

## 2009 Fifth and Sixth Grade Summer Reading List

Appelt, Kathi. The underneath. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2008.

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Applegate, Katherine. Home of the brave. 1st ed. New York : Feiwel And Friends, 2007.

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth-grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. The boy who dared. 1st ed. New York : Scholastic Press, 2008.

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Buzbee, Lewis, 1957-. Steinbeck's ghost. 1st ed. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2008.

Unhappy after his parents move to a weird subdivision and become workaholics, thirteen-year-old Travis returns to his old Salinas neighborhood and becomes actively involved in saving the John Steinbeck Library and, at the same time, begins seeing characters from Steinbeck's books who seem to have a message for him.

Colfer, Eoin. Airman. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, c2008.

In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

Coy, John, 1958-. Top of the order. 1st ed. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2009.

Ten-year-old Jackson lives for baseball, but becomes distracted by the approach of middle school, his mother's latest boyfriend, and the presence of a girl--his good friend's sister--on his team.

Day, Karen. No cream puffs. New York : Wendy Lamb Books, c2008.

In 1980, when twelve-year-old Madison, who loves to play baseball, decides to play in her town's baseball league, she never envisions the uproar it causes when she becomes the first girl to join.

Erdrich, Louise. The porcupine year. 1st ed. New York : Harper Collins, c2008.

Twelve-year-old Omakayas, an Ojibwe girl, draws strength from the land and spirits as she and her family endure numerous hardships in their search for a new home in northern Minnesota in 1852.

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- Ferber, Brenda A. Jemma Hartman, camper extraordinaire. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.  
Spending the summer after fifth grade at Camp Star Lake in Wisconsin, Jemma discovers the joy of sailing and learns a lesson about friendship.
- Gaiman, Neil. The graveyard book. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2008.  
The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.
- Grant, K. M. Blood red horse. 1st pbk. ed. New York : Walker ;, 2006, c2004.  
A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusades.
- Grant, K. M. Blaze of silver. Pbk. ed. New York : Walker, 2008, c2007.  
Using principles of their shared Muslim faith to persuade him, an agent of the Old Man of the Mountain convinces Kamil to lead Will and Ellie into a trap, but Kamil repents and seeks a way to save his friends and redeem himself.
- Grant, K. M. Green jasper. Pbk. ed. New York : Walker ;, 2007, c2006.  
Having returned to a politically unstable England after the Crusades, brothers Will and Gavin--with the help of the red horse Hosanna--attempt to rescue their friend Ellie who is being held prisoner by an enemy of King Richard I.
- Hannigan, Katherine. Ida B-- : and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world. 1st ed. New York : Greenwillow Books, c2004.  
In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
- Hiaasen, Carl. Scat. 1st ed. New York : Knopf, c2009.  
Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.
- Horvath, Polly. My one hundred adventures. 1st ed. New York : Schwartz & Wade Books, c2008.  
Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on Bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.

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- Jackson, Ellen B. The mysterious universe : supernovae, dark energy, and black holes. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2008.  
Contains an illustrated discussion of space phenomena such as supernovae, black holes, and dark energy, which scientists such as Dr. Alex Filippenko and his High-Z Supernova Search Team believe is pushing the universe apart at an accelerating rate.
- Kelly, Jacqueline. The evolution of Calpurnia Tate. 1st ed. New York : Henry Holt and Co., 2009.  
In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather.
- Law, Ingrid. Savvy. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers ;, c2008.  
Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose 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.
- Mebus, Scott. Gods of Manhattan. 1st ed. New York : Dutton Children's Books, c2008.  
Thirteen-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world that thrives alongside his contemporary New York City, filled with fantastical creatures and people from the city's colorful past who have become gods and goddesses and who have chosen Rory to perform a dangerous mission.
- Medina, Meg. Milagros : girl from away. 1st ed. New York : Holt, 2008.  
Twelve-year-old Milagros barely survives an invasion of her tiny, Caribbean island home, escapes with the help of mysterious sea creatures, reunites briefly with her pirate-father, and learns about a mother's love when cast ashore on another island.
- Mosley, Walter. 47. 1st ed. New York : Little, Brown, 2005.  
Number 47, a fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom.
- Murphy, Pat. The wild girls. New York : Viking, 2007.  
Twelve-year-old Joan, worried that she will not have any friends when her family moves from Connecticut to California, bonds right away with Sarah, a girl who prefers to be called Fox, and the two spend a joyous summer playing outside, making up stories, and attending a writing class.
- O'Connor, Barbara. How to steal a dog : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.  
Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her

