SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS
Fifth Grade
Fantasy

**Sweep : the story of a girl and her monster**
by Jonathan Auxier
In nineteenth-century England, after her father’s disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a “climbing boy,” aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

**Bob**
by Wendy Mass
Visiting her grandmother in Australia, Livy, ten, is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is.

**Circus Mirandus**
by Cassie Beasley
Learning from his dying grandfather that a magical circus at the heart of his favorite bedtime stories is real, young Micah and his friend Jenny embark on a journey to claim a miracle from the circus’s wondrous magician, the Lightbender.

**The Trials of Morrigan Crow**
by Jessica Townsend
“A cursed child destined to die on her eleventh birthday is rescued and whisked away to a secret realm called Nevermoor and given the chance to compete for a place in a prestigious organization called the Wundrous Society.”

**Wishtree**
by Katherine Applegate
A wise old oak tree that stands as the neighborhood’s “wishtree,” where people write wishes on cloth and tie them to her branches, shares her days with her crow friend and helps the community embrace differences when new neighbors move in and are not warmly welcomed. By the Newbery Medal-winning author of The One and Only Ivan.

**Aru Shah and the End of Time**
by Roshani Chokshi
Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

**Nightbooks**
by J. A White
A young boy is imprisoned by a witch in a New York apartment and must tell her a new scary story each night in order to stay alive.

**Wings of Fire : the dragonet prophecy**
by Barry Deutsch
Determined to end a generations-long war among the seven dragon tribes, a secret movement called the Talons of Peace draws on a prophecy that calls for a great sacrifice, compelling five appointed dragonets to fulfill a painful destiny against their will.

**Talespinners : saving Fable**
by Scott Reintgen
Indira Story grew up in Origin, yearning to be the hero of her own story, but after finally being chosen to attend Protagonist Preparatory, she learns that side characters can be heroes, too.

**Broken Pride**
by Erin Hunter
When the lone rule of the African plains is violated, the task of keeping the fragile peace between predators and prey is left to a cast-out lion, an intuitive elephant, and an honor-seeking baboon.
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise
by Dan Gemeinhart
Living on the road in an old school bus with her dad after losing her mother and sisters, 12-year-old Coyote devises an elaborate plan to convince her father to make a first trip home to Washington state in five years, a journey marked by an eclectic group of passengers they meet along the way.

Saving Winslow
by Sharon Creech
When his father brings home an ailing, newborn donkey, Louie names the animal Winslow and takes care of him, but everyone, including Louie’s quirky friend Nora, thinks Winslow is not going to survive. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

Louisiana’s Way Home
by Kate DiCamillo
Louisiana Elefante’s granny wakes her up in the middle of the night and tells her they need to leave home immediately, and this time Granny intends for them never to return. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

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Song for a Whale
by Lynne Kelly
Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris’s plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

The Unteachables
by Gordon Korman
Told in alternating voices, the teacher and students in room 117 find their lives changed over the course of a school year. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

The Season of Styx Malone
by Kekla Magoon
Caleb Franklin and his younger brother, Bobby Gene, spend an extraordinary summer with their new, older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

Caterpillar Summer
by Gillian McDunn
Helping to care for her beloved special-needs brother in the years after their father’s passing, Cat suffers a personal setback that prompts her to visit the home of the grandparents she has never met, where she finds renewal in simply being able to be a kid. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

The Boy at the Back of the Class
by Onjali Q. Raúf
When a Syrian refugee boy joins their class, the determined students in Mrs. Kahn’s schoolroom learn the newcomer’s sad story before concocting a plan to reunite him with his loved ones. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

Solving for M
by Jennifer Swender
Confused about how keeping a math journal will support her education, Mika is separated from her friends at the beginning of the fifth grade and finds the journal unexpectedly helpful in the face of a difficult loss at home. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.

Some Places More than Others
by Renée Watson
Looking forward to meeting her extended family for the first time during a visit to her father’s childhood brownstone in Harlem, Amara is dismayed by family estrangements and revelations about her father’s early years before discovering new ways to connect with her heritage. 2021 GA Book Award Nominee.
**Mystery**

**The Magic Misfits**  
by Neil Patrick Harris  
A young street magician teams up with other talented street kids to save their town from a crime boss and his goons.

**Bad Magic**  
by Pseudonymous Bosch  
Believing that magic is fake and cheesy, young Clay is shocked when he is wrongly blamed for vandalism when words from his journal magically appear on a wall at school, an occurrence that causes Clay to be sent to a camp for troubled kids on a remote volcanic island where he encounters more magic than he ever thought possible.

