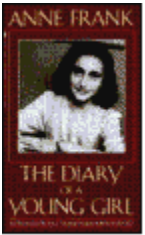




250 East 164<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10456  
(718)681-6288  
Kristin Erat, Principal  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X449>

## Recommended Summer Reading for Students Entering Fifth Grade:

Bring this list to the local library to check out these titles that will keep your child reading all summer long and ready for success in Fifth Grade!



### ***Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl*** by Anne Frank

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classic – a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, 13-year-old Anne and her Jewish family went into hiding in the "secret annex" of an old office building; while living there, Anne recorded her experiences in a diary. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and a compelling self-portrait of an extraordinary young woman whose life was tragically cut short.



### ***Chasing Redbird*** by Sharon Creech

Zinnia Taylor lives in Bybanks, Kentucky, with too many brothers and sisters – a mess of "tadpoles" and "pumpkins" is what her uncle Nate calls them. When Zinny discovers a mysterious, overgrown trail that begins on her family's farm, she's determined to clear it, from start to finish. For she's finally found a place of her own, a place where she can go, away from her family, to hear herself think. But what Zinny didn't realize is that the mysteries of the trail are intertwined with her own unanswered questions and family secrets, and that the trail – and her passion to uncover it – is leading her on a journey home. CHASING REDBIRD is a powerful, beautifully crafted story about a young girl discovering that life is a tangle of mysteries, surprises, and everyday occurrences – a journey that often needs unravelling and that sometimes must be traveled alone.



### ***Dear Mr. Henshaw*** by Beverly Cleary, Paul O. Zelinsky (illus.)

When fourth grader Leigh Botts asks Mr. Henshaw to write to him personally, he gets more than he bargained for. Mr. Henshaw's letters are full of questions, and Leigh is getting tired of answering them. But as he continues his correspondence with his favorite author, he not only gets plenty of tips on writing, but he also finds a wise and thoughtful friend to whom he can tell his troubles.

### ***Frindle*** by Andrew Clements, Brian Selznick (illus.)

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.



### ***From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*** by E. L. Konigsburg

The enchanting story of the unappreciated Claudia Kincaid, "boring straight-A Claudia"

(oldest child and only girl and almost too old for half-fare tickets), who runs away with her little brother Jamie to live in the Metropolitan Museum, *FILES* is a sentimental favorite with a remarkable heroine. Crammed with fascinating details – strategies for hiding in a museum, techniques for bathing in a fountain, the smell of a 16th-century bed (musty), and tantalizing peeks at the Met and its treasures – it's a grand adventure. More important, *FILES* is the story of Claudia's quest to define herself. In the fulfillment of that quest, her own resourcefulness is bolstered by a statue that may or may not be by Michelangelo; a brother who proves to be a fabulous ally; and the wise, prickly Mrs. Frankweiler herself.



***Holes***  
**by Louis Sachar**

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish boys' juvenile detention center in the Texas desert. As punishment, the boys here must each dig a hole every day, five feet deep and five feet across. Ultimately, Stanley "digs up the truth" – and through his experience, finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. *HOLES* is a wildly inventive, darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment – and redemption.



***In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson***  
**by Bette Bao Lord, Marc Simont (illus.)**

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle – baseball – happens. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie Robinson is proving that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America. And for Shirley as well, on the ball field and off, America becomes the land of opportunity.



***Island of the Blue Dolphins***  
**by Scott O'Dell**

In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind. This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building a shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* is not only an unusual adventure of survival but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.



***Matilda***  
**by Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake (illus.)**

Matilda Wormwood started reading books at the age of four, but her crooked father and bingo-playing mother regard book reading as a waste of time – and much prefer watching TV. In fact, they take no notice of their genius daughter at all! Only Miss Honey, Matilda's lovely and gentle teacher, recognizes her special gifts. Yet Miss Honey has problems of her own: Her aunt is the tyrannical Miss Trunchbull, an evil headmistress who bullies children and parents alike – and has taken Miss Honey's house and money. Can Matilda use her extraordinary talents to seek revenge – and make all of the wrong-doing grown-ups pay? Also recommended: *James and the Giant Peach*.



***Mick Harte Was Here***  
**by Barbara Park**

How could someone like Mick die? He was the kid who freaked out his mom by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, the kid who did a wild dance in front of the whole school

– and the kid who, if only he had worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive today. But now Phoebe Harte's 12-year-old brother is gone, and Phoebe's world has turned upside down. With her trademark candor and compassion, beloved middle-grade writer Barbara Park tells how Phoebe copes with her painful loss in this story filled with sadness, humor – and hope.



