

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS – Grade 5 (Fiction)

Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto - A collection of eleven short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California. The main characters try out for Little League teams, take karate lessons, and are embarrassed by their grandparents' behavior. A glossary of Spanish terms is included.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr – Stricken with leukemia as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima, brave Sadako vows to fold one thousand paper cranes so the gods will make her well.

Flawed Dogs: The Shocking Raid on Westminster by Berkeley Breathed – After being framed by a jealous poodle, a dachshund is left for dead, but comes back with a group of mutts to disrupt the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show and exact revenge on Cassius the poodle.

Wingwalker by Rosemary Wells – Reuben was a carefree second-grader living with his parents in 1930's Oklahoma when his father lost his job and took on another as an airplane wing walker with a Minnesota traveling carnival. Reuben then finds himself "on the road" with his parents, a tattooed lady, and a fire-eater.

Junebug by Alice Mead - Junebug is an almost ten-year-old boy. As he approaches his birthday, he has both dreams and dreads. He dreams that someday he will have the chance to sail, but he dreads his tenth birthday because, at that age, the boys in his neighborhood are usually pressured to join gangs, and this is something that Junebug definitely wants to avoid. When his birthday arrives, Junebug tries to fulfill his dream by launching his collection of 50 glass bottles, each with a note inside asking for a sailing lesson.

Scumble by Ingrid Law - Nine years after Mibs' Savvy journey, her cousin Ledge has just turned thirteen . . . But Ledger Kale's savvy is a total dud – all he does is make little things fall apart. So his parents decide it's safe to head to Wyoming, where it's soon revealed that Ledge's savvy is much more powerful than anyone thought.

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman – Jemmy, once a poor boy living on the streets, now lives in a castle. As the whipping boy, he bears the punishment when Prince Brat misbehaves, for it is forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like one another. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan - 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, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh - Harriet is a girl with only one ambition in life: to be a spy. She works hard at it – filling her secret notebook with observations about her parents, friends, and neighbors. But when her classmates find her notebook and read her mean comments about them, Harriet finds herself shunned by everyone. How can she put her spying talents to good use and make her friends like her again?

Chocolate Fever by Robert Kimmel Smith - Chocolate lovers will identify with Henry Green who eats chocolate wherever and however he wants. What a shock when he breaks out in a rash of brown spots that smell like chocolate! After running away from the doctor at the hospital, Henry stands up to a gang of boys, hitches a ride with a truck driver and is hijacked along with him.

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS – Grade 5 (Non-fiction)

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni – Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Mrs. Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement. This picture book tribute to Mrs. Parks is a celebration of her courageous action and the events that followed.

Around the World in a Hundred Years by Jean Fritz - Ten true tales of 15th-century European explorers from Bartholomew Diaz and Christopher Columbus to Juan Ponce de León and Vasco Núñez de Balboa who changed the map and left behind stories of adventure too good to miss.

Gladiator by Richard Watkins – This is an in-depth look at the life of the great Roman combatants. It is full of fascinating facts and gory details and describes the history of gladiators, including types of armor, use of animals, amphitheaters, and how the practice fit into Roman society for almost 700 years.

The Encyclopedia of Weird by Sheila De La Rosa – From A to Z and everything in between, here's a page-turning, eyebrow-raising head-shaking collection of "too-weird-to-be-true" facts.

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman – This text tells about Abraham Lincoln's boyhood, marriage, his young professional life and his presidential years.

Animals Marco Polo Saw: An Adventure on the Silk Road by Sandra Markle – This book brings to life the amazing, exotic animals Marco Polo encountered during his explorations in Asia, how the animals sometimes affected the outcome of the journey, and even helped the explorer survive!

The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest by Steve Jenkins - This unique book takes readers on the ultimate adventure of climbing the great mountain. Travel along and learn what to pack for such a trek and the hardships one may suffer on the way to the top. Avalanches, frostbite, frigid temperatures, wind, and limited oxygen are just a few of the dangers that make scaling this peak one of the most extreme physical challenges one can experience. To stand on the top of Mount Everest is to stand on top of the world.

Harry Houdini: Death-Defying Showman by Rita Thievon Mullin - This biography tells the life story of amazing risk-taker and escape artist Harry Houdini. It features his daredevil stunts (such as, surviving in a sealed coffin underwater for an hour-and-a-half and jumping off of bridges unscathed), and his remarkable escapes from a straightjacket, handcuffs, and even from a jail cell. Most importantly, in this biography, Mullin effectively conveys Houdini's dream: "I want my show to be the best of its kinds whilst I am alive. When I am dead there will not be another like it."

Quest for the Tree Kangaroo by Sy Montgomery - It looks like a bear, but isn't one. It climbs trees as easily as a monkey—but isn't a monkey, either. It has a belly pocket like a kangaroo, but what's a kangaroo doing up a tree? Meet the amazing Matschie's tree kangaroo, who makes its home in the ancient trees of Papua New Guinea's cloud forest. And meet the amazing scientists who track these elusive animals.

Guinness World Records™ 2011 gathers the most amazing, inspiring, and wild record breakers yet. Filled with don't-try-this-at-home human achievements, natural and technological wonders, incredible feats in sports and entertainment, and much more, this fully updated edition introduces thrilling new records and incredible facts that will fascinate any reader.