

# Suggested Summer Reading Titles for Rising 5th graders



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 you know and love, branch out and try something completely 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  
Cody, Matthew- Powerless (series)  
Emerson, Kevin- Last Day on Mars (series)  
Farook, Nizrana- The Girl Who Stole an Elephant  
Giles, Lamar- The Last, Last Days of Summer (series)  
Grabenstein, Chris- The Smartest Kid in the Universe (series)  
Gutman, Dan- The Flashback Four (series)  
Jagger, T.P.- Hide and Geek  
Paulsen, Gary- Northwind, Hatchet  
Ponti, James- City Spies (series)  
Stewart, Carl Lee- The Secret Keepers  
Yee, Lisa- The Misfits #1: A Royal Conundrum

## **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  
Hermon, Daka- Hide and Seeker, The Nightmare King  
Marshall, Kate Alice- Thirteens  
Meloy, Colin- When the Stars Wander Darkly  
Oh, Ellen- Spirit Hunters  
Romasco Moore, Maria- Krazyland  
Scieszka, Jon- Terrifying Tales  
Senf, Lora- The Clackity  
Young, Suzanne- What Stays Buried

## **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)  
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)  
Mbalia, Kwame- Tristan Strong punches a hole in the sky\* (series)  
McMann, Lisa- The Unwanteds (series)  
Messenger, Shannon- Keeper of Lost Cities (series)  
Meriano, Anna- A Dash of Trouble (series)  
Soontornvat, Christina- The Last Mapmaker  
Sutton, Karah- A Wolf for a Spell  
Thomas, Angie- Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy

## **GRAPHIC NOVELS**

Bell, Cece- El Deafo\*  
Craft, Jerry- New Kid (series)  
Holm, Jennifer- Sunny Side Up (series)  
LaMotte, Lily- Measuring Up  
Layne, Aliza- Beetle & the Hollowbones  
Libenson, Terri- Invisible Emmie (series)  
Lloyd, Megan Wagner- Allergic, Squished  
Mohamed, Omar- When Stars are Scattered  
Ortega, Claribel- Frizzy  
Reynolds, Jason- Stuntboy (series)  
Siegel, Mark- 5 Worlds (series)  
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  
Lin, Grace- Chinese Menu  
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  
Scieszka, Jon- True Stories  
Stewart, Amy- Wicked bugs: the meanest, deadliest, grossest bugs on Earth  
Sullivan, Tom- Escape at 10,000 feet  
Tougas, Michael- The Finest Hours: the true story of a heroic sea rescue  
Various Authors- Science 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  
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  
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  
Khan, Hena- Amina's Voice, Amina's Song  
Marks, Janae- From the Desk of Zoe Washington, A Soft Place to Land  
Medina, Meg- Merci Suarez Changes Gears\*, Merci Suarez Can't Dance  
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)

### **SPORTS**

Alexander, Kwame- Becoming Muhammad Ali; The Crossover  
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, Vivy 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  
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)  
Eulberg, Elizabeth- The great Shelby Holmes (series)  
Johnson, Varian- The Parker Inheritance  
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.commonensemedia.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/>  
Bbgbb bookstore-<https://www.bbgbbbooks.com/>; their staff is very knowledgeable!  
Your local library- librarians have read everything and **love** to give suggestions!