

Friends Academy
2021 Middle School Summer Reading List
for students entering
5th Grade

Challenge One

Students entering fifth grade are required to read the following:

Lord, Cynthia. *Because of the Rabbit*.

ISBN-13: 978-0545914246

Realistic Fiction

On the last night of summer, Emma tags along with her game warden father to rescue a wild rabbit from a picket fence, but instead they find a little bunny. The next day, Emma starts fifth grade. More than anything, she wants to make a best friend. But things don't go as planned. On the first day of school, she's paired with a boy named Jack for a project. They develop a bond but will their new friendship keep Emma from finding the new best friend she's meant to have?

Challenge Two

Students entering fifth grade are also required to read one book from the following list:

Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer*. **Series**

Mystery

Art, intrigue, and plenty of twists and turns make this art mystery a great read. Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay set out to find the connection between their teacher, the eccentric woman in their neighborhood, the bookstore owner, and an international art thief. The first book in the mystery series is layered with pentominoes (a mathematical tool consisting of 12 pieces), puzzling clues, and suspicious strangers. The detailed black-and-white chapter illustrations hold hidden messages.

Book 1: *Chasing Vermeer*

ISBN-13: 978-0439372978

Book 2: *The Wright 3*

ISBN-13: 978-0439693684

Book 3: *The Calder Game*

ISBN-13: 978-0439852081

Book 4: *Pieces and Players*

ISBN-13: 978-0545299916

Bauer, Marion Dane. *On My Honor*.*

ISBN-13: 978-0547722405

Realistic Fiction

Tony is a persuasive daredevil, and Joel is less imaginative and perhaps too responsible, like his protective father. To Joel's dismay, his father has given permission for a bike trip on which Tony secretly plans a dangerous rock climb. Taunts and dares lead to tragedy and a truth that must be faced.

***1986 Newbery Honor Winner**

Blackwood, Sage. *Miss Ellicott's School for the Magically Minded*.

ISBN-13: 978-0062402646

Fantasy

Chantel would much rather focus on her magic than on curtsy-ing, which is why she often finds herself in trouble at Miss Ellicott's School for Magical Maidens. But when Miss Ellicott mysteriously disappears along with all the other sorceresses in the city, Chantel's behavior becomes the least of her problems. Without any magic protecting the city, it is up to Chantel and her friends to save the Kingdom. On a dangerous mission, Chantel will discover a crossbow-wielding boy, a dragon, and a new, fiery magic that burns inside her—but can she find the sorceresses and transform Lightning Pass into the city it was meant to be?

Brady, Dustin. *Trapped in a Video Game*. **Series**

Fantasy/Gaming

Jesse Rigsby hates video games—and for good reason. You see, a video game character is trying to kill him. After getting sucked in the new game *Full Blast* with his friend Eric, Jesse starts to see the appeal of vaporizing man-size praying mantis while cruising around by jet pack. But pretty soon, a mysterious figure begins following Eric and Jesse, and they discover they can't leave the game. If they don't figure out what's going on fast, they'll be trapped for good!

Book 1: *Trapped in a Video Game* **ISBN-13:** 978-1449494865

Book 2: *The Invisible Invasion* **ISBN-13:** 978-1449494896

Book 3: *Robots Revolt* **ISBN-13:** 978-1449495152

Book 4: *Return to Doom Island* **ISBN-13:** 978-1449495183

Book 5: *The Final Boss* **ISBN-13:** 978-1449495732

Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot*.*

ISBN-13: 978-0544826083

Fantasy

Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home—until, one day the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

***If you like *The Wild Robot*, check out the sequel, *The Wild Robot Escapes*!**

Fletcher, Ralph. *Flying Solo*.

ISBN-13: 978-0547076522

Realistic Fiction

When the substitute for Mr. "Fab" Fabiano never shows up and his sixth-grade students are on their own, they set out to prove that they can run the class by themselves. With a little ingenuity and some careful planning, they might just succeed. But when a fight breaks out between Bastian Fauvell and Rachel White over a classmate, Tommy Feathers, who died six months earlier, everything begins to fall apart. Can Rachel deal with the anxieties that plunged her into silence the day Tommy died? "Flying Solo" follows Mr. Fab's students hour by hour as they tackle the challenges of an unusual school day.

Gratz, Alan. *Ban this Book*.

ISBN-13: 978-0765385581

Realistic Fiction

A fourth grader fights back when *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg is challenged by a well-meaning parent and taken off the shelves of her school library. Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books that will make you laugh and pump your fists as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship.

Gutman, Dan. *The Million Dollar Shot*. **Series**

Realistic Fiction

In *The Million Dollar Shot*, Eddie Ball believes he can solve his family's financial woes by sinking a million-dollar half-time basket at the NBA finals, but someone wants him to miss and will stop at nothing to keep Eddie from winning.

Book 1: *The Million Dollar Shot* **ISBN-13:** 978-1423100843

Book 2: *The Million Dollar Kick* **ISBN-13:** 978-0786852109

Book 3: *The Million Dollar Goal* **ISBN-13:** 978-0786854943

Book 4: *The Million Dollar Strike* **ISBN-13:** 978-1423101727

Book 5: *The Million Dollar Putt* **ISBN-13:** 978-0786836420

Hale, Shannon. *Real Friends*.*

ISBN-13: 978-1626727854

Graphic

Novel/Realistic Fiction

Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top.... even if it means bullying others. Now

every day is like a roller coaster for Shannon. Will she and Adrienne stay friends? Can she stand up for herself? And is she in The Group—or out?