**Spy School**  
by Stuart Gibbs  
Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

**The Westing Game**  
by Ellen Raskin  
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

**Three Times Lucky**  
by Sheila Turnage  
Making a home in a small North Carolina town where she washed up as a baby during a hurricane 11 years earlier, sixth-grader Mo taps the power of her strong will and tough attitude when a lawman arrives in town to investigate a murder case that threatens to destabilize Mo’s adopted family.

**Adventure**

**The Many Worlds of Albie Bright**  
by Christopher Edge  
A highly anticipated, humorous tale written in part to help connect students with STEM science concepts follows the adventures of a boy in search of his mother in a parallel universe after her cancer-related passing, a journey that leads to surprising discoveries.

**Book Scavenger**  
by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman  
Delightedly moving to San Francisco, 12-year-old Emily longs to meet a favorite author who lives nearby and who is savagely attacked just before the release of his latest online puzzle series.

**The Mysterious Benedict Society**  
by Trenton Lee Stewart  
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Tree of Dreams**  
by Laura Resau  
An urgent story inspired by the painful realities of the destruction of the Amazon rainforest and its people follows the impact of a talking tree, mysticism and chocolate on a community that finds its culture and sacred beliefs targeted for destruction. By the author of The Lightning Queen.

**Finding Orion**  
by John David Anderson  
When Rion Kwirk and his unconventional family head to his grandfather's funeral, he tries to uncover the truth about Papa Kwirk's complicated relationship with Rion's father.
**Historical Fiction**

**The Night Diary**  
by Veera Hiranandani  
Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

**The War that Saved My Life**  
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**Unbound : a novel in verse**  
by Ann E Burg  
Promising to remain unobtrusive and discreet when she is called from the slave cabins to work in the Big House, Grace is unable to stay silent when she witnesses the numerous cruelties of heartless slave owners who brutalize and separate slave families.

**Number the Stars**  
by Lois Lowry  
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

**Genevieve's War**  
by Patricia Reilly Giff  
After deciding not to return to her home in New York, Genevieve remains with her grandmother in Alsace, France, and joins the French resistance against the Nazis.

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**Non-Fiction**

**Hidden Figures : the true story of four black women and the space race**  
by Margot Lee Shetterly  
Explores the previously uncelebrated but pivotal contributions of NASA's African American women mathematicians to America's space program, describing how Jim Crow laws segregated them despite their groundbreaking successes.

**Pass Go and Collect $200 : the real story of how Monopoly was invented**  
by Tanya Lee Stone  
"A nonfiction picture book history of Monopoly, one of the world's most famous games".

**The Boy Who Drew Birds : a story of John James Audubon**  
by Jacqueline Davies  
John James Audubon's passion for the outdoors in general and for birds specifically inspires an account of Audubon's early observations of birds nesting near his Pennsylvania boyhood home.

**Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom : my story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March**  
by Lynda Blackmon Lowery  
Shares the story of the youngest person to complete the Selma to Montgomery March, describing her frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations and how she felt about her involvement in Civil Rights events.

**Avalanche Dog Heroes : Piper and friends learn to search the snow**  
by Elizabeth Rusch  
"Follow Piper the border collie and her canine classmates through a season of avalanche rescue training. As they learn the skills they need to become snow rescue heroes, you'll learn about avalanche safety and the work these amazing dogs do."
Graphic Novels

**The Cardboard Kingdom**  
by Chad Sell  
A team of neighbor kids use their imaginations and creativity to transform cardboard materials into fantastical homemade costumes that help them navigate conflicts with friends, family and their own identities, in a collaborative graphic novel that includes contributions by such authors as Jay Fuller, David DeMeo and Katie Schenkel.

**El Deafo**  
by Cece Bell  
The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her “superpower.”

**Stargazing**  
by Jen Wang  
Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

**Sanity & Tallulah**  
by Molly Brooks  
Two best friends living on a dilapidated space station at the far end of the galaxy are challenged to save their home after creating an illegal but impossibly cute three-headed kitten that wreaks havoc throughout the station.

**White Bird : A Wonder Story**  
by R. J Palacio  
Tells the story of Julian’s Grandmère’s childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

Classics

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**  
by Roald Dahl  
The Roald Dahl classic follows the experiences of an impoverished, chocolate-loving little boy and four brats who each becomes the lucky recipient of a golden ticket that grants them all a tour of the world’s most fantastical chocolate factory.

**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**  
by C. S. Lewis  
Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

**Where the Sidewalk Ends : the poems & drawings of Shel Silverstein**  
by Shel Silverstein  
A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in a collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author’s own drawings.

**Charlotte’s Web**  
by E. B. White  
Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer’s Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

**The Phantom Tollbooth**  
by Norton Juster  
Discovering a large toy tollbooth in his room, bored ten-year-old Milo drives through the tollbooth’s gates and begins a memorable journey to the Kingdom of Wisdom with a watchdog named Tuck.