

## Grade 5 & 6 Summer 2008 Suggested Recreational Reading

Alcott, Louisa May. **Little Women**, 1868.

The March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, experience joys and sorrows as they grow into young ladies in Nineteenth- Century New England.

Alexander, Lloyd. **The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio**, 2007.

Naive and bumbling Carlo, his shady camel-puller Baksheesh, and Shira, a girl determined to return home, follow a treasure map through the deserts and cities of the infamous Golden Road, as mysterious strangers try in vain to point them toward real treasures.

Anderson, M.T. **Whales on Stilts**, 2005.

Meet Lily Gefelty, a girl who considers herself too boring to ever do anything interesting. The day she goes to work with her Dad on career day she realizes that her Dad is oblivious to the possible incongruities of his job as he works in a highly guarded, high-tech, secret, scientific Lab in an abandoned warehouse, for a company that makes stilts for whales.

Armstrong, Alan **Whittington**, 2005.

Whittington, a large rumped cat, not old but careworn, is the descendent in a long line of noble cats to Dick Whittington's cat, who helped a poor boy become the Mayor of London some centuries back. A farmer who has two grandchildren living with him has taken him in and the cat, through his stories, helps the children.

Avi, Crispin. **The Cross of Lead**, 2002.

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Birdsall, Jeanne **The Penderwicks**, 2005.

The four garrulous Penderwick sisters set off with their father and Hound the dog for three blissful weeks in the Berkshires in Massachusetts where they have rented a cottage, part of a rambling estate with a mansion. Their adventures include Jeffrey and his disapproving mother in a warm tribute to a memorable summer.

Black, Holly. **Spiderwick Chronicles – Book 1, the Field Guide**, 2003.

Three children and their mother move into Great-Aunt Lucinda's creepy old house. They find a mysterious poem and an old book – the mischief begins! \*\*\*series\*\*\*

Blume, Lesley M.M. **Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters**.

11- year old Cornelia is the daughter of two famous pianists, a mother who is always on tour and a father she's never met. With her French- speaking nanny and books as her only companions, Cornelia is lonely until a fascinating older woman moves into her building.

Sharing a love of words and a passion for stories, Cornelia and Virginia Somerset become fast friends and relive the audacious escapades of the Somerset sisters.

Borden, Louise. **The Journey that Saved Curious George**, 2005.

In the spring of, 1940 Hans and Margaret Rey who were both Jewish, bought bicycles, packed up a small pile of belongings and manuscripts of their children's books and rode out of Paris. They made their way finally to New York by way of Lisbon and Rio, where one year later their book, **Curious George**, was published.

Buckley, Michael **The Sisters Grimm: the Fairy Tale Detectives**, 2005.

Life has been difficult for orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm. They have been sent to live with Granny Relda who reveals that the girls have two famous ancestors, the Brothers Grimm. Now the girls take on the family responsibility of being fairy tale detectives because the classic book of fairy tales the Grimm's wrote is actually a history book that documents magical mischief. \*\*\*\*series\*\*\*\*

Busby, Peter. **First to Fly: How Wilbur and Orville Wright Invented the Airplane**, 2003.

The text along with first hand quotes; up-close description, paintings, archival photographs and designs present an exciting account of this event.

Byars Betsy. **King of Murder**, 2006.

Herculeah meets a murder mystery writer, and has the uneasy feeling that he knows more about murder than he should. (Newest in the **Herculeah Jones Mysteries** series that begins with **The Dark Stairs**.)

Clements, Andrew. **Lunch Money**, 2005.

Sixth grader, Greg Kenton has decided that school is an excellent market for making money. He starts his own one-man operation, writing, illustrating, producing and selling his own comic books. A competitor and a principal's ban put him out of business.

Codell, Esme Raji **Sing a Song of Tuna Fish**, 2004.

This is not a book about songs. It's not even about tuna fish. It's a book of stuff that really happened when the author was in fifth grade in Chicago. If you want a good laugh...

Colfer, Eoin. **Artemis Fowl**, 2001.

Twelve- year old Artemis Fowl is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. With two trusty sidekicks in tow, he hatches a cunning plot to divest the fairy-folk of their pot of gold. \*\*\*\*series\*\*\*\*

Collins, Suzanne. **Gregor the Overlander**, 2003.

