

5th Grade Summer Reading 2016

Over the summer, you are responsible for completing the following reading assignments:

1. Summer Reading Log

Keep track of all of the books you read this summer. As your teachers, we want to know the types of literature in which you are most interested! In the event you need more room, please continue the form on loose leaf.

2. Required Reading

Please choose **two** novels to read from the attached list. We've included a variety of genres and a brief description of each text. We're certain you'll find something that catches your eye and sparks your interest!

3. Book Report Form

From your required reading selections, please complete **one** book report form. This will be your very first grade in Literature class next year, so be sure to give this assignment your best effort!

We look forward to reading with you next school year! Happy Summer!

Mrs. Mansfield and Miss Cooper

5th Grade Summer Reading 2016
Required Reading List
Select 2

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl was a champion of the underdog and all things little—in this case, an orphaned boy oppressed by two nasty, self-centered aunts. How James escapes his miserable life with the horrible aunts and becomes a hero is a Dahlicious fantasy of the highest order. You will never forget resourceful little James and his new family of magically overgrown insects.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government, begins. Winner of the Newberry Medal in 1963, L'Engle's work of fantasy and science fiction combined with some Christian theology has now been read by several generations of young enthusiasts. The author went on to write three others, forming a quartet based on the Murry family that includes themes like the power of love and the need to make responsible moral choices.

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

"Claudia knew that she could never pull off the old-fashioned kind of running away..." so she decided to run not from somewhere but to somewhere—somewhere large, warm, comfortable, and beautiful. And that was how Claudia and her brother, Jamie, ended up living in the Metropolitan Museum of Art—and right in the middle of a mystery that made headlines.

Detective Stories by Philip Pullman

Young mystery fans will be enthralled by this compelling volume of detective fiction that includes both classic and contemporary writers such as Italo Calvino, Agatha Christie, Ellery Queen, Damon Runyon, and Andrew Vachss.

Holes by Louis Sachar

This winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award features Stanley Yelnats, a kid who is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico — she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances — Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The timeless favorite follows the four March sisters—pretty Meg, tomboy Joy, shy Beth, and vain Amy—as they grow and mature into four distinctive little women. Louisa May Alcott was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts, the setting for *Little Women*. Jo is based on Louisa herself, and Meg, Beth, and Amy are inspired by Louisa's own three sisters. *Little Women* chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Long, long ago, a little girl named Laura Ingalls headed west toward the prairie with her Pa, her Ma, her sisters, Mary and Carrie, and their good old bulldog, Jack. They traveled far each day in their covered wagon, driving through tall grass until they found just the right spot for their new home. With the help of their kind neighbor, Mr. Edwards, Pa built a snug little house for the family in the middle of the wide-open prairie.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake, and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. A story of survival and of transformation, this riveting book has sparked many a reader's interest in venturing into the wild.

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson

At first, Travis couldn't stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene. Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger . . . but can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

