



# 2026 Grade 5 Summer Reading

Summer reading is an opportunity for students to have the freedom to explore new interests, authors, and genres at a “summerly” pace. It also sustains the skills students have secured throughout the school year, such as spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and critical thinking. This list provides students with both choice and guidance. Ultimately, this is part of our mission to foster a love of reading and writing.

While by no means exhaustive, this list includes classic literature as well as contemporary fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels. Titles are not classified by level, so parents are encouraged to participate in the selection process. While summer reading is not required, we encourage students to challenge themselves by exploring various genres to broaden their skills and interests. Please feel free to contact your teacher with any questions, accommodations, or recommendation requests.

**Summer Scholar Challenge:** Read two or more titles from the list below.

Classics	Fiction	Nonfiction	Graphic Novels
<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> by Jules Verne	<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> by Lemony Snicket	<i>#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women</i> edited by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Lisa Charleyboy	<i>Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House</i> by Sid Jacobson
<i>A Separate Peace</i> by John Knowles	<i>A Single Shard</i> by Linda Sue Park	<i>7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> by Sean Covey	<i>Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel (Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novels, #1)</i> by Eoin Colfer
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> by Madeleine L'Engle	<i>Amina's Voice</i> by Hena Khan & Abigail Dela	<i>A Dog in the Cave: Coevolution and the Wolves Who Made Us Human</i> by Kay Frydenborg	<i>Beowulf</i> by Gareth Hinds
<i>Across Five Aprils</i> by Irene Hunt	<i>Because of Mr. Terrupt (Mr. Terrupt, #1)</i> by Rob Buyea	<i>All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best</i> by Carli Lloyd, Wayne Coffey	<i>Blankets</i> by Craig Thompson
<i>Adventures of Huck Finn</i> by Mark Twain	<i>Blackbird Fly</i> by Erin Entrada	<i>Beastly Brains: Exploring How Animals Think, Talk, and Feel</i> by Nancy Castaldo	<i>Bone: The Complete Edition</i> by Jeff Smith
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> by Lewis Carroll	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson	<i>Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i> by Steve Sheinkin	<i>Boxers and Saints</i> by Gene Luen Yang
<i>Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> by James L. Swanson	<i>Cardboard</i> by Doug TenNapel
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> by L.M. Montgomery	<i>Confusion is Nothing New</i> by Paul Acampora	<i>Come On In, America : The United States in World War I</i> by	<i>Coraline</i> by Neil Gaiman

		Linda Barrett Osborne	
<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> by Jules Verne	<i>Countdown</i> by Deborah Wiles	<i>Double Cross: Deception Techniques in War</i> by Paul B. Janeczko	<i>Dream Jumper</i> by Greg Grunberg
<i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London	<i>Dead End in Norvelt</i> by Jack Gantos	<i>Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings</i> by Margarita Engle	<i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell
<i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White	<i>Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library</i> by Chris Grabenstein	<i>Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code</i> by Amy Cherrix	<i>Gettysburg: The Graphic Novel</i> by C.M. Butzer
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury	<i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan.	<i>Four Perfect Pebbles</i> by Marion Blumenthal Lazan	<i>King Lear</i> by Gareth Hinds
<i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley	<i>Fever, 1793</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson	<i>Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting It Done</i> by Andrea Gonzales, Sophie Houser	<i>March: Book Three</i> by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell
<i>I, Robot</i> by Isaac Asimov	<i>From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i> by E.L. Konigsburg	<i>Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time</i> by Tanya Lee Stone, Girl Rising	<i>Mighty Jack</i> series by Ben Hatke
<i>Johnny Tremain</i> by Esther Hoskins Forbes	<i>Garvey's Choice</i> by Nikki Grimes	<i>How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child</i> by Sandra Uwiringiyimana, Abigail Pesta	<i>Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1: No Normal</i> by G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona
<i>Journey to the Center of the Earth</i> by Jules Vernes	<i>George</i> by Alex Gino	<i>I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban</i> by Malala Yousafzai	<i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft
<i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott	<i>Ghost</i> by Jason Reynolds	<i>I Will Always Write Back</i> by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka	<i>Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood</i> by Tony Lee
<i>Matilda</i> by Roald Dahl	<i>Hatchet</i> by Gary Paulsen	<i>Ignite Your Spark: Discovering Who You Are from the Inside Out</i> by Patricia Wooster	<i>Pride of Baghdad</i> by Brian K. Vaughan and Niko Henrichon
<i>Old Man and the Sea</i> by Ernest Hemingway	<i>Heart of a Champion</i> by Carl Deuker	<i>Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Revealed</i> by Mary Losure	<i>Smash</i> by Chris and Kyle Bolton
<i>Peter Pan</i> by J M Barrie	<i>Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace</i> by Nan Marino	<i>Left for Dead</i> by Pete Nelson	<i>Smile</i> by Raina Telgemeier
<i>Red Badge of Courage</i> by Stephen Crane	<i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar	<i>Legends: The Best Players, Games, and Teams in Basketball</i> by Howard Bryant	<i>Skyward, Vol 1: My Low-G Life</i> by Joe Henderson and Lee Garrett
<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien	<i>Looking for Alaska</i> by John Green	<i>Me to We</i> by Craig Kielburger	<i>Superman: Red Son</i> by Mark Millar and Dave Johnson
<i>The Little Prince</i> by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry	<i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers	<i>Most Dangerous</i> by Steve Sheinkin	<i>Superman Smashes the Klan</i> by Gene Luen Yang and Gurihiru