When Gregor's two-year-old sister, Boots, tumbles down an air duct in the laundry room of their apartment building, he leaps after her. The two wind up in Underland, a place inhabited by humans who have not been "Overland" in centuries, as well as giant-sized rat, bats and cockroaches. Gregor just wants to find a way home until he discovers that

his father is a prisoner of the rats. As he searches for a way to free him and keep his sister safe, he finds he may indeed be the Overlander of prophecy. (First in the **Underland Chronicles**. Sequels: **Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane**, **Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods**, **Gregor and the Marks of Secret**, and **Gregor and the Code of the Claw**.)

Couloumbis, Audrey. **The Misadventures of Maude March**, or **Trouble Rides a Fast Horse**, 2005.

After the death of the stern aunt who raised them since they were orphaned, eleven-year-old Sallie and her fifteen-year-old sister escape their self-serving guardians and begin an adventure resembling those in the dime novels Sallie loves to read. (Sequel: **Maude March on the Run**.)

Creech, Sharon. **Granny Torrelli Makes Soup**, 2003.

With the help of her wise grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Crosbie, Duncan **Titanic: the Ship of Dreams**, 2007.

Experience life as a passenger through the journal of a young boy aboard the Titanic. Pop-ups, pull-tabs, slide mechanisms, fold out maps, photographs, letters and booklets enhance the journey.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. **The Seeing Stone**, 2001.

In late twelfth-century England a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seems to have many parallels to his own.

DiCamillo, Kate **The Tale of Despereaux**, 2003.

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be princess, and the devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

DiCamillo, Kate **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane**, 2006.

Edward Tulane, beloved companion of young Abilene, is a three – foot china rabbit that loves no one but himself. On an ocean voyage with Abilene he is accidentally thrown overboard. So begins Edward's odyssey as he experiences life, love and loss.

DuPrau, Jeanne **The City of Ember**, 2003.

In Ember, a town lit only by electrical power, twelve-year olds Lina Marfleet and Door Harrow take it upon themselves to investigate why lights keep failing to save the doomed city. Also the sequel, **The People of Sparks**.

Funke, Cornelia Caroline. **Inkheart**, 2003.

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can “read” fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel “Inkheart” years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key**, 1998.

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. (Sequels: **Joey Pigza Loses Control**, **What Would Joey Do?** and **I Am Not Joey Pigza**.)

Giovanni, Nikki. **Rosa**, 2005.

Told as a story, Giovanni's biography introduces a pivotal hero in the Civil Rights movement, Rosa Parks. This is a beautiful presentation.

Greenberg, Jan, Ed. **Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth-Century Art**, 2002.

This book is a compilation of poems by Americans writing about America art in the Twentieth century includes Naomi Shihab Nye, Jane Yolen, X. J. Kennedy and others.

Gutman, Dan **The Homework Machine**, 2006.

Four fifth- grade students – a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet and a slacker, as well as their teachers and their mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Hoot**, 2002.

Roy, who is new to the small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Kennedy, Caroline **A Family of Poems**, 2005.

An anthology of poems for families drawing from the author's own family. This is a spectacular book with poems from five continents.

Kinney, Jeff. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**, 2007.

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

Klages, Ellen **The Green Glass Sea**, 2006.

During World War II families lived at Los Alamos, a top - secret town in New Mexico that doesn't officially exist. The scientists and mathematicians who live there are working a top – secret project, called “the Gadget”. Children interact, go to school and make friends in the midst of all this secrecy.

Konigsberg, E. L. **The View from Saturday**, 1996.

Four students, with their own individual stories develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl.

L'Engel, Madeleine. **A Wrinkle in Time**, 1987.

A well loved classic, this book is sophisticated in concept, yet warm in tone, with mystery and love coursing through its pages.

Lupica, Mike. **Travel Team**, 2004.

After he is cut from his travel basketball team- the very same team his father once led to national prominence- twelve year – old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast- offs that might have a shot at victory.

Matthews, John **Pirates**, 2006.

Prepare to enter the world of pirates. This is where the stuff of legend, adventure, and intrigue takes place.

