

Summer Reading Assignments 5th Grade

Read **two** books from the appropriate grade level book list, as well as **one** freely-chosen book which does not have to be on the list. Complete one of these assignments for each book you read. Remember to include your name and grade on all assignments. Use any of the following assignments only once.

1. Design a book jacket. Remember to include title and author. See book jackets at your library for ideas.
2. Write a radio or television commercial advertising the book you've read. This should be short—remember, commercial spots are usually thirty seconds or less.
3. Create a collage showing scenes, characters or ideas from the book.
4. Write a book review. Write no more than two paragraphs about the story or content of the book, and one paragraph about what you liked best—or least—about the book.

Interested in other books to read over the summer?

Help finding extra books to read, as well as more summer reading activities, may be found at your local public library. For information and book lists, see <http://www.njsummerreading.org>.

5th Grade

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Book of Three*.

Taran, assistant pig-keeper, determines to save the kingdom of Prydain from evil.

Anderson, M. T. *The Game of Sunken Places*.

When two boys stay with an eccentric relative at his mansion in rural Vermont, they discover an old-fashioned board game that draws them into a mysterious adventure.

Avi. *Poppy*.

Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

Black, Holly and DiTerlizzi, Tony. *The Field Guide*.

When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. First book of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*.

Catling, Patrick Skene. *The Chocolate Touch*.

A boy acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander*.

When Gregor's two-year-old sister, Boots, tumbles down an air duct in the laundry room of their apartment building, he leaps after her. The two wind up in Underland, a place inhabited by humans who have not been "Overland" in centuries, as well as giant-sized rats, bats and cockroaches.

Creech, Sharon. *Love That Dog*.

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, and an appearance at his school by Walter Dean Myers, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963*.

A 10-year-old boy tells the comic tale of his family's trip south to visit Grandma in Alabama in 1963.

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda*.

Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux*.

Despereaux Tilling has been different from all the other mice from the moment he was born. The large-eared rodent enjoys reading fairy tales and falls in love with a real live princess. When the other mice banish him to the dungeon, not only is he in danger, but so is his beloved princess.

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*.

A boy runs away from home and spends a year living in a tree in the Catskill Mountains with a young peregrine falcon, depending on his knowledge of the natural world and on nature itself to survive.

Gilbreth, Frank B., Jr, and Carey, Ernestine Gilbreth. *Cheaper by the Dozen*.

The true story of twelve children raised by industrial efficiency experts—that means they do things *fast*. As in assembly-line tonsillectomies.

Goodall, Jane. *My Life with the Chimpanzees*.

Jane Goodall describes her adventures with the chimps and the discoveries she made about them.

Lindquist, Susan Hart. *Summer Soldiers*.

After his father goes off to war during the summer of 1918, eleven-year-old Joe, along with his friends, contends with the town bullies and tries to figure out the meaning of courage.

Klise, Kate. *Regarding the Fountain*.

When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results.

Krull, Kathleen. *The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss*.

Introduces the life of renowned children's author and illustrator Ted Geisel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss, focusing on his childhood and youth in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Robinson, Barbara. *The Best School Year Ever*.

The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

Sachar, Louis. *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*.

Hilarious stories from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Secret Identity*.

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity—Shredderman! First book in series.