***My Daniel***  
**by Pam Conrad**

Wandering through the Natural History Museum with her grandchildren, Julia Creath feels the presence of her dead brother, Daniel. She remembers a time when fossil fever hit everyone, old and young – a time when people would even kill for those old bones under the ground. Julia becomes the Nebraska farm girl she once was, as she weaves together the story of the great dinosaur rush – an adventurous tale of love and treachery, but most of all the story of her own childhood, and of the older brother she loved more than anything. Daniel had a dream: to save their family farm by finding a dinosaur. It was a dream that Julia shared – and that she alone would see come true.



***Number the Stars***  
**by Lois Lowry**

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943, and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. When the Nazis begin "relocating" the Jews of Denmark, Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. And as Annemarie helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis and embarks on a dangerous mission, she learns how to be brave and courageous – to save her best friend's life.



***Shiloh***  
**by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

Eleven-year-old Marty Preston loves to spend time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Sometimes he takes his .22 rifle to see what he can shoot, like some cans lined up on a rail fence. Other times he goes up early in the morning just to sit and watch the fox and deer. But one summer Sunday, Marty comes across something different on the road just past the old Shiloh schoolhouses – a young beagle – and the trouble begins. What do you do when a dog you suspect is being mistreated runs away and comes to you? When it is someone else's dog? When the man who owns him has a gun? This is Marty's problem, and he finds it is one he has to face alone. When his solution gets too big for him to handle, things become more frightening still. Finally, Marty puts his courage on the line and discovers in the process that it is not always easy to separate right from wrong. Sometimes, however, you'll do almost anything to save a dog you love.



***The View from Saturday***  
**by E. L. Konigsburg**

It was a surprise to a lot of people when Mrs. Olinski's team won the sixth-grade Academic Bowl contest at Epiphany Middle School. It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen? Mrs. Olinski, returning to teaching after having been injured in an automobile accident, found that her Academic Bowl team became her answer to finding confidence and success. What she did not know, at least at first, was that her team knew better than she did the answer to why they had been chosen. This is a tale about a team, a class, a school, a series of contests and, set in the midst of this, four jewel-like short stories – one for each of the team members – that ask questions and demonstrate surprising answers.

***Wait Till Helen Comes, A Ghost Story***

**by Mary Downing Hahn**

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.



***Walk Two Moons***

**by Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle, proud of her country roots and the "Indian-ness in her blood," travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. Along the way, she tells of the story of Phoebe Winterbottom, who received mysterious messages, who met a "potential lunatic," and whose mother disappeared. Beneath Phoebe's story is Salamanca's own story and that of her mother, who left one April morning for Idaho, promising to return before the tulips bloomed. Sal's mother has not, however, returned, and the trip to Idaho takes on a growing urgency as Salamanca hopes to get to Idaho in time for her mother's birthday and bring her back, despite her father's warning that she is fishing in the air. This richly layered Newbery Medal-winning novel is in turn funny, mysterious, and touching.



***The Warm Place***

**by Nancy Farmer**

When Ruva, a young giraffe, is captured and sent to a zoo in San Francisco, she calls upon two rats, a street-smart chameleon, a runaway boy, and all the magical powers of the animal world to return to "the warm place" that is home.

***The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler* by E. L. Konigsburg**

Banished from camp, Margaret is free to spend the summer with her eccentric Hungarian great-uncles in their unique house, complete with three unconventional clock towers. To them, the towers are a symbol of beauty, but not everyone feels that same way. Can Margaret pull off her plan to save the towers? Recommended by Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO. [Where to buy.](#)

***The Time Travelers* (Book 1 of the Gideon Trilogy) by Linda Buckley-Archer**

When two 21st century kids fall through the sky into 18th century London, and the mysterious Tar Man takes off with their time travel device, they must ally with a thief to stave off disaster. Recommended by Powell's Books, Portland, OR. [Where to buy.](#)

***The Secret Book Club* (Main Street Series) by Ann M. Martin**

Flora and Ruby's second summer living with their grandmother in Camden Falls brings anonymous gifts of books to them as well as their friend Olivia and Nikki. Recommended by Prairie Lights Books, Iowa City, IA. [Where to buy.](#)

***A Crooked Kind of Perfect* by Linda Urban**

I can't imagine the year without this delightful and wholesome story of little girl who fantasizes about being a child prodigy pianist. What ensues is a story you're not likely to forget and a book you'll want to share with every dreamer you know. Recommended by 57th Street Books, Chicago, IL. [Where to buy.](#)

