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Recommended Reading for 5th Graders



Fiction

Secrets of Tamarind

Nadia Aguiar

JFIC AGUIAR

Four years after leaving the lost island of Tamarind, Maya, Simon, and Penny Nelson return to stop the Red Coral Project, a sinister group mining the magical mineral ophalla there and, in the process, ruining the magnificent island.

Reading Level: W

The Night Gardener

Jonathan Auxier

JFIC AUXIER

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Reading Level: X

City of Orphans

Avi

JFIC AVI

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works.

Reading Level: W

The Mistaken Masterpiece

Michael Beil

JFIC BEIL

Sophie and her friends, who call themselves The Red Blazer Girls, embark on solving a case involving mistaken identities, switched paintings, and some priceless family heirlooms.

Reading Level: S

Jefferson's Sons: a founding father's secret children

Kimberly Bradley

JFIC BRADLEY

A fictionalized look at the last twenty years of Thomas Jefferson's life at Monticello through the eyes of three of his slaves, two of whom were his sons by his slave, Sally Hemings.

Reading Level: X

Ruby Redfort: look into my eyes

Lauren Child

JFIC CHILD

Thirteen-year-old Ruby, a genius code-cracker and daring detective, gets an anonymous call setting a challenge that leads her to the headquarters of Spectrum, a highly secret anti-crime agency that needs her help to crack a code, but soon Ruby uncovers dastardly plans of the Fool's Gold Gang.

Reading Level: T

How Not to Run for President

Catherine Clark

JFIC CLARK

When Aidan, an ordinary Ohio twelve-year-old, saves a presidential candidate from injury during a campaign appearance and his heroic deed is broadcast everywhere, he and his family discover the seamy side of being in the media spotlight.

Reading Level: W



Brown Girl Dreaming

Jacqueline Woodson

JFIC WOODSON

In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.

Reading Level: X

The Detention Club

David Yoo

JFIC YOO

Sixth-grader Peter Lee, in a desperate attempt to regain the popularity he had in elementary school, discovers that serving detention can win him important friends, much to the dismay of his over-achieving eighth-grade sister, Sunny.

Reading Level: W

Graphic Novels

El Deafo

Cece Bell

JGN BELL

The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn't—but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for.

Reading Level: Q

Alabaster Shadows

Matt Gardner

JGN GARDNER

Carter Normandy discovers a whole other world alongside his seemingly normal new community—a world full of monsters the adults know all about—and now it is up to Carter and his friends to keep these monsters from crossing over.

Reading Level: M

Sunny Side Up

Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm

JGN HOLM

Sunny Lewin is sent to live with her grandfather for the summer in Florida, where she befriends Buzz, a boy completely obsessed with comic books, and faces the secret behind why she is in Florida in the first place.

Reading Level: O

Amulet, Book One: the stonekeeper

Kazu Kibuishi

JGN KIBUISHI

After moving into an old ancestral home, Emily and Navin's mother is kidnapped and dragged down the basement stairs by a mysterious creature, and after giving chase, the kids find themselves in a magical but dangerous world of man-eating demons, a mechanical rabbit, and shadowy enemies.

Reading Level: Q



The Wednesday Wars**Gary Schmidt****JFIC SCHMIDT**

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of the value about the world he lives in.

Reading Level: X**The Marvels****Brian Selznick****JFIC SELZNICK**

In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to find a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900--and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences.

Reading Level: U**Gee Whiz****Jane Smiley****JFIC SMILEY**

Struggling with a growing realization of how little she understands about the world, ranch girl Abby bonds with a striking and curious horse while her older brother receives his draft notice for Vietnam, a period also marked by her friends' boarding school reports and a wise preacher's stories about his world travels

Reading Level: U**The Romeo & Juliet Code****Phoebe Stone****JFIC STONE**

During World War II, eleven-year-old Felicity is sent from London to Bottlebay, Maine, to live with her grandmother, aunt, uncle, and a reclusive boy who helps her decode mysterious letters that contain the truth about her missing parents.

Reading Level: W**The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing****Sheila Turnage****JFIC TURNAGE**

When Miss Lana accidentally buys a haunted inn at the Tupelo Landing town auction, Desperado Detectives-- aka Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale--opens up a paranormal division to solve the ghost's identity before the town's big 250th anniversary bash.

Reading Level: X**Gone Crazy in Alabama****Rita Williams-Garcia****JFIC WILLIAMS-GARCIA**

Spending the summer with their grandmother in the rural South, three sisters from Brooklyn discover the surprising reason behind their mother's estrangement from their aunt.

Reading Level: V**The Mighty Miss Malone****Christopher Curtis****JFIC CURTIS**

With love and determination befitting the "world's greatest family," twelve-year-old Deza Malone, her older brother Jimmie, and their parents endure tough times in Gary, Indiana, and later Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression.

