

## TRUE LIFE ADVENTURES

- Carol Bierman. *Journey to Ellis Island: How My Father Came to America*. An account of the ocean voyage and arrival at Ellis Island of 12-year-old Julius Weinstein who along with his mother and younger sister, emigrates from Russia in 1922.
- Elisa Carbone. *Storm Warriors*. Nathan moves in with his father and grandfather to Pea Island, N.C., where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station.
- Johanna Hurwitz. *Anne Frank: Life in Hiding*. The events in Anne's life before, during, and after the period covered by the diary.
- Tony Hyland. *How Robots Work*. Explores the world of robotics, explaining what robots are, how they move, their senses, feelings, and artificial intelligence, and looking at humanoid and toy robots, and the types of jobs robots can do.
- Peg Kehret. *Small Steps : The Year I Got Polio*. The author describes her battle against polio when she was 12 and 13.
- Stephen Kramer. *Eye of the Storm: Chasing Storms with Warren Fraidley*. Dramatic full color photos of lightning, tornadoes, and hurricanes are a vivid testimony to this storm chaser and photographer.
- Kathleen Krull. *Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)*. Profiles 20 historically significant women, highlighting their great accomplishments and unique quirks.
- Bill Littlefield. *Champions: Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes*. Sports profiles exploring athletes who have made extraordinary achievements and given something back to their sports.
- Jason Lutes. *Houdini: the Handcuff King*. A brief biography of escape artist Harry Houdini written in graphic comic format that reveals the secret of some of his stunts.
- Pat Murphy. *Exploatoptia*. Contains instructions for over four hundred scientific explorations and experiments, each with background information and illustrations.

- Laurence Pringle. *Dog of Discovery: Newfoundland's Adventures with Lewis and Clark*. A detailed account of this famous expedition features the dog that was its most unusual member.
- Jon Scieszka. *Knucklehead: Tall Tales About Mostly True Stories Growing Up Scieszka*. Presents a memoir of what it is like to grow up in the 1950s.
- Colin Wilson. *Mysteries of the Universe*. Explores such mysteries as Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, weird weather, and black holes.

## FANTASY, MYSTERY, AND POETRY

- Lloyd Alexander. *The Book of Three*. Taran, an assistant pig keeper, fights with the Prince against the evil that threatens the kingdom.
- Avi. *The Book Without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic*. Thorston, an alchemist, spent his life trying to decipher the secret of immortality contained in the Book Without Words.
- John Bellairs. *The House with a Clock in Its Walls*. Lewis searches to find a clock that is programmed to end the world and is hidden in the walls of his uncle's house.
- Elise Broach. *Masterpiece*. After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- John Christopher. *The White Mountains*. The world of the future is ruled by powerful machine-creatures, the Tripods, who control mankind by implanting metal caps in their skulls when they reach the age of 14.
- Sharon Creech. *The Castle Corona*. Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever.
- Siobhan Dowd. *London Eye Mystery*. When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together to try to solve the mystery.
- Shannon Hale. *Rapunzel's Revenge*. Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall.
- Michael Hoeye. *Time Stops for No Mouse*. When a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into his shop to be repaired and then disappears, Hermux Tantamoq is caught up in a dangerous search for eternal youth as he tries to find out what happened to her.
- Janet Taylor Lisle. *Forest*. Amber's invasion of an organized forest community of squirrels starts a war between humans and beasts.
- Lois Lowry. *The Willoughbys*. The four Willoughby children set out to become 'deserving orphans' after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around the world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.
- Ellen Raskin. *The Westing Game*. Sixteen heirs of eccentric multimillionaire Samuel Westing are given clues to a puzzle they must solve in order to inherit money.
- Belinda Rochelle. *Words With Wings : A Treasury of African American Poets and Art*.

### Readings on the Web

#### KidsLit: Books and More for Kids and Teens

<http://kidslit.menashalibrary.org/>

- Updated and informative children's literature blog written by Tasha Saecker, director of the Menasha Public Library.

#### Kids Read:

[www.kidsreads.com](http://www.kidsreads.com)

- Reviews of new titles, interviews with the coolest authors, trivia games, and other special features on great books.



