

# 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING

Students entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade in August 2021 at MDCA will be **REQUIRED** to read one (1) book from a list of nine choices. There is a **REQUIRED** assignment that accompanies the book which will be graded.

We hope you have a wonderful summer! See you in August!

## SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Choose ONE (1) from this list:

- ★ *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- ★ *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass
- ★ *Maniac Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- ★ *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- ★ *Prairie Evers* by Ellen Airgood
- ★ *Janitors* by Tyler Whitesides
- ★ *Charley Skedaddle* by Patricia Beatty
- ★ *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer F. Pigg* by Rodman Philbrick
- ★ *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

\*DON'T select a book you have already read & taken an AR test on in a previous school year.

\*\*If you'd like to read all of the books on the list, then go for it! 😊

➔ OVER THE SUMMER...

- Read the book!
- Choose ONE (1) project from the options on the following page to complete.
- Projects are due the first day of school.

JOURNAL/DIARY	DIORAMA	DESIGN A NEW COVER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keep a journal from the perspective of a main character. You will write the journal in first person (I, me, mine, my, etc) as if you are the character.</li> <li>● Include at least 3 entries (beginning, middle, end). You may do additional entries if you choose.</li> <li>● Entries should give specific details about what is happening to the character in the book and how the character is feeling.</li> <li>● There is not a required length for the entries. <b>Thoughtful entries</b> relating the events in the story to the character's actions and feelings may take a good, solid paragraph or an entire page.</li> <li>● Journals may be hand written on notebook paper or typed in a document.</li> <li>● Journals should contain correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and proper grammar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As you read your book, pay attention to when BIG things are happening to the main character. You will use one of these events to create your diorama.</li> <li>● When you finish the book, design one of the BIG scenes inside the shoebox making it 3D using any of the materials listed below.</li> <li>● Write or type a one paragraph summary of the scene you created and glue to the back of the box.</li> <li>● Label the top of the box with your name, the title of the book, and the author's name.</li> <li>● Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ shoebox</li> <li>○ paper</li> <li>○ crayons, colored pencils, markers, or paint</li> <li>○ scissors</li> <li>○ glue or tape</li> <li>○ any other craft or art supplies you'd like to use - be creative!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What if the author of the book you chose contacted you to design a new cover to be used for the book? What would you include on the cover?</li> <li>● Draw a new cover of the book on a blank piece of white paper.</li> <li>● Color your design.</li> <li>● Make sure you include the title and author on the new cover you create.</li> <li>● Write or type one paragraph telling why you chose to design the new cover the way you did.</li> </ul>

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli	He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffery Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park "frog" homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side. He was special all right, and this is his story, and it's a story that is very careful not to let the facts get mixed up with the truth.
Jeremy Fink & the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass	Jeremy's summer takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious wooden box arrives in the mail. According to the writing on the box, it holds the meaning of life! Jeremy is supposed to open it on his thirteenth birthday. The problem is, the keys are missing, and the box is made so that only the keys will open it without destroying what's inside. Jeremy and Lizzy set off to find the keys, but when one of their efforts goes very wrong, Jeremy starts to lose hope that he'll ever be able to open the box. But he soon discovers that when you're meeting people named Oswald Oswald and using a private limo to deliver unusual objects to strangers all over the city, there might be other ways of finding out the meaning of life.
Prairie Evers by Ellen Airgood	Prairie Evers is finding that school isn't all it's cracked up to be. She's always been homeschooled by her grandmother, learning about life while they ramble through the woods. But now Prairie's family has moved north and she has to attend school for the first time, where her education is in a classroom and the behavior of her classmates isn't very nice. The only good thing is meeting Ivy, her first true friend. Prairie wants to be a good friend, even though she can be clueless at times. But when Ivy's world is about to fall apart and she needs a friend most, Prairie is right there for her, corralling all her optimism and determination to hatch a plan to help.
<b>HISTORICAL FICTION</b>	
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer F. Pigg by Rodman Philbrick	Twelve-year-old orphan, Homer, runs away from Pine Swamp, Maine, to find his older brother, Harold, who has been sold into the Union Army. With laugh-aloud humor, Homer outwits and outruns a colorful assortment of civil War-era thieves, scallywags, and spies as he makes his way south, following clues that finally lead him to Gettysburg. Even through a hail of gunfire, Homer never loses heart--but will he find his brother? Or will it be too late?
The War That Saved My Life	Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute - she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan - and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?
Charley Skedaddle by Patricia Beatty	Charley is a member of one of the toughest gangs in New York City. When his older brother is killed at Gettysburg, Charley vows revenge against the Confederates. So he joins the Union Army as a drummer boy. Charley thinks war will be glamorous and exciting. But then he sees two of his friends gunned down mercilessly. When Charley shoots a Confederate soldier in self-defense, he knows he can't take any more killing. He "skedaddles" away from the battle, convinced he's a coward. Hiding in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Charley encounters the ultimate test of courage. Can Charley prove his mettle once and for all -- and restore his shattered self-image?
<b>FANTASY</b>	
The Giver by Louis Lowry	Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.
The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo	This is the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in darkness but covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl with a simple, impossible wish. These characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and ultimately, into each other's lives. And

	what happens then? Listener, it is your destiny to find out.
Janitors by Tyler Whitesides	Have you ever fallen asleep during math class? Are you easily distracted while listening to your English teacher? Do you find yourself completely uninterested in geography? Well, it may not be your fault. The janitors at Welcher Elementary know a secret, and it's draining all the smarts out of the kids. Twelve-year-old Spencer Zumbro, with the help of his classmate Daisy Gullible Gates, must fight with and against a secret, janitorial society that wields wizard-like powers. Who can Spencer and Daisy trust and how will they protect their school and possibly the world?