Reading Level: V**Flora & Ulysses: the illuminated adventures****Kate DiCamillo****JFIC DICAMILLO**

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

Reading Level: U**Once Upon a Toad****Heather Frederick****JFIC FREDERICK**

When her mother goes on a NASA mission, Cat Starr is sent to live with her father, stepsister Olivia, and younger brother Geoffrey, but interference by her inept fairy godmother causes toads to appear when Cat speaks and gems to fall from Olivia's mouth, bringing one to the attention of jewel thieves and the other to a secret government laboratory.

Reading Level: S**The Adventures of Beanboy****Lisa Harkrader****JFIC HARKRADER**

Wheaton, Kansas seventh-grader Tucker MacBean loves comic books, so when his favorite comic has a contest to create a sidekick, he is hopeful that he can win, thereby fixing his struggling family.

Reading Level: T**Sure Signs of Crazy****Kate Harrington****JFIC HARRINGTON**

Twelve-year-old Sarah writes letters to her hero, To Kill a Mockingbird's Atticus Finch, for help understanding her mentally ill mother, her first real crush, and life in her small Texas town, all in the course of one momentous summer.

Reading Level: Z**Take Me to the River****Will Hobbs****JFIC HOBBS**

When North Carolina fourteen-year old Dylan Sands joins his fifteen-year old cousin Rio in running the Rio Grande, they face a tropical storm and a fugitive kidnapper.

Reading Level: X**The Fourteenth Goldfish****Jennifer Holm****JFIC HOLM**

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

Reading Level: Z

The Crossover

Alexander Kwame

JFIC KWAME

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Reading Level: Z

A Wrinkle in Time

Madeleine L'Engle

JFIC L'ENGLE

Meg Murray and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Reading Level: W

A Tale of Two Castles

Gail Levine

JFIC LEVINE

Twelve-year-old Elodie journeys to Two Castles in hopes of studying acting but instead becomes apprentice to a dragon, who teaches her to be observant and use reasoning, thus helping her to uncover who is poisoning the king.

Reading Level: U

Where The Mountain Meets The Moon

Grace Lin

JFIC LIN

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

Reading Level: T

A Snicker of Magic

Natalie Lloyd

JFIC LLOYD

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle she hopes to bring the magic back.

Reading Level: W

Fantasy League

Mike Lupica

JFIC LUPICA

12-year-old fantasy football guru Charlie is elevated to the status of media sensation after convincing the owner of an NFL team to take a chance on an aging quarterback.

Reading Level: V

Troubletwisters

Garth Nix

JFIC NIX

When their house mysteriously explodes and they are sent to live with an unknown relative named Grandma X, twelve-year-old twins Jaide and Jack Shield learn that they are troubletwisters, young Wardens just coming into their powers, who must protect humanity from The Evil trying to break into earth's dimension.

Reading Level: Y

Dogtag Summer

Elizabeth Partridge

JFIC PARTRIDGE

In the summer of 1980 before she starts junior high school in Santa Rosa, California, Tracy, who was adopted from Vietnam when she was six years old, finds an old ammo box with a dog tag and picture that bring up painful memories for both her Vietnam veteran father and her.

Reading Level: Y

Public School Superhero

James Patterson

JFIC PATTERSON

In Kenny Wright's active imagination he's a world famous superhero, but in the real world he's a sixth grade "Grandma's Boy" whose struggles to fit in at his Washington D.C. inner city school will he put his grades and family loyalty to the test.

Reading Level: V

Liar, Liar: the theory, practice, and destructive properties of deception

Gary Paulsen

JFIC PAULSEN

Fourteen-year-old Kevin is very good at lying and doing so makes life easier, but when he finds himself in big trouble with his friends, family, and teachers, he must find a way to end his lies forever.

Reading Level: V

The Last Olympian

Rick Riordan

JFIC RIORDAN

Percy Jackson leads an army of young demigods to stop Kronos in his advance on New York City, while the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster, Typhon.

**Part of the Percy Jackson & The Olympians series*

Reading Level: S

Dork Diaries: Tales From a Not-So-Happily Ever After

Rachel Russell

JFIC RUSSELL

Suffering a bump on the head in gym class on April Fool's Day, Nikki has a wild dream about her friends and the mean-spirited Mackenzie play the roles of familiar fairy-tale characters.

**Part of the Dork Diaries series*

Reading Level: V

Fuzzy Mud

Louis Sachar

JFIC SACHAR

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Reading Level: W

Glory Be

Augusta Scattergood

JFIC SCATTERGOOD

In the summer of 1964 as she is about to turn twelve, Glory's town of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, is beset by racial tension when town leaders close her beloved public pool rather than desegregating it.

Reading Level: V

Okay For Now

Gary Schmidt

JFIC SCHMIDT

While Doug struggles to be more than the thug that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, as they explore Audubon's art.

Reading Level: Y

