

Henry Ford Middle School

Summer Reading for 5th Graders

(Entering 6th Grade)



Nonfiction

Look for other books by these wonderful authors, as well.

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party by Marion Calabro

A realistic and moving account of the ill-fated pioneer journey of the Donner party, through the eyes of 12-year-old Virginia Reed.

Escapel!: The Story of the Great Houdini by Sid Fleischman

The fascinating and funny biography of Houdini, the magician who could escape from anything.

The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy) by Barbara Kerley

A unique introduction to the great writer through his own 13-year-old daughter's eyes, based on her actual journal entries.

Kakapo rescue : saving the world's strangest parrot by Sy Montgomery

An introduction to the kakapo parrot, a flightless bird found on Codfish Island off the coast of New Zealand, and looks at how the country's National Kakapo Recovery Team is working to save the kakapos, whose population numbers less than one hundred.

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus NEWBERY HONOR 2011 FICTIONALIZED BIOGRAPHY

Manjiro is 14 when a freak storm washes him and his fishing companions onto a tiny island far from their Japanese homeland. Shortly before starving, they are rescued by an American whaling ship. But it's 1841 and the Japanese consider the whalers barbarians and the whalers think they are godless cannibals. Captain Whitfield is different and forges a bond with Manjiro. When it comes time for him to choose between staying with his countrymen or going to America with Whitfield, he picks the path of adventure. A swashbuckling adventure **based on the true story** of Manjiro, the young fisherman believed to be the first Japanese person to visit America.

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan

Imagines the magic-filled youth of Chilean Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda. Through skillful use of language inspired by Neruda's work, Muñoz Ryan weaves this stunning tale of a young boy's discovery of self and the development of his ideologies and artistic voice. FICTIONALIZED BIOGRAPHY

Fiction

A star * means the book is part of a series or has sequels.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

In this hilarious tale, Tommy and his sixth grade friends must decide if the advice of an tiny origami finger puppet of Yoda, who starts dispensing eerily wise advice, can be trusted.

The Conch Bearer by Chitra Banerjee *

In India, a healer invites 12 year-old Anand to join him on a quest to return a magical conch to its safe and rightful home, high in the Himalayan Mountains.

Masterpiece by Elise Broach

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as a gift for 11-year-old James, the two new friends work together to help recover stolen art from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Born with cerebral palsy, Melody has never spoken a word. She is brilliant, but she will never sing, dance, talk on the phone, or whisper secrets to friends. She's not complaining, though; she's planning and fighting the odds. She learns to use a keyboard that lets her "talk", and is moved into a different classroom. Can she overcome her disabilities and the misconceptions that go with them?

A Tale Dark & Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

As dark and bloody as the title suggests, these six retellings tweak the classic fairy tale as Hansel and Gretel embark on an epic journey of self-discovery. **Warning:** Not for the squeamish.

Mission Unstoppable by Dan Gutman

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.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang by Amy Ignatow

In a quest for upward social mobility, two fifth graders try changing their looks, taking up new hobbies, and making new friends. They record their amusing successes and failures scrapbook style.



The Glitch in Sleep by John Hulme *

12-year-old Becker Drane is a fixer and must fix a huge problem in the world so that people will be able to sleep. If he can't do it in time, the earth will be destroyed!

Once Upon a Time: Traditional Latin America Tales by Rueben Martinez FOLKTALES

This lively bilingual collection will transport readers to a land where coyotes fly to the moon, cockroaches play dress-up, and magic flowers restore dead

The Candymakers by Wendy Mass

Four gifted twelve-year-olds, including Logan, the candymaker's son, are set to be contestants in the Confectionary Association's national competition to determine the nation's tastiest sweet.

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes

12-year-old aspiring engineer Laneshia, abandoned by her own family, lives in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans with elderly Mama Ya-Ya, a former midwife and medicine woman who also has psychic powers. Trapped in the attic by Hurricane Katrina's floods, they help each other ride out the storms both outside the window and inside themselves.

