

# 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**



*90<sup>th</sup> percentile*

**282,000 words**



*50<sup>th</sup> percentile*

**8,000 words**



*10<sup>th</sup> percentile*

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> 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)

# Summer Reading 2021

## Grade 5

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).

Summer Reading Program Incoming Fifth Graders

**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. Answer 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.
- You may share this work in the form of a Google Doc with your ELA teacher(s) if you would prefer to type your answers. Our school email addresses are:  
[aparella@drregional.org](mailto:aparella@drregional.org) or [lpeachwall@drregional.org](mailto:lpeachwall@drregional.org)





## 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.

### ***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*

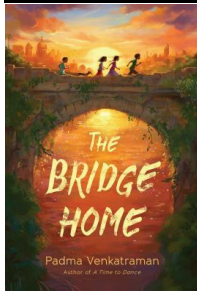
***Kira-Kira*, Cynthia Kadohata Glittering.**

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.

## 5th Grade - Community

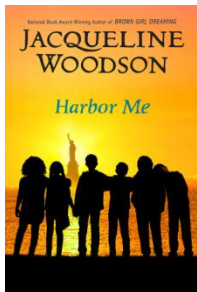
Here are some books you might want to consider. All of these titles were published recently and will be available in paperback before the end of June, 2020. (Summaries are copied from Goodreads)

### **The Bridge Home** by Padma Venkatraman



dog ever.

When Viji and her sister, Rukku, whose developmental disability makes her overly trusting and vulnerable to the perils of the world, run away to live on their own, the situation could not be more grim. Life on the streets of the teeming city of Chennai is harsh for girls considered outcasts, but the sisters manage to find shelter on an abandoned bridge. There they befriend Muthi and Arul, two boys in a similar predicament, and the four children bond together and form a family of sorts. They are often hungry and scared but they have each other--and Kutti, the best



their lives.

**Harbor Me** by Jacqueline Woodson It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them—everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of

### **Shouting at the Rain**, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt



loved. Also that together, they can weather any storm.

Delsie loves tracking the weather--lately, though, it seems the squalls are in her own life. She's always lived with her kindhearted Grammy, but now she's looking at their life with new eyes and wishing she could have a "regular family." Delsie observes other changes in the air, too--the most painful being a friend who's outgrown her. Luckily, she has neighbors with strong shoulders to support her, and Ronan, a new friend who is caring and courageous but also troubled by the losses he's endured. As Ronan and Delsie traipse around Cape Cod on their adventures, they both learn what it means to be angry versus sad, broken versus whole, and abandoned versus

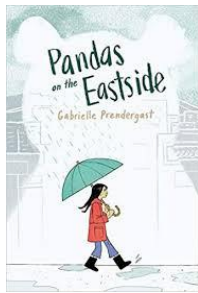
**Stay**, by Bobbie Pyron



Piper's life is turned upside down when her family moves into a shelter in a whole new city. She misses her house, her friends, and her privacy—and she hates being labeled the homeless girl at her new school. But while the shelter, Hope House, offers her new challenges, it also brings new friendships, like the girls in Firefly Girls Troop 423 and a sweet street dog named Baby. So when Baby's person goes missing, Piper knows she has to help. But helping means finding the courage to trust herself and her new friends, no matter what anyone says about them—before Baby gets taken away for good.

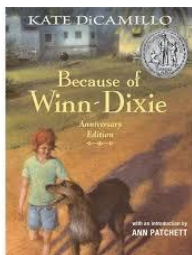
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**Pandas on the Eastside**, by Gabrielle Prendergast



When ten-year-old Journey Song hears that two pandas are being held in a warehouse in her neighborhood, she worries that they may be hungry, cold and lonely. Horrified to learn that the pandas, originally destined for a zoo in Washington, might be shipped back to China because of a diplomatic spat between China and the United States, Journey rallies her friends and neighbors on the poverty-stricken Eastside. Her infectious enthusiasm for all things panda is hard to resist, and soon she's getting assistance from every corner of her tight-knit neighborhood.

**Because of Winn-Dixie**, by Kate DiCamillo



One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.