<i>The Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> by Mildred D. Taylor	<i>Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World</i> by Sarah Prager, Zoe More O'Ferra	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman and P. Craig Russell
<i>The Pearl</i> by John Steinbeck	<i>Saint Louis Armstrong Beach</i> by Brenda Woods	<i>Red Scarf Girl</i> by Ji-li Jiang	<i>T-Minus: The Race to the Moon</i> by Jim Ottaviani
<i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>Stargirl</i> by Jerry Spinelli	<i>Resist: 35 Profiles of Ordinary People Who Rose Up Against Tyranny and Injustice</i> by Veronica Chambers	<i>The Arrival</i> by Shaun Tan
<i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i> by Johann David Wyss	<i>The Book Thief</i> by Marcus Zusak	<i>Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune</i> written by Pamela S. Turner	<i>The Great American Dust Bowl</i> by Don Brown
<i>The War of the Worlds</i> by H. G. Wells	<i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</i> by Phillip M. Hoose	<i>Sonia Sotomayor: A Biography</i> by Sylvia Mendoza	<i>The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees</i> by Don Brown
<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum	<i>The Fault in our Stars</i> by John Green	<i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i> by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi	<i>Trickster: Native American Tales, A Graphic Collection</i> by Matt Dembicki
<i>Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain	<i>The Golden Compass</i> by Philip Pullman	<i>Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad</i> by M.T. Anderson	<i>Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art</i> by Scott McCloud
<i>Treasure Island</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton	<i>The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir</i> by Thi Bui	<i>When the Rules Aren't Right: 7 Time Travel Tales of Activism</i> by Leslie Tolf
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Harriet Beecher Stowe	<i>The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy</i> by Jeanne Birdsall	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer	<i>Wings of Fire</i> by Barry Deutsch
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls	<i>Summerland</i> by Michael Chabon	<i>The Boys in the Boat</i> (Young Readers Edition) by Daniel James Brown	<i>Zebrafish</i> by Sharon Emerson, drawn by Renée
<i>White Fang</i> by Jack London	<i>The Sweetest Sound</i> by Sherri Winston	<i>The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life</i> by Kwame Alexander, Thai Neave	<i>Zeus: King of the Gods (Olympians, #1)</i> by George O'Connor
	<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> by Gary Schmidt	<i>The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found</i> by Martin W. Sandler	
	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> by Natalie Babbitt	<i>This Star Won't Go Out</i> by Esther Earl, with Lori & Wayne Earl, introduction by John Green	
	<i>Under the Persimmon Tree</i> by Suzanne Fisher Staples	<i>Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers</i> by Deborah Heiligman	
	<i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio		

	<i>Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear</i> by Lensey Namioka		
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### **Additional summer reading programs.**

The Barnes & Noble summer reading program lets children earn a free book. Quite simply, your child reads eight books of their choice, after which they can go to Barnes & Noble and claim one free book. They just need to record the 8 books they have read on the attached reading log, and they can then bring in the log to their local Barnes & Noble and claim their free book. [Click Here For B&N Summer Reading Journal Link](#)

In addition, check your local library's website. They, too, usually offer summer incentive programs.

Another fantastic option is ebooks, which you can borrow through your local libraries. Libraries utilize an app such as Overdrive or Libby, and as long as you have an active Library Card, you can download ebooks to your device. Simply go to your local library's website, and information about their digital options is directly on their homepage.

### **Other helpful lists and award-winners:**

Library of Congress:

- <http://www.read.gov/booklists/explore/>

Nutmeg Book Award Nominees:

- Intermediate (Grades 4-6) - <https://www.nutmegaward.org/intermediate-4-6>
- Teen (Grades 7-8) - <https://www.nutmegaward.org/middle-school-7-8>