

5th Grade Summer Reading List

Rising 5th Graders:

Students will have two required reading selections this summer. Each student should complete the following assignments about each book.

Required Reading:

[Out of My Mind](#) (realistic fiction) by Sharon Draper

“Eleven year old Melody Brooks has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school – but NO ONE knows it. Most people – her teachers and doctors included – don't think she is capable of learning, and up until recently, her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows...but she can't because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind – that is until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice...but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.”

[Number the Stars](#) (historical fiction) by Lois Lowry

“In Lois Lowry's unforgettable Newbery Medal-winning novel, a ten-year-old Danish girl's bravery is tested when her best friend is threatened by Nazis in 1943.

As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.”

Required Writing About the Literature:

For each book, please consider the question: What does it mean to have courage? Type a well developed paragraph where you describe the main character's challenge, risks they take, and how each shows courage throughout the story.

These assignments will be due the first week of school and should be **an example of your best writing.**