Winchester Thurston School

## SUMMER READING Requirements and Recommendations



For students entering

**GRADE 5**

**2009- 2010**

[www.winchesterthurston.org](http://www.winchesterthurston.org)

## Required Reading for Fifth Graders

***These books must be read before school starts on August 27, 2009:***

- *Number the Stars* – Lois Lowry
- *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village*—Laura Amy Schlitz

## Further Fun Reading for Fifth Graders

### THE HERE AND NOW

- Frank Cottrell Boyce. *Framed*. Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business and remind an entire town of the power of art.
- Andrew Clements. *A Week in the Woods*. The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.
- Jules Feiffer. *The Man in the Ceiling*. Although not very good at sports or in his schoolwork, Jimmy can draw and dreams of being a great cartoonist.
- Adrian Fogelin. *Crossing Jordan*. Cass meets her new African-American neighbor, Jemmie, and despite their families' prejudices, they build a strong friendship around their mutual talent for running.
- Dan Gutman. *Honus and Me*. Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus.
- Karen Hesse. *The Music of Dolphins*. Using computer technology, Mila, a girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world.
- Valerie Hobbs. *Defiance*. While vacationing in the country, Toby, a cancer patient, learns some important lessons about living and dying from an elderly poet and her cow.
- Gordon Korman. *Schooled*. Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie, but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.
- Jenny Lombard. *Drita, My Homegirl*. When Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.
- Michael Morpurgo. *Kensuke's Kingdom*. When Michael is swept off his family yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive—until he finds he is not alone.
- Susan Patron. *The Higher Power of Lucky*. Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away.
- John Ritter. *The Boy Who Played Baseball*. The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game.
- Pam Munoz Ryan. *Paint the Wind*. After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, Maya, an orphan, leaves her extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch.
- Gary Soto. *Taking Sides*. Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must face his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburb.
- Jerry Spinelli. *Crash*. John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until he forms a relationship with an unusual Quaker boy.
- Lee Wardlaw. *101 Ways to Bug Your Parents*. When his parents call off the family vacation and enroll their son in a creative writing class instead, Steve comes up with a wacky moneymaking project.

### THE WAY WE WERE

- Avi. *The Secret School*. In 1925, 14-year old Ida Bidson secretly takes over as the teacher when the one-room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.
- Gary Blackwood. *Second Sight*. In Washington, D.C. during the last days of the Civil War, a teenage boy who performs a mind-reading act befriends a clairvoyant girl whose visions foreshadow an assassination plot.
- Eve Bunting. *Spying on Miss Muller*. At a boarding school in Belfast at the start of World War II, 13-year-old Jessie must deal with her suspicions about a teacher whose father was German.
- Christopher Paul Curtis. *Elijah of Buxton*. Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits to try to bring justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.
- Cornelia Funke. *The Thief Lord*. Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord.
- Patricia Reilly Giff. *Lily's Crossing*. Set during World War II, this story tells of the war's impact on two children in the United States.
- Jennifer L. Holm. *Our Only May Amelia*. As the only girl in a Finnish American family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899.
- Milly Lee. *Landed*. After leaving his village in southeastern China, twelve year old Sun is held in Angel Island, San Francisco, before being released to join his father, a merchant living in the area.
- Sonia Levitin. *Journey to America*. A Jewish family fleeing Nazi Germany in 1938 endures innumerable separations before they are once again united.
- Chris Lynch. *Gold Dust*. In 1975, Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer, hoping that he will love baseball and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.
- Patricia C. McKissack. *A Friendship for Today*. Rosemary learns that she will be attending an all-white school in the fall; but when her best friend is diagnosed with polio, she must face the first day of school alone.
- Linda Sue Park. *A Single Shard*. Tree-ear, an orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.
- Richard Peck. *On the Wings of Heroes*. A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes—his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.
- Tamora Pierce. *Page*. Keladry of Mindelan continues her training to become a squirewith the aid of a new maid, the support of her friends, interference from some other pages, and some serious, even dangerous opposition.
- Pam Muñoz Ryan. *Esperanza Rising*. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California.
- Gloria Skurzynski. *Goodbye Billy Radish*. As the U.S. enters World War I in 1917, Hank sees change all around his western Pennsylvania steel mill town.
- Zilpha Keatley Snyder. *Cat Running*. Sixth-grader Cat Kinsey is sure she is the fastest runner in her school until Zane, a barefooted, ragged "Okie," arrives.
- Maria Testa. *Becoming Joe DiMaggio*. Joseph Paul grows up following the career of baseball great Joe DiMaggio, learning the rules of the game from his grandfather and dreaming of becoming a famous baseball player himself.