Montgomery, Sy **The Tarantula Scientist**, 2004.

The author's vigorous and sometimes-humorous text introduces field scientist Sam Marshall and his hairy subjects.

Morrison, Toni **Remember: the journey to school integration**, 2004.

"Remembering can be painful, even frightening," Morrison states in the introduction to this powerful book of words and photographs. Factual information about school integration is presented with the intent that young children learn what happened to understand how far we have come- and to avoid repeating the past.

Paulsen, Gary **Woodson**, 1990.

For a rugged outdoor man and his family, life in northern Minnesota is a wild experience involving wolves, deer, and the sled dogs that make their way of life possible. This autobiography includes an account of the author's first Iditarod, a dog sled race across Alaska.

Peck, Richard **On the Wings of Heroes**, 2007.

A boy in Illinois remembers the home front years of World War II, especially his two heroes – his brother in the Air Force and his father who fought in the previous war.

Pierce, Tamara. **Shatterglass**, 2003.

Tris and her mage-student, a young man whose glassmaking magic has been amplified and mixed with lightning, team up to track a killer who may be nearer than they suspect.

Poole, Josephine **Anne Frank**, 2005.

Starting with a paragraph from Anne's diary this is a beautifully designed biography that moves chronologically through Anne's life.

Ritter, John. **The Boy Who Saved Baseball**, 2003.

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

Russo, Marisabina **Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II**, 2005.

Every Sunday, Rachel's family gathers at her Oma or grandmother's to eat and celebrate, even when it isn't anyone's birthday. Oma says, "I think I am the luckiest grandmother in the world." After dinner, Oma always shows Rachel her two picture albums- one new, the other of Oma's first life, before she came to America. This is a true family story showing the determination to survive and continued optimism in the face of tragedy.

Sandler, Martin. W . **America's Great Disasters**, 2003.

Examines the causes and effects of such American disasters as the sinking of the steamboat Sultana in 1871, the Johnstown Flood, the Dust Bowl, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Schmidt, Gary. **The Wednesday Wars**, 2007.

Set during the 1967-1968 school year, Holling Hoodhood finds his seventh-grade year one filled with many challenges as he spends afternoons with Mrs. Baker discussing the plays of Shakespeare, defends his tasty cream puffs from a determined bully, and prepares for his big debut in the school play--all while the issue of Vietnam looms on a daily basis.

St. John, Lauren. **White Giraffe**, 2007.

After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe.

Stewart, Trenton Lee **The Mysterious Benedict Society**, 2007.

When Reynis Muldoon, an 11 year – old orphan, responds to an advertisement in the newspaper for a "gifted child looking for Special Opportunities", he finds himself part of a four – member team of child secret agents. Trained and supervised by a mysterious benefactor Mr. Benedict, the children embark on a mysterious adventure at a school run by a criminal mastermind bent on taking over the world.

Sullivan, George **Built to Last: Building America's Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers**, 2005.

This is a fascinating and captivating book filled with illustration with a full and majestic view of each project.

Testa, Maria. **Becoming Joe DiMaggio**, 2002.

Joseph Paul grows up following the baseball career of the great Joe DiMaggio and dreaming of becoming a famous baseball player himself, while learning the rules of the game from his grandfather.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Sammy Keys and the Search for Snake Eyes**, 2002.

When thirteen-year-old Sammy finds herself with an abandoned baby on her hands, she sets out to find the young mother, who may belong to a gang, and accidentally jeopardizes her position on the softball team. **\*\* and series\*\***

Woodson, Jacqueline **Hush**, 2002.

Twelve year- old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

Wrede, Patricia. **Dealing with Dragons**, 1990.

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons, and soon starts fighting against some disreputable wizards, who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

Yee, Lisa **Millicent Min: Girl Genius**, 2003.

In a series of journal entries, 11- year - old child prodigy Millicent records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Yee, Lisa **Stanford Wong Flunks Big- Time**, 2005.

Because he flunked sixth – grade English, Stanford Lee, won't be able to go to basketball camp this summer. Instead, he'll be taking Mr. Glick's summer school English class and endure tutoring by the annoyingly brainy, tattletale, eleven – year – old Millicent Min who's so smart she's already in high school.