The Emerald Atlas by John Stephens

Following their parents' disappearance, 14-year old Kate and her younger siblings, Emma and Michael, grew up in a series of orphanages. After moving to the dismal town of Cambridge Falls, the trio discovers a mysterious book. When Michael tucks a historic photo into the book, they are transported to an earlier time when the town is held captive by an evil witch. Prophecies, wizards, hidden treasures, an ancient evil, and tantrum-throwing dwarves all make appearances in this fast-paced, engaging, and humorous tale.

Bill Pennant, Babe Ruth, and Me by Timothy Tocher

In 1920, sixteen-year-old Hank finds his loyalties divided when he is assigned to care for the Giants' mascot, a wildcat named Bill Pennant, as well as keep an eye on Babe Ruth in Ruth's first season with the New York Yankees.

Drizzle by Kathleen Van Cleve

Polly Peabody lives on an unusual rhubarb farm where it rains at exactly 1 p.m. every Monday, and some of the plants taste like chocolate. When Aunt Edith shows her a secret room, a library, filled with writhing ivy and bugs that fly in patterns that spell out words, she is thrilled. But then the rain stops, plants start to die, Polly's brother becomes ill, and Aunt Edith pressures Polly's dad to sell the property. Now Polly must interpret the farm's signs and symptoms to figure out the problem and the solution. Fun, quirky new fantasy.

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool *2011 Newbery Medal Winner*

Alternating between World War I and the Great Depression, this tale of the eclectic people and mysteries of Manifest, Kansas is told through a mix of letters, newspaper articles, and a fortune teller's tales.

As Simple As It Seems by Sarah Weeks

Verbena Polter gets through a difficult summer of turbulent emotions and the revelation of a disturbing family secret with an odd new friend who believes she is the ghost of a girl who drowned many years before.

Dragon Keeper by Carole Wilkinson

The last remaining dragon belonging to the ancient Chinese Emperor is Long Danzi who is able to escape from his cruel keeper by coaxing Ping, a slave-orphan girl to assist him in his flight. This adventure leads her to discover her true destiny.

Favorite Series

The Last Apprentice	Joseph Delaney	Eric Rex	Kaza Kingsley
Great Tree of Avalon	T.A. Barron	Leven Thumps	Obert Skye
Pendragon	D.J. MacHale	Kingdom Keepers	Ridley Peterson
Dark Lord of Derkholm	Diana Wynne Jones	Enchanted Forest Chronicles	Patricia Wrede
Earthsea	Ursula LeGuin	Bartimaeus Trilogy	Jonathan Stroud
Keys to the Kingdom	Garth Nix	The Five Ancestors	Jeff Stone
The Bromeliad Trilogy	Terry Pratchett	His Dark Materials	Phillip Pullman
Ranger's Apprentice	John Flanagan	Fablehaven	Brandon Mull
The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel	Michael Scott		

Questions for reflection/discussion in August:

What types of reading did you do this summer? Did you read magazines, newspapers, menus, close captioning on TV, song lyrics, cereal boxes, recipes, websites, novels, poetry, comic books, nonfiction books? List everything you can remember reading.

Now, consider the following questions about your reading:

How did your reading this summer help you

- *make a connection to your own life
- *make a connection to other books you've read?
- *see another world or another time?

In your reading, in what ways did you

- * care what happened to a character?
- *connect with one of the characters?
- *encounter unfamiliar events and experiences?
- *meet a new author you had not read?
- *enjoy how the author wrote the book?
- *have questions that went unanswered?
- *picture the people and places?

In your reading

- *what struck you as being very important?
- *did you learn any lessons?

Use the following prompts to discuss your summer reading

- *I learned...
- *The confusing thing is...
- *I was surprised...
- *I began to think of...
- *I don't really understand ...
- *I think...
- *If I were....
- *At first I thought and now I think...
- *At first I felt, now I feel...
- *I have changed by this book in this way...
- *From reading this text, I will remember...
- *The theme in this text was...
- *An "aha" from the reading was...
- *A light bulb went on in my head and I realized...
- *My opinion on this topic now is...
- *I will remember the visual I built in my mind for

