

## Fifth Grade Summer Reading Booklist

**List A: Required Readings: Choose at least one. (Book summaries are paraphrased from the back of each book).**

*Level 1:*

**How to Eat Fried Worms** by Thomas Rockwell

Because of a bet, Billy is in the uncomfortable position of having to eat fifteen worms in fifteen days. A hilarious story that will revolt and delight bumptious, unreachable intermediate-grade boys and any other less particular mortals that read or listen to it....

*Level 2:*

**Coyote Autumn** by Bill Wallace

Brad has always wanted a dog, so when he catches the little coyote, he decides to keep it. He couldn't have a dog when his family lived in a Chicago apartment, but now that they've moved to rural Oklahoma anything seems possible. Even rescuing an orphaned coyote pup...and keeping it a secret from his parents. With his friend Nolan's help, Brad is determined to tame Scooter, train him, play with him, and hide him in an old dog pen behind the barn. It almost works...

*Level 3:*

**Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight – and also big trouble. It turns out the dog, which Marty names Shiloh, belongs to Judd Travers, who drinks too much and has a gun – and abuses his dogs. So when Shiloh runs away from Judd to Marty, Marty just has to hide him and protect him from Judd. But Marty's secret become too big for him to keep to himself, and it exposes his entire family to Judd's anger. How far will Marty have to go to make Shiloh his?

## List B: Student Choice:

Choose a book from the following list to read in addition to the List A book.

### Level 1:

**Stuart Little** by E.B. White.

Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure.

**Amber Brown is Not a Crayon** by Paula Danziger

Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They sit next to each other in school, help each other with fractions and spelling, and always stick up for one another. But when Justin finds out that he is moving away, everything begins to change.

**Freckle Juice** by Judy Blume

More than anything in the world, Andrew wants freckles. His classmate Nicky has freckles -- they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. (Once sitting behind him in class, Andrew counted eighty-six of them, and that was just a start!

**Ramona the Brave** by Beverly Cleary

Teenagers think they've got it rough. Try being a misunderstood 6-year-old! Ramona Quimby is bound and determined to be brave as she weathers first grade, her mom's return to work, and sleeping in the spooky dark all alone. But nothing seems to go her way this year. From a fierce dog on the sidewalk to a copycat in her classroom, Ramona has her hands full.

**Charlie's Raven** by Jean Craighead George

Charlie's beloved grandfather is ill, and Charlie will do anything to save him. He brings home Blue Sky, a lively baby raven, because his Native American friends claim the intelligent birds have powerful medicine. Grandfather, a naturalist, is intrigued, and urges Charlie to keep a nature journal about Blue Sky. But caring for--and protecting--a wild creature is a huge responsibility. Charlie's observations teach him wondrous things about ravens--and some surprising lessons about humans.

**A Mouse Called Wolf** by Dick King-Smith

Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse ("Wolf," for short) has a big name for such a little mouse. But the name fits. His favorite pastime is listening to Mrs. Honeybee, the lady of the house, play the piano. If only he could sing along to the music! One day, Wolf decides to try -- and to his surprise, out of his mouth comes a perfect melody.

**How Many Days to America?** by Eve Bunting

After the police come, a family is forced to flee their Caribbean island and set sail for America in a small fishing boat.

Level 2:

***Pleasant the Ghost*** by Sharon Creech.

The ghost of his uncle visits nine-year-old Dennis, whose uncle and father died within a year of one another, and together they settle some unfinished business.

***Sideways Stories from Wayside School*** by Louise Sacher.

Wayside School is supposed to be built with thirty classrooms all next to each other in a row. Instead, the classrooms were stacked one on top of the other....thirty stories tall! That's probably the reason all kinds of wacky things happen at Wayside School...especially on the thirtieth floor.

***The Whipping Boy*** by Sid Fleischman.

The plot involves the orphan Jemmy, who must take the whippings for the royal heir, Prince Brat. Jemmy plans to flee this arrangement until Prince Brat beats him to it, and takes Jemmy along. Jemmy then hears he's charged with the Prince's abduction as this Newbery Medal winning book turns toward a surprising close.

***The School Story*** by Andrew Clements.

Natalie's best friend, Zoe, is sure that novel Natalie's written is good enough to be published. But how can a twelve-year-old girl publish a book? Natalie's mother is an editor for a big children's publisher, but Natalie doesn't want to ask for any favor.

***Little House in the Big Woods***, by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The first two stories about Laura Ingalls and her family. The Ingalls family travels by covered wagon across the Midwest in the 1870's first settling in Wisconsin then moving to Kansas.

***Journey*** by Patricia MacLachlan.

Journey is eleven the summer his mother leaves him and his sister, Cat, with their grandparents. He is sad and angry, and spends the summer looking for the clues that will explain why she left.

***The Kid in the Red Jacket*** by Barbara Park.

I can't believe it! How can my parents move me clear across the country, away from all my friends, and expect me to act like it's some big adventure? Especially when the new house is on a street called Chester Pewe. Still, I could handle it if it weren't for Molly Vera Thompson. As the new kid in town, I can't afford to be seen hanging around with a six-year old, even if she is my next-door neighbor. Of course, when you're lonely, you'll be friends with anyone...almost.

Level 3:

***Shiloh Season*** by Ohyllis Reynolds Naylor. (Part 2 of the Shiloh trilogy)

Marty Preston's troubles should be over. He's spent two weeks doing the hardest, meanest jobs Judd Travers could think of so he can call Judd's abused beagle, Shiloh, his own. And he's working for Doc Murphy to pay the bill for fixing up Shiloh after a German shepherd attacked him. But with hunting season approaching, Judd has started drinking again, and Judd Travers and a gun are a dangerous combination.

***Tuck Everlasting*** by Natalie Babbitt.

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

***Beetles Lightly Toasted*** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

Andy's entering the fifth-grade essay contest stirs his imagination to creative heights as he competes with his know-it-all cousin by making recipes with some unusual food sources and testing them on unaware friends and family.

***The Landry News: A Brand New School Story*** by Andrew Clements.

A fifth-grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.

***Baby*** by Patricia MacLachlan.

Twelve-year-old Larkin returns home one day to discover a baby sitting in a basket in the driveway of her family's house. The only clue to the baby's appearance is a note from the child's mother. "This is Sophie," the note reads. "She is almost a year old and she is good...I will come back for her one day. I love her."

***The Trumpet of the Swan*** by E.B. White.

Louise is scared when his father tells him that he's different from other swans. He doesn't want to be different. Even though he can't talk, Louis knows he could learn to read and write, if only he could go to school.

***Dogsong*** by Gary Paulsen.

Inspired by the Eskimo shaman Oogruk, Russel Suskitt takes a god team and sled to escape the modern ways of his village and find his own "song" of himself. He travels across ice floes, tundra, and mountains, haunted along the way by a dream of a long-ago self whose adventures parallel his own. Reality melds with the dream when, to save himself and a pregnant Eskimo girl he has rescued, he must kill a polar bear in the ancient way learned in a dream.