

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising 5th Graders The Mellon Library, 2014

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Bell, Juliet. *Kepler's Dream*. (c2013)

While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library.

Boyne, John. *Stay Where You Are & Then Leave*. (c2013)

The day the First World War broke out, Alfie Summerfield's father promised he wouldn't go away to fight - but he broke that promise the following day. Four years later, Alfie doesn't know where his father might be, although he begins to suspect that his father is close by - in a hospital treating soldiers with an unusual condition.

De Lint, Charles. *The Cats of Tanglewood Forest*. (c2013)

Twelve-year-old Lillian, an orphan who loves roaming the woods looking for fairies when her chores are done, is bitten by a deadly snake and saved through the magical forest creatures.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora & Ulysses : the Illuminated Adventures*. (c2013)

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw it coming - the vacuum cleaner, that is. As for self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, she has read every issue of the comic book 'Terrible Things Can Happen to You!' so she is just the right person to step in and save him.

Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. (c2013)

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *The Great Trouble : a Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel*. (c2013) Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854.

Jinks, Catherine. *How to Catch a Bogle*. (c2013)

In 1870s London, a young orphan girl becomes the apprentice to a man who traps monsters for a living.

Macdonald, Maryann. *Odette's Secrets*. (c2013)

When Odette's father becomes a Nazi prisoner-of-war and the Paris police begin arresting Jews, her mother sends Odette to hide in the French countryside where she must keep many secrets to survive.

Marino, Nan. *Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace*. (c2013)

When musical prodigy Elvis Ruby completely freezes up on television, he is forced to hide out in the Pinelands of New Jersey before trying to find his way back into the music industry.

Morpurgo, Michael. *A Medal for Leroy*. (c2013)

Michael doesn't remember his father, a RAF pilot lost in the war. His French mother, heartbroken and passionate, doesn't like to talk about her husband - but then Auntie Snowdrop gives Michael a medal, followed by a photograph, which begin to reveal a hidden history, a story that will change everything - and reveal to Michael who he really is.

Shurtliff, Liesl. *Rump : The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin*. (c2013)

Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.

Thomas, Shelley Moore. *The Seven Tales of Trinket*. (c2012)

Guided by a tattered map, accompanied by Thomas the Pig Boy, and inspired by the storyteller's blood that thrums through her veins, eleven-year-old Trinket searches for the seven stories she needs to become a bard like her father, who disappeared years before.

OLD FAVORITES

Avi. *Poppy*. (c1995) *also a series

Poppy, a 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.

Banks, Lynne Reid. *The Indian in the Cupboard*. (c1980) *also a series

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. (c1983) *has a sequel

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Farmer, Nancy. *The Warm Place*. (c1996)

When Ruva, a young giraffe, is captured and sent to a zoo in San Francisco, she calls upon two rats, a street-smart chameleon, a runaway boy, and all the magical powers of the animal world to return to "the warm place" that is home.

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*. (c1959) *also a series

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Kerr, Judith. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. (c1971) *also a series

Recounts the adventures of a nine-year-old Jewish girl and her family in the early 1930s as they travel from Germany to England.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. (c1962) *also a series

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. (c1971) *also a series

With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer's tractor, too ill to be moved.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Silverwing*. (c1997) *also a series

When a newborn bat named Shade (but sometimes called "Runt") becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Adaline Falling Star*. (c2000)

Feeling abandoned by her deceased Arapaho mother and her explorer father, Adaline Falling Star runs away from the prejudiced cousins with whom she is staying and comes close to death in the wilderness, with only a mongrel dog for company.

Sachar, Louis. *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*. (c1985) *also a series

Thirty different stories describe the strange things that happen at Wayside School, an architectural accident that was built sideways, thirty stories with one classroom on each floor.

Vande Velde, Vivian. *Three Good Deeds*. (c2005)

Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed for his heartlessness and turned into a goose himself, and he can only become human again by performing three good deeds.

SERIES FICTION (or sequels or trilogies)

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks : a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.* While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy - much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Buckley, Michael. *NERDS: National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society.* While running a spy network from their elementary school, five unpopular misfits combine their talents and use cutting-edge gadgetry to fight evil around the world.

Buckley, Michael. *The Fairy-tale Detectives.* Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember.* In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

Frazier, Angie. *The Midnight Tunnel : a Suzanna Snow Mystery.* In 1905, Suzanna is in training to be a well-mannered hostess at a New Brunswick hotel, but her dream of being a detective gets a boost when a seven-year-old guest goes missing and Suzanna's uncle, a famous detective, comes to solve the case.

Freedman, Dan. *The Kick Off.* Jamie is desperate to become Highwood School's star football player (and in his dreams, Hawkstone United's too). But after he wrecks his chances at the trials, the pressure is on to prove himself.

Gidwitz, Adam. *A Tale Dark and Grimm.* Warlocks with dark spells, hunters with deadly aim, and bakers with ovens retrofitted for cooking children lurk within these pages. But if you dare, turn the page and learn the true story of Hansel and Gretel - the story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses and outwitted witches.

Gutman, Dan. *Mission Unstoppable.* On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.

Malone, Marianne. *The Sixty-eight Rooms.* An adventure about the Thorne Rooms, sixty-eight miniature rooms made by Mrs. James Ward Thorne in the 1930s, and a magic key that allows a person to shrink down small enough to explore the rooms' secrets.