***Rinkitink in Oz* by L. Frank Baum**

Prince Inga, King Rinkitink, and Bilbil the talking goat travel underground where they must overcome the cruel Nome King, save the captives, and of course, travel to Oz. Recommended by Linden Tree Children's Recordings and Books, Los Altos, CA. [Where to buy.](#)

*The House of Power (Atherton)* by Patrick Carman

In a unique world this science fiction adventure tells of a young boy who has to overcome adversity to save his people, both friend and foe, from destruction. Recommended by Kepler's Bookstore, Menlo Park, CA. [Where to buy.](#)

Want to see more from Education.com's book list? Here's a collection of our favorite books for fifth grade:



[King Matt the First](#) by Janusz Korczak (Algonquin Books, 2004)

A boy king attempts to run a country of children. Whether Matt is attempting a new reform involving the distribution of chocolate to all of his citizens, running to do battle on a war-torn front under a false name while a lifelike doll reigns in his stead, arranging for his population to attend summer camp or on a diplomatic mission to the land of the cannibals, every chapter ends with a cliffhanger. In my opinion, one of the best children's books of all time.



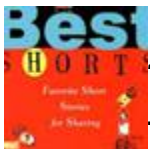
[Maniac Magee](#) by Jerry Spinelli (Scholastic Inc, 2002)

A larger-than-life hero confronts racism while living on the street. This story of a boy's quest for family without a color line has amazing heart.



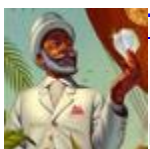
[A Drowned Maiden's Hair](#) by Laura Amy Schlitz (Candlewick, 2006)

Living as the daughter in a family of spinster spiritualists, Maud Flynn is being preened to play the part of a ghost child scheduled to appear in staged seances in order to bilk a bereaved millionairess of her money. Detailed, descriptive writing delivers the reader to this weird world; we can practically smell the antiquity of the room, see the dust mites floating in the light from the ragged damask curtains that shroud a place out of time, and feel the stormy turmoil of Maud's own awakening as a moral person.



[Best Shorts: Favorite Short Stories for Sharing](#) by Avi and Carolyn Shute (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

The collection is just brilliant, pulse-perfect and page-turning. It includes Louis Untemeyer's "Dog of Pompeii" about a pet who gives his all to save a blind boy during a volcanic eruption, "Rogue Wave" by Theodore Taylor which will leave readers as breathless as if they were watching any movie on the big screen, ghostly stories, classic stories, multicultural stories... It's one of those rare books that makes anyone who reads it a better person, and anyone who reads it aloud a better teacher.



[The Twenty-One Balloons](#) by William Pene du Bois (Puffin Books, 2001)

Professor William Waterman Sherman plans to spend his retirement crossing the Pacific in his hot-air balloon, but instead comes down on a volcanic island inhabited by inventors and gourmets. A truly imaginative story that will have children's senses of possibility flying high.

*Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale

Miri may live within the walls of a kingdom, but she's anything but royal. One day, news arrives of a prophecy stating the kingdom's new princess will come from her tiny village. All eligible girls are forced to leave for a new academy, to prepare for the prince's arrival. Full of rich details and strong female characters, this is the story of girls fighting to figure out who they are, in the face of incredible adversity. It also highlights the importance of something most kids of this age take for granted: the right to a decent education and the power of literacy.

*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

In this children's classic, 12-year-old Claudia Kincaid decides to teach her parents a lesson by running away from home. After researching the matter thoroughly, she settles on the Metropolitan Museum of Art as the perfect hideaway, and drags her little brother Jamie along for the ride. What follows is an absorbing tale of their life within museum walls, as they blend in with tour groups by day, fish coins out of the fountain for lunch money, and sleep on Marie Antoinette's four-poster bed by night. This smart and unique story has endured for a reason: its blend of adventure, mystery, antiquity, and kid-power make it a must for every young reader's shelf.

*Dinotopia: A Land Apart From Time* by James Gurney

Have you or your ever visited Dinotopia? If you had, you would remember. This beautifully imagined island world, in which humans and dinosaurs live together side by side, has been the stuff of reader's dreams ever since the first book, *Dinotopia: A Land Apart From Time*, was published in 1992. Written and illustrated in stunning oil paint by James Gurney, the series has inspired a huge following of fans, children and adults alike.

*When the Shadbush Blooms* by Carla Messinger with Susan Katz, illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden T

his unique book shows the side by side lives of two American Indian girls, one living 400 years ago, one living in contemporary times.