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younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer.

Paterson, Katherine. Bread and roses, too. New York : Clarion Books, c2006.

Twelve-year-old Rosa and thirteen-year-old Jake form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Pinkwater, Daniel Manus. The Neddias : how Neddie took the train, went to Hollywood, and saved civilization. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

When shoelace heir Neddie Wentworthstein and his family take the train from Chicago to Los Angeles in the 1940s, he winds up in possession of a valuable Indian turtle artifact whose owner is supposed to be able to prevent the impending destruction of the world, but he is not sure exactly how.

Preller, James. Six innings : a game in the life. New York : Feiwel and Friends, c2008.

Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game.

Reisman, Michael. Simon Bloom, the gravity keeper. 1st ed. New York : Dutton Children's Books, c2008.

Sixth-grader Simon Bloom finds a book that enables him to control the laws of physics; but when two thugs come after him, he needs the formulas in the book to save himself.

Riordan, Rick. The Last Olympian. Large print ed. Waterville, Me : Thorndike Press, 2009.

The long-awaited prophecy surrounding Percy Jackson's sixteenth birthday unfolds as he leads an army of young demigods to stop Kronos in his advance on New York City, while the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster, Typhon.

Sanderson, Brandon. Alcatraz versus the evil Librarians. New York : Scholastic Press, c2007.

On his thirteenth birthday, foster child Alcatraz Smedry receives a bag of sand which is immediately stolen by the evil Librarians who are trying to take over the world, and Alcatraz is introduced to his grandfather and his own special talent, and told that he must use it to save civilization.

Speare, Elizabeth George. The witch of Blackbird Pond. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, c1958.

In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.

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Stone, Phoebe. Deep down popular : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008.

In a small, Virginia town, sixth-grader Jessie Lou Ferguson has a crush on the hugely popular Conrad Parker Smith, and when he suddenly develops a medical problem and the teacher asks Jessie Lou to help him, they become friends, to her surprise.

Tan, Shaun. The arrival. 1st ed. New York : A. A. Levine, 2007, c2006.

In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family.

Taylor, Laini. Blackbringer. New York : Putnams, c2007.

Magpie Windwitch, granddaughter of the West Wind, is the only faerie determined to stand up against ancient evil of the Blackbringer, who rises up to unmake the world.

Wedekind, Annie. A Horse of Her Own. 1st ed. New York : Feiwel and Friends, 2008.

At summer camp Jane feels like an outsider among the cliquish rich girls who board their horses at Sunny Acres farm, and when the horse she has been riding is sold to another camper, she feels even worse until her teacher asks her to help train a beautiful but skittish new horse, and the experience brings out the best in her.

Whelan, Gloria. Listening for lions. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2005.

Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1918, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

Wilhelm, Doug. The revealers. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

Tired of being bullied and picked on, three seventh-grade outcasts join forces and, using scientific methods and the power of the Internet, begin to create a new atmosphere at Parkland Middle School.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Feathers. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2007.

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

Yep, Laurence. The dragon's child : a story of Angel Island. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2008.

Ten-year-old Gim Lew Yep immigrates from China to America with his father, whom Gim barely knows, and fears he will be a disappointment to his family when he arrives at Angel Island.