

**SUMMER READING LIST 2021**  
**GRADE 5**

*Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.*

- Applegate, Katherine. ***Wishtree***. Feiwel and Friends, 2017. Red, the neighborhood “wishtree,” and her crow friend, Bongo, comfort an immigrant family who is threatened by others.
- Barnes, Derrick. ***Who Got Game?: Baseball: Amazing But True Stories!*** Workman Publishing, 2020. Chapters will cover pivotal players such as Rube Foster, Hank Greenberg, Lizzie Murphy, Sadaharu Oh, and many others as well as a variety of sensational stories, radical records, and colossal comebacks.
- Barr, Jennifer R. ***Goodbye, Mr. Spalding***. Calkins Creek, 2019. In 1930’s Philadelphia, best friends, and loyal Philadelphia Athletics fans, Jimmy Frank and Lola try to keep the owners of Shibe Park from building the “Spite Wall” to preserve the neighborhood’s view of the baseball stadium from their rooftops, but their schemes go awry and their friendship is put to the test.
- Behar, Ruth. ***Lucky Broken Girl***. Nancy Paulsen, 2017. It’s 1960 and Ruthie, a recent Cuban immigrant, is finally showing confidence in her English and hopscotch abilities when a horrific car accident shrinks her world, causing her to rely on her inner strength, the love of family and neighbors, and a new love of art.
- Bell, Cece. ***El Deafo***. Amulet Books, 2014. This empowering graphic novel memoir of the author/illustrator’s childhood struggle with being accepted and finding friends with her severe deafness received a 2015 Newbery Honor. *Graphic novel*
- Brown, Peter. ***The Wild Robot***. Little, Brown, 2016. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try and learn about her new environment from the island’s hostile inhabitants. *Series*
- Calejo, Ryan. ***Charlie Hernández & the League of Shadows***. Aladdin, 2018. The chase is on after Charlie Hernández wakes up mysteriously sporting horns and feathers which leads him to reexamine his *abuela’s* “tall tales” of Latin American ghouls and monsters in order to solve an ancient mystery that might be at the heart of his parents’ disappearance. *Series*
- Chanani, Nidhi. ***Pashmina***. First Second, 2017. Eager to learn more about her cultural identity and family history, teenaged Priyanka, a budding cartoon artist, is transported to India after finding a magical scarf. *Graphic novel*
- Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Finding Langston***. Holiday House, 2018. Discovering a book of Langston Hughes’ poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

- Cowell, Cressida. ***The Wizards of Once***. Little, Brown, 2017. Young wizard prince Xar, who has no magic, and warrior princess Wish, an outcast, team up on an adventure that brings them to witches long believed to be extinct. *Series*
- Craft, Jerry. ***New Kid***. Harper, 2019. In this Newbery Medal winner, Jordan Banks navigates his way through seventh grade as a new African American student at a prestigious, non-diverse school, making friends along the way. *Graphic novel*
- DeKeyser, Stacy. ***The Rhino in Right Field***. McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Nick wants to win the 1948 Batboy Contest for the local Milwaukee minor league team, but the contest is on Saturday when he works in his father's shop, and he's lost confidence in his fielding ability ever since he had to retrieve his missed ball that went into Tank's (the 2,000-pound rhino) pen—what is Nick going to do to save face and uphold his responsibilities?
- DiCamillo, Kate. ***Beverly, Right Here***. Candlewick, 2019. Resolved to leave her home for good, a young runaway finds a job and a place to live before forming connections that alter her perspectives about life and herself.
- Draper, Sharon. ***Blended***. Atheneum, 2018. Eleven-year-old piano-prodigy Isabella, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.
- Fletcher, Susan. ***Journey of the Pale Bear***. McElderry Books, 2018. Twelve-year-old Arthur forms a bond with a polar bear given by King Haakon IV of Norway to King Henry III of England in 1252 while traveling as her handler.
- Gemeinhart, Dan. ***The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise***. Holt, 2019. Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.
- Hale, Nathan. ***Blades of Freedom***. Amulet Books, 2020. This 10<sup>th</sup> installment from the Hazardous Tales series tells the story of the Haitian Revolution and the Louisiana Purchase. *Graphic novel series*.
- Harrell, Rob. ***Wink***. Dial Books, 2020. After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can push him through treatment and survive middle school.
- Hiranandani, Veera. ***The Night Diary***. Dial Books, 2018. Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

- Holm, Jennifer L. ***The Lion of Mars***. Random House, 2021. A smart and curious boy named Bell is living on Mars with a small group of kids and adults, and when the adults start getting sick mysteriously, it is up to the kids to figure out how to help.
- Hood, Susan. ***Lifeboat 12***. Simon & Schuster, 2018. In 1940, a group of British children escaping the bombing of London, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed by the Germans. This novel in verse includes historical notes.
- Janowitz, Jessie. ***The Doughnut Fix***. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018. When his family moves to tiny Petersville, eleven-year-old Tris stops focusing on his perfect sister, Jeanine, by using his cooking expertise to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts. *Series*
- Johnson, Varian. ***Twins***. Graphix, 2020. Best friends and twin sisters Maureen and Francine are starting 6<sup>th</sup> grade and they are trying to figure out what is important to each of them and who they are as individuals.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. ***Saucy***. Atheneum, 2020. When eleven-year-old Becca, a quadruplet, finds a sick pig on the side of the road, her life is changed forever.
- Kane, Karen. ***Charlie & Frog: A Mystery***. Disney-Hyperion, 2018. While staying with his grandparents in Castle-on-the-Hudson, Charlie stumbles upon a mystery but must learn American Sign Language to keep up with Frog, a deaf girl who wants to help solve it.
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Hello, Universe***. Greenwillow, 2017. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. *Newbery Medal*
- Khan, Hena. ***Amina's Voice***. Salaam Press, 2017. Pakistani-American Amina is torn between her traditional Muslim family's culture and her American friends as she struggles to find her place after a tragedy in the community.
- Kim, Jessica. ***Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*** Kokila, 2020. Comedy-loving Yumi Chung is faced with a moral dilemma when a case of mistaken identity grants her an exciting opportunity.
- Marks, Janae. ***From the Desk of Zoe Washington***. Katherine Tegen, 2020. Aspiring baker Zoe Washington reconnects with her father through writing letters to him in prison.
- Marshall, Joseph. ***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse***. Amulet Books, 2015. Jimmy McClean is a part white and part Native American boy who embarks on a journey with his grandfather to learn more about his Lakota heritage while visiting places significant in the life of Crazy Horse, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lakota leader and warrior.

