor, Mildred D.- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Alston, B.B.- Amari and the Night Brothers (series)
Auxier, Jonathan- Sweep, The Night Gardener
Calejo, Ryan- Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows (series)
Chokshi, Roshani- Aru Shah and the End of Time (series), The Spirit Glass
Clayton, Dhonielle- The Marvellers (series)
Hernandez, Carlos- Sal and Gabi Break the Universe (series)
James, Anna- The Book Wanderers (series)
Lee, Yoon Ha- Dragon Pearl (series)
Marsh, Katherine- Medusa
Mbalia, Kwame- Tristan Strong punches a hole in the sky* (series)
McMann, Lisa- The Unwanteds (series)
Soontornvat, Christina- The Last Mapmaker
Thomas, Angie- Nic Blake and the Remarkables (series)
Thomson, Pari- Greenwild (series)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Christmas, Johnny- Swim Team, Gamerville
Craft, Jerry- New Kid (series)
Holm, Jennifer- Sunny Side Up (series)
Libenson, Terri- Emmie & Friends (series)
Lloyd, Megan Wagner- Allergic, Squished
Martin, Pedro- Mexikid
Mohamed, Omar- When Stars are Scattered
Ogle, Rex- Four Eyes, Pizza Face
Scrivan, Maria- Nat Enough (series)
Soontornvat, Christina- The Tryout, The Squad
Tavares, Matt- Hoops

NON-FICTION

Day, Nicholas- The Mona Lisa Vanishes
Leonard, Dion- Finding Gobi: the true story of one little dog's big journey
Beccia, Carlyn- Monstrous: The Lore, Gore, and Science Behind Your Favorite Monsters
Nelson, Kadir- We are the Ship: the story of the Negro baseball league
Messner, Kate- History Smashers (series)
Soontornvat, Christina- All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue Of The Thai Boys' Soccer Team
Sullivan, Tom- Escape at 10,000 feet, Jailbreak at Alcatraz
Tougias, Michael- The Finest Hours: the true story of a heroic sea rescue
Various Authors- Science Comics (series), History Comics (series)
Zuckerman, Gregory- Rising Above: how 11 athletes overcame challenges in their youth to become stars

FUNNY STUFF

Anderson, John David- The greatest kid in the world
Buxbaum, Julie- The Area 51 Files
Grabenstein, Chris- Home Sweet Motel (series)
Emerson, Marcus- The Super Life of Ben Braver (series)
Higuera, Donna Barba- Lupe Wong won't dance
Ignatow, Amy- The popularity papers (series)

Kim, Jessica- Stand up, Yumi Chung!
Korman, Gordon- Ungifted; Supergifted; Slacker; The Unteachables
Lopez, George- ChupaCarter (series)
Mian, Zanib- Accidental Trouble Magnet (series)
Patterson, James- I funny: a middle school story (series), Middle School (series)
Pinchon, L.- The Brilliant World of Tom Gates

BOOKS IN VERSE

Alexander, Kwame- The Crossover, Booked, The Door of No Return
Bowling, Dusti- Canyon's Edge
Creech, Sharon- Love that Dog
Freeman, Megan E.- Alone
Holt, K. A.- Benbee and the Teacher Griever
Hood, Susan- Lifeboat 12
Kuyatt, Meg Eden- Good Different
Lai, Thanhha Lai- Inside Out & Back Again, When Clouds Touch Us
Lerner, Jarrett- A Work in Progress
Salazar, Aida- A Seed in the Sun
Woodson, Jacqueline- Brown Girl Dreaming*, Before the Ever After*
Warga, Jasmine- Other Words for Home

REALISTIC FICTION

Bow, Erin- Simon Sort of Says
Draper, Sharon- Blended; Out of My Mind (series)
Gemeinhart, Dan- The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, Coyote Lost and Found
Glaser, Karina Yan Glaser- The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street (series)
Kelly, Erin Entrada- Hello Universe*, I Dream of Space, Those Kids from Fawn Creek
Kelly, Lynne- Song for a Whale, The Secret Language of Birds
Khan, Hena- Amina's Voice, Amina's Song
Korman, Gordon- Faker, Old School
Marks, Janae- From the Desk of Zoe Washington, A Soft Place to Land
Medina, Meg- Merci Suarez (series)
Nielsen, Susin- No Fixed Address
Schmidt, Gary- The Labors of Hercules Beal
Shephard, Sara- Penny Draws (series)
Stone, Nic- Clean Getaway
Wyman, Christina- Jawbreaker
Yang, Kelly- Front Desk (series), New From Here

SPORTS

Alexander, Kwame- Becoming Muhammad Ali; The Crossover
Feinstein, John- Benchwarmers
Frietas, Donna- Gold Medal Summer
Fullerton, Alma- Flipping Forward, Twisting Backward
Green, Time- Final Season
Gutman, Dan- Jackie and Me (series)
Jeter, Derek- The Contract
Kapit, Sarah- Get a Grip, Vivvy Cohen

Klage, Ellen- Out of Left Field
Lupica, Mike- Travel Team, Heat; Fantasy League; The Underdogs
Reynolds, Jason- Ghost (series)
Scieszka, Jon- The Sports Pages
Smith, Matthew Ross- The million dollar race
Wallace, Matt- Bump
Woodson, Jacqueline- Before the Ever After

HISTORICAL FICTION

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker- The War that Saved My Life*; The War I Finally Won
Dumas, Firoozeh- It ain't so awful, falafel
Gidwitz, Adam- Max in the House of Spies
Gratz, Alan- Refugee; Grenade; Allies; Ground Zero: Heroes
Luqman-Dawson, Amina- Freewater
Murdock, Catherine Gilbert- The Book of Boy
Nayeri, Daniel- The Many Assassinations of Samir the Seller of Dreams
Park, Linda Sue- Prairie Lotus
Parsons, Karyn- How High the Moon
Ryan, Pam Munoz- Esperanza Rising, Echo
Shepherd, Megan- Dog Star
Williams-Garcia, Rita- One Crazy Summer

MYSTERY

Bowling, Dusti- Insignificant Events in the life of a Cactus
Gibbs, Stuart- Spy School (series), FunJungle (series), Charlie Thorne (series)
Grabenstein, Chris- Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library (series)
Johnson, Varian- The Parker Inheritance
Korman, Gordon- Masterminds (series)
Lincoln, Beth- The Swifts
Magoon, Kekla- Chester Keene Cracks the Code
Milford, Kate- Greenglass House
Souders, Taryn- Coop Knows the Scoop
Thompson, John- The girl from Felony Bay
Turnage, Sheila- Three Times Lucky*
White, Kiersten- Sinister Summer (series)

OTHER SOURCES FOR GREAT BOOKS

Brightly- <https://www.readbrightly.com/>
Common Sense Media- <https://www.common Sense media.org/book-lists>
Reading Middle Grade- <https://readingmiddlegrade.com/>
Rick Riordan Presents- <https://www.readriordan.com/series/rick-riordan-presents/>
VA Reads Middle Grade book lists- <https://www.vareads.com/>
Virginia Reader's Choice book lists- <https://vslatoday.org/vrc-2024-2025>
We Need Diverse Books- <https://diversebooks.org/resources-old/where-to-find-diverse-books/>
Bbgb bookstore- <https://www.bbgbbbooks.com/>; their staff is very knowledgeable!

And don't forget your local library- librarians have read everything and **love** to give suggestions!