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.”

Hatchet (realistic fiction) by Gary Paulsen
“This award-winning contemporary classic is the survival story with which all others are compared—and a page-turning, heart-stopping adventure, recipient of the Newbery Honor. Hatchet has also been nominated as one of America’s best-loved novels by PBS’s The Great American Read.

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is traveling by single-engine plane to visit his father for the first time since the divorce. When the plane crashes, killing the pilot, the sole survivor is Brian. He is alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present.
At first consumed by despair and self-pity, Brian slowly learns survival skills—how to make a shelter for himself, how to hunt and fish and forage for food, how to make a fire—and even finds the courage to start over from scratch when a tornado ravages his campsite. When Brian is finally rescued after fifty-four days in the wild, he emerges from his ordeal with new patience and maturity, and a greater understanding of himself and his parents.”

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.