



# SUMMER READING LIST 2023

## ENTERING 5th GRADE

Entering 5th Grade Families: We ask you to have your child read at least 2 books this summer. They can be from this recommendation list or any other genres/titles your child might enjoy reading.

We also ask that you engage in dialogue with your child regarding characters, setting, plot, real world connections they are making with the text, etc. They can also write about the books as well and share them with their teachers.

### **Hooper Finds a Family** (Jane Paley)

Here comes Hooper, one spunky dog whose warm spirit and goofy personality are irresistible. Hooper tells his own dramatic rescue tale after being left homeless in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and taking a daring trip from New Orleans to New York to meet his new family. He tells of the terrifying force of Katrina, his trials in the shelter, and being the new dog on the block in a city far from home. As Hooper struggles to find his place, he learns to overcome his fear of water and faces down feisty squirrels as well as the resident bully and top dog in his new neighborhood. In a moving tale of adventure and triumph based on a true story, meet this tenacious pup who makes an incredible journey in search of home.

### **Totally True Adventures: Apollo 13** (series)(Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld)

On April 11, 1970, astronauts Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert blasted off to the moon. But while they were flying, part of their spaceship exploded! The ship was quickly losing power and air. They had to think of something fast, or they'd be stuck in outer space forever. How would they make it back to earth?

### **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** (Chris Grabenstein)

When Kyle Keeley learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on opening night, Kyle is determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting *into* the library—it's getting *out*. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must catch every clue and solve every puzzle to find the hidden escape route!

### **Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez** (Adrianna Cuevas)

All Eleven-year-old Nestor Lopez wants is to live in one place for more than a few months and have dinner with his dad. When he and his mother move to a new town to live with his grandmother, after his dad's latest deployment, Nestor plans to lay low. He *definitely* doesn't want anyone to find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals. But when the animals in his new town start disappearing, Nestor's grandmother becomes the prime suspect after she is spotted in the woods where they were last seen. As Nestor investigates the source of the disappearances, he learns that they are being seized by a tula vieja—a witch who can absorb an animal's powers by biting it during a solar eclipse. Now it's up to Nestor's extraordinary ability and his new friends to catch the tula vieja—and save a place he might just call home

**Wish** (Barbara O'Connor)

Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with a family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.

**Loser's Club** (Andrew Clements)

Sixth grader Alec can't put a good book down. So when Principal Vance lays down the law—pay attention in class, or *else*—Alec takes action. He can't lose all his reading time, so he starts a club. A club he *intends* to be the only member of. After all, reading isn't a team sport, and no one would want to join something called the Losers Club, right? But as more and more kids find their way to Alec's club—including his ex-friend turned bully *and* the girl Alec is maybe starting to like—Alec notices something. Real life might be messier than his favorite books, but it's *just* as interesting.

**Out of My Mind** (Sharon Draper)

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people—her teachers and doctors included—don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind—that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear.

**Bud Not Buddy** (Christopher Paul Curtis) **Newbery Award**

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him: He has his own suitcase full of special things. He's the author of *Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself*. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers advertising Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!! Bud's got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road to find this mystery man, nothing can stop him—not hunger, not fear, not vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself.

**Inkling** (Kenneth Oppel)

The Rylance family needs help. Dad has writer's block. Ethan promises to illustrate a school project---even though he can't draw. Sarah wants a puppy. And they all miss Mom. Enter Inkling, an inkblot that leaps off the page of Mr. Rylance's sketchbook. Inkling begins life in Mr. Rylance's sketchbook. But one night the ink of his drawings runs together--and then leaps off the page! This small burst of creativity is about to change everything.

**A Wish in the Dark** (Christina Soontornvat) **Newbery Honor Award**

All light in Chattana is created by one man - the Governor, who appeared after the Great Fire to bring peace and order to the city. For Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison, the magical lights represent freedom, and he dreams of the day he will be able to walk among them. But when Pong escapes from prison, he realizes that the world outside is no fairer than the one behind bars. The wealthy dine and dance under bright orb light, while the poor toil away in darkness. Worst of all, Pong's prison tattoo marks him as a fugitive who can never be truly free. Nok, the prison warden's perfect daughter, is bent on tracking Pong down and restoring her family's good name. But as Nok hunts Pong through the alleys and canals of Chattana, she uncovers secrets that make her question the truths she has always held dear. Set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world, Christina Soontornvat's twist on Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a dazzling, fast-paced adventure that explores the difference between law and justice - and asks whether one child can shine a light in the dark.

**A Long Walk to Water** (Linda Sue Park)

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.

**The First Rule of Punk** (Celia C. Perez)- **a Mr. Scarantino favorite!**

*The First Rule of Punk* is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching. There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself. The real Malú loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Malú finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself!

**The Night Diary** (Neera Hiranandani) **Newbery Honor Book**

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together. Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

**Land of Stories** (Chris Colfer)

Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change in this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, Alex & Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

**The Thrifty Guide to the American Revolution: A Handbook for Time Travelers** (series) (Jonathon W. Stokes)

Provides useful information for the practical time traveler, like:

- Where can I find a decent hotel room in colonial New England? Are major credit cards accepted?
- How do I join the Boston Tea Party without winding up in a British prison?
- How can I score a lunch with Alexander Hamilton?

This guide answers these fiery, burning questions with the marshmallows of information. There is handy advice on how to join Paul Revere's spy ring at the Green Dragon Tavern, how to enlist in General Washington's rebel army, and how to summon the strength to storm a British gun battery when you haven't eaten for three days.

**Becoming Muhammad Ali** (James Patterson and Kwame Alexander)

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius' family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali. Fully authorized by and written in cooperation with the Muhammad Ali estate, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* captures the budding charisma and youthful personality of one of the greatest sports heroes of all time.