Pastis, Stephan. *Timmy Failure : Mistakes Were Made.* Meet Timmy Failure, founder of the 'best' detective agency in town - Total Failure, Inc. Timmy may only be 11, but with the help of his polar bear, Total, he already has plans for world domination. Plans that will make his mother rich and unpaid bills a thing of the past- and plans that will defeat Corrina Corrina, 'The One Whose Name Shall Not Be Uttered'.

Paver, Michelle. *Wolf brother.* Torak is alone, wounded, terrified and on the run. His only ally is an orphaned wolf cub and his only chance of survival is his skill as a hunter. Soon he must face a foe that stalks him through the ancient darkness of the Forest and one that he can neither outrun nor outwit.

NONFICTION SUGGESTIONS

Butterfield, Moira. *London: A Time Traveller's Guide*. (Franklin Watts, 2013)

Ancient treasures, long-forgotten buildings and even skeletons of long-gone Londoners lie hidden beneath the bustling crowds and the brand new skyscrapers of today. This book will take you on a trip through London's amazing story.

Claybourne, Anna. *100 Most Deadly Things on the Planet*. (A & C Black, 2013)

Arranged by categories, explore the most deadly things on the planet, including plants, animals and fatal foods.

Greenberg, Jan. *The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius*. (Roaring Brook Press, 2013)

Looks at the life of potter George E. Ohr, known for his unique designs, and whose work did not become widely successful until after his death.

Hughes, Susan. *My School, Our World: Incredible and Unusual Schools Around the World*.

(Franklin Watts, 2013) Explores how children around the world are finding ways of getting an education, despite the most unusual circumstances.

Kurlansky, Mark. *The Story of Salt*. (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006)

Illustrations, sidebars, and maps tell the story of the history of salt, how it shaped ancient civilizations, and its influence on the world today.

Liu, Na. *Little White Duck: A Childhood in China*. (Graphic Universe, 2012)

In graphic novel format, a young girl describes her experiences growing up in China, beginning with the death of Chairman Mao in 1976.

MacDonald, Alan. *Henry VIII and his Chopping Block*. (London: Scholastic, 1999)

You've probably heard of Henry VIII. He is dead famous for having a bit of a weight problem, marrying six unlucky wives and getting very carried away with his chopping block. But have you heard that Henry was a handsome hunk and sports star, accused his second wife of witchcraft and bricked up his bedroom door at night?

Menzel, Peter. *What the World Eats*. (Tricycle Press, 2008)

A collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, including Chad, Equador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and the food they eat in a week.

Mizielńska, Aleksandra. *Maps*. (Big Picture, 2013)

This book of maps is a visual feast for readers of all ages, with lavishly drawn illustrations from the incomparable Mizielinskis.

Poskitt, Kjartan. *Isaac Newton and his Apple*. (Hippo Books/Scholastic, 1999)

You've probably heard of Isaac Newton. He is dead famous for discovering gravity, being a right clever man and getting hit on the head with an apple. But have you heard that Isaac came bottom of the class at school, poked sticks in his eye and nearly blinded himself and nearly got himself executed?

Rumford, James. *Seeker of Knowledge: the Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs*.

(Houghton Mifflin, 2000) Tells the life story of Jean-François Champollion, the early-nineteenth-century French Egyptologist who translated Egyptian hieroglyphs, and includes an introduction to the ancient written language.

Rumford, James. *Traveling Man: the Journey of Ibn Battuta, 1325-1354*. (Houghton Mifflin, 2001)

A pictorial account of the traveller and pilgrim Ibn Battuta in the fourteenth century, following him from Morocco to Jerusalem to Mecca and to the edges of the known world.

CLASSICS

Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. (First published 1900)

The adventures of a young girl from Kansas, her dog, and her friends – the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Woodsman, and the Scarecrow—in the magical land of Oz.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*. (First published 1911)

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. (First published 1865)

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

Farley, Walter. *The Black Stallion*. (First published 1941)

Pulled to a desert island by a wild black stallion he has freed during a shipwreck at sea, then rescued by a southbound freighter, a seventeen-year-old boy befriends the horse, trains him by night, and rides him to victory in a match race.

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*. (First published 1943)

After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. (First published 1950)

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the Golden Lion, in battling the White Witch who has cursed the land with an eternal winter.

Lindgren, Astrid. *Pippi Longstocking*. (First published 1945)

Follow the escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey-but without any parents- at the edge of a Swedish village.

Lofting, Hugh. *The Story of Doctor Dolittle*. (First published 1920)

The adventures of a kind-hearted doctor, who is fond of animals and understands their language, as he travels to Africa with some of his favourite pets to cure the monkeys of a terrible sickness.

Nesbit, Edith. *The Railway Children*. (First published 1906)

When their father is sent away to prison, three London children move to the country where they keep busy preventing accidents on the nearby railway, making many new friends, and learning a good deal about themselves.

Sperry, Armstrong. *Call it Courage*. (First published 1940)

Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.

Spry, Johanna. *Heidi*. (First published 1880)

A Swiss orphan is heartbroken when she must leave her beloved grandfather and their happy home in the mountains to go to school and to care for an invalid girl in the city.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House on the Prairie*. (First published 1935)

A family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie where they build a house, meet neighboring Indians, dig a well and fight a prairie fire.