- Medina, Meg. ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears***. Candlewick, 2018. Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suárez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between with moving authenticity and humor. *Newbery Medal*
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***Words on Fire***. Scholastic, 2019. While Audra is on the run from Cossack soldiers and in search of her missing parents, she realizes the importance of the mission to save the Lithuanian language and culture, and puts herself in danger to become part of the resistance in 1893 Russian-controlled Lithuania.
- Pennypacker, Sara. ***Pax***. Balzer + Bray, 2016. Driven by love and loss, Peter must travel hundreds of miles through wilderness, impending war, and injury in search of the pet fox he was forced to abandon, while loyal Pax searches for him.
- Reeves, Jordan, and Jen Lee Reeves. ***Born Just Right***. Aladdin, 2019. Jordan Reeves may have been born with a "little (left) arm," yet her positive attitude and determination sparked her invention of a prosthetic arm at a STEM summer camp, and, along with her mother, she has established the Born Just Right foundation to help others like herself to fully engage in life – an inspiring memoir for all.
- Reynolds, Jason. ***Ghost***. Atheneum, 2018. Can a talented sprinter from a rough neighborhood push past his troubles to keep his place on an elite track team? *National Book Award Finalist, Series*
- Riordan, Rick. ***The Lost Hero***. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. *Series*
- Robinson, Sharon. ***Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963***. Scholastic, 2019. A memoir by Jackie Robinson's daughter who was a teenager during the height of the civil rights movement.
- Rundell, Katherine. ***The Explorer***. Simon & Schuster, 2017. Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.
- Scott, Elaine. ***Our Moon: New Discoveries About Earth's Closest Companion***. Clarion, 2016. Highlighting the latest thrilling discoveries about the moon, this comprehensive book for kids covers the moon's history, scientific findings, and fun facts, interspersed with informative color photos.
- Selznick, Brian. ***Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures***. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.

- Slader, Erik, and Ben Thompson. ***The Wright Brothers: Nose-Diving into History***. Roaring Book, 2018. Describes the lives of the two American brothers who designed, built, and flew the first heavier-than-air aircraft successfully, detailing the many mishaps and misadventures that preceded it. *Series*
- Stoddard, Lindsey. ***Brave Like That***. HarperCollins, 2020. Eleven-year-old Cyrus knows he is not cut out to be a football hero or fireman like his adoptive father, but it takes a skittish stray dog to teach him that he, too, can be brave.
- Sweet, Melissa. ***Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White***. Houghton Mifflin, 2016. This biography of the beloved children's author is an inviting, colorful collage of photos, art, letters, and snippets of E. B. White's writing.
- Tingle, Tim. ***How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story***. RoadRunner, 2013. A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from the only land its people had ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost—one with the ability to help those he left behind. *Series*
- Townsend, Jessica. ***Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow***. Little, Brown, 2017. Since birth, cursed Morrigan Crow has known she will die the night before her eleventh birthday; however, with only minutes remaining until her impending doom, Morrigan is whisked from her parents' gloomy house by an eccentric man and taken to the magical land of Nevermoor. There she must compete in trials which will determine whether she is allowed to stay in Nevermoor or return home to face her fate. *Series*
- Turnage, Sheila. ***The Law of Finders Keepers***. Kathy Dawson, 2018. The Desperado Detectives, Mo LoBeau and her best friends Dale and Harm, tackle two huge cases in Tupelo Landing – the hunt for Blackbeard's buried treasure and the search for Mo's Upstream Mother – in this heart-warming series conclusion. *Series*
- Valise, Kim Perez. ***The Orca Scientists***. Houghton Mifflin, 2018. Follow the majestic orca whales along with the scientists who tirelessly work to save this species from extinction. *Series*
- Viola, Jason. ***Polar Bears: Survival on the Ice***. First Second, 2019. Through the humorous antics of two inquisitive polar bear cubs learning all they need to know to survive in the Arctic, we learn bear biology and behavior, as well as what all polar bears are facing because of global warming. *Graphic novel, series*
- Wolf, Allan. ***The Day the Universe Exploded My Head: Poems to Take You into Space and Back Again***. Candlewick, 2019. With dynamite illustrations by Anna Raff, and opportunities for readers to perform multi-part poems with peers, this book of clever, funny, informative poetry about our solar system truly sparkles as it puts a variety of poetry forms on display.

Yang, Kelly. **Front Desk**. Arthur A. Levine, 2018. Recent immigrants from China and desperate for money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California for skinflint Mr. Yao, whose son is the only other Chinese American in Mia's class.  
*Series*

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