

Summer Reading Program
Incoming Fifth Graders

Why Can't I Skip My
20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

The topic for Fifth Grade Summer Reading is **Community**. As you read your selected book this summer, think about what Community is, the role it plays in our lives (how and why it is important to you), and how we find our role in our community (how we figure out where we fit in).

Directions: Attached is a list of book *recommendations*, but you may select a book of interest to you where you are able to investigate the concept of **Community**. If choosing your own book, it must address the theme topic of **Community**.

- As you read the book, keep notes on your thoughts and how they may relate to your ideas on community.
- The book is to be completed prior to the start of school, so get started right away!
- Be prepared to discuss the book when you return to school as fifth graders. Complete the questions below ***in complete sentences***.
- Your notes will assist in answering the questions and in your classroom discussion. The completed questions are to be submitted to your teacher when you return to school.

Book selection: _____

Author: _____

1) What is your definition of community? You may refer to a dictionary, but ***write your definition in your words***, using complete sentences.

2) What struggles did your character have within their community? Provide examples from the story showing why you think this.

Fifth Grade Summer Reading Recommendation List

Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson

In this classic novel, fifth grader Jesse Aaron's dreams of becoming the fastest runner in his class are dashed when newcomer Leslie Burke outruns everybody, even him. But Jess and Leslie begin a friendship, and soon they discover a magical kingdom in the forest, where they reign as king and queen. The friendship between young Jess and Leslie grows as they meet in Terabithia, their secret hiding place, and only ends with the tragic death of one of them.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle, Leslie Connor

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Even the townspeople don't believe him.

Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny.

But will anyone believe him?

The One and Only Ivan, Katherine Applegate

Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all. Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line. Inspired by a true story, this is the beautifully written tale of how a mighty gorilla wins his freedom. Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create Ivan's unforgettable first-person narration in a story of friendship, art, and hope.

Maniac Magee, Jerry Spinelli

Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

The Whipping Boy, Sid Fleischman

Jemmy, who once made a meager living catching rats in the sewers, is now living in the king's castle as the whipping boy for Prince Horace, commonly known to the citizens of the kingdom as Prince Brat.

The Cross of Lead, Avi

In fourteenth-century England a nameless thirteen-year-old peasant boy, who thought he had little to lose, finds himself with even less. Accused of a crime he did not commit, he has been declared a "wolf's head," meaning that anyone can kill him on sight. "Asta's son" learns from the village priest that his Christian name is Crispin and that his parents' origins — and fates — might be more complex than he ever imagined. To remain alive the boy must flee his tiny village — the only world he's ever known — taking with him his mother's cross of lead.

When You Reach Me, Rebecca Stead

Four mysterious letters change Miranda's world forever.

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, like the local grocery store, and they know whom to avoid, like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a new kid for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then Miranda finds a mysterious note scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. *Winner of the John Newbery Medal and the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award for Fiction * A New York Times Book Review Notable Book for Children * A New York Times Bestseller*

Kira-Kira, Cynthia Kadohata

Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop them on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering — kira-kira — in the future.