***If you like *Real Friends*, check out the sequel, *Best Friends*!**

Kibuishi, Kazu. *Amulet*. **Series**

Graphic

Novel/Fantasy

Graphic novel star Kazu Kibuishi creates a world of terrible, man-eating demons, a mechanical rabbit, a talking fox, a giant robot---and two ordinary children on a mission. After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals.

Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together with Miskit, they face the most terrifying monster of all, and Em finally has the chance to save someone she loves.

Book 1: <i>The Stonekeeper</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0439846813
Book 2: <i>The Stonekeeper's Curse</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0439846837
Book 3: <i>The Cloud Searchers</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0545208857
Book 4: <i>The Last Council</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0545208871
Book 5: <i>Prince of the Elves</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0545208895
Book 6: <i>Escape from Lucien</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0545433150
Book 7: <i>Firelight</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0545433167
Book 8: <i>Supernova</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0545828604

*Korman, Gordon. *The Unteachables*.

ISBN-13: 978-1626727854

Realistic Fiction

The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. They have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. Over the course of a school year, though, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction—and maybe even a shot at redemption.

***If you like *The Unteachables*, try Gordon Korman's *Swindle* series!**

Hunter, Erin. *Warriors* series.

Fantasy

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But now ThunderClan is in grave danger. Rival ShadowClan is growing stronger, a traitor may be hiding in their midst, and rising tensions threaten every cat in the forest. In the dark days ahead, ThunderClan's fate

will rest in the paws of an unexpected hero: an ordinary house cat named Rusty...who may yet turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.

Book 1: <i>Into the Wild</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366962
Book 2: <i>Fire and Ice</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366979
Book 3: <i>Forest of Secrets</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366986
Book 4: <i>Rising Storm</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062366993
Book 5: <i>A Dangerous Path</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062367006
Book 6: <i>The Darkest Hour</i>	ISBN-13: 978-0062367013

London, Jack. *White Fang*.

ISBN-13: 978-1505313109

Animal Tale/Classic

Part dog and part wolf, *White Fang* relies on instincts to survive in the Yukon wilderness. He overcomes animal predators, and eventually makes his peace with man.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears**

ISBN-13: 978-1536212587

Realistic Fiction

Sixth-grader *Merci Suárez* struggles with fitting in as a scholarship student at a posh Florida private school, and balancing school and life at home with her extended Cuban-American family. Heartwarming and funny.

***2019 Newbery Winner**

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet.**

ISBN-13: 978-0545503259

Survival Story

Following a plane crash, thirteen-year-old *Brian Robesonis* alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present.

***1988 Newbery Winner**

Other Gary Paulsen books are

also approved!

Shurtliff, Liesl. *Rump: The (Fairly) True Tale of Rumpelstiltskin** **ISBN-13:** 978-0307977960

Fantasy

In a magic kingdom where your name is your destiny, 12-year-old *Rump* is the butt of everyone's joke. But when he finds an old spinning wheel, his luck seems to change. *Rump* discovers he has a gift for spinning straw into gold. His best friend, *Red Riding Hood*, warns him that magic is dangerous, and she's right. With each thread he spins, he weaves himself deeper into a curse. To break the spell, *Rump* must go on a perilous quest, fighting off pixies, trolls, poison apples, and a wickedly foolish queen. The odds are against him, but with courage and friendship—and a cheeky sense of humor—he just might triumph in the end.

***Other Fairly True Tales are also approved!**

Spinelli, Jerry. *Jake & Lily*.

ISBN-13: 978-0064471985

Realistic Fiction

Jake and Lily are twins. Despite their slightly different interests and temperaments, they feel exactly the same—like two halves of one person. But the year they turn eleven, everything changes. Their parents announce it's time for separate bedrooms. Jake starts hanging out with a pack of boys on the block. And Lily is devastated, not to mention angry. Who is she without Jake? And as her brother falls under the influence of the neighborhood bully, he also must ask himself—who is the real Jake?

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived!*. **(20-Book Series)**

#1: *I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912*. ISBN-13: 978-0545090544

Historical Fiction Ten-year-old George Calder can't believe his luck -- he and his little sister, Phoebe, are on the famous Titanic, crossing the ocean with their Aunt Daisy. The ship is full of exciting places to explore, but when George ventures into the first class storage cabin, a terrible boom shakes the entire boat. Suddenly, water is everywhere, and George's life changes forever. Lauren Tarshis brings history's most exciting and terrifying events to life in this New York Times bestselling series. Readers will be transported by stories of amazing kids and how they survived!

Various Authors. *The 39 Clues*. **(11-Book Series)**

Book One: *The Maze of Bones*

ISBN-13: 978-0545090544

Mystery

Minutes before she died Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants an impossible decision: "You have a choice - one million dollars or a clue." Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world's most powerful family. Everyone from Napoleon to Houdini is related to the Cahills, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 Clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents.

Various Authors.

Nonfiction

Who Was? (190 Titles)

A series of illustrated biographies for young readers featuring significant historical figures, including artists, scientists, and world leaders.

What Was? (42 Titles)

Covering everything from revolutionary battles to natural disasters, social movements to witch trials, this series dives into our world's most important historical events.

Where Is? (32 Titles)

From historic landmarks to natural wonders, this series goes on a world tour through our world's most exciting places.

Wallace, Ali. *Wilder Boys*.*

ISBN-13: 978-1481432634

Realistic Fiction

Two brothers need all their wilderness skills to survive when they set off into the woods of Wyoming in search of their absent father.

***If you like *Wilder Boys*, try *The Journey Home (Wilder Boys)*!**

Weeks, Sarah & Varadarajan, Gita. *Save Me a Seat*. ISBN-13: 978-1338110791

Realistic Fiction

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common -- but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

Yang, Kelly, *Front Desk*

ISBN-13: 978-1338157826

Realistic Fiction

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?