

POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fifth Grade Summer Reading List

Works Arranged by Author

The Elementary School faculty has selected the following titles as recommended summer reading. Please see the Summer Reading Letter for more information about Summer Reading.

Armstrong, William. Sounder

Awarded the Newberry Medal, 1970. The story of a dog's devotion to his master.

Avi. "Who Was That Masked Man, Anyway?"

It's the spring of 1945 and 12 year-old Frankie Wattleson and his friend Mario Calvino are inspired by the daring deeds of such radio superheroes as Buck Rodgers, the Lone Ranger and the Green Hornet.

Banks, Lynn Reid. Indian in the Cupboard

A boy receives a plastic Indian who comes to life and befriends him.

Baum, L. Frank. Wizard of Oz

In Baum's classic tale, Dorothy visits the magical land of Oz.

Black, W. and Blashfield, J.. Pearl Harbor!

Actual photographs enhance this well written text about this major historical event. This book makes the history come alive.

Bowen, Gary. Stranded at Plymouth Plantation, 1626

In short entries, 13 year old Christopher Sears chronicles his first months in the New World while living with the family of Elder Brewster.

Brink, Carol. Caddie Woodlawn

Awarded the Newberry Medal, 1936. This story describes a young girl's experiences and tomboy adventures during one year on the Wisconsin frontier in the 1860s.

Brown, David J. Random House Book of How Things Were Built

This lavishly illustrated, fact-filled book traces the history and development of more than 60 of the world's greatest structures, including the Great Pyramid and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. Shoeshine Girl

A defiant 10-year-old girl learns much about friendship and a sense of independence when she works in a grimy shoeshine stand.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. Secret Garden

An orphaned child helps restore a locked garden and subsequently her cousin's health.

Burnford, Sheila. Incredible Journey

Three house pets make their way through a wilderness to return to the family they love.

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Burnie, David. Eyewitness Science: Light

Covers such topics as shadows, refraction, lasers, and holograms.

Butterworth, Olive. Enormous Egg

Nate finds an enormous egg in the family's hen house, and to everyone's surprise, it hatches into a dinosaur.

Byars, Betsy. Computer Nut

Kate begins a communication exchange on a computer with someone claiming to be from outer space.

Byars, Betsy. Midnight Fox

Tom dislikes spending the summer on his aunt's farm until he discovers a black fox in the forest and tracks her to her den.

Calhoun, Mary. Katie John

Katie John and her family move into an inherited house in order to sell it, but find they don't want to part with it.

Cameron, Eleanor. Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet

Two boys find a little planet and help the inhabitants out of great difficulty.

Cash, Parker & Taylor. 175 More Science Experiments to Amuse and Amaze Your Friends

Experiments using common household items illustrate the principles of sound, electricity and magnets, weather, and simple chemistry.

Christopher, Matt. Team That Couldn't Lose

The Cayugans football team won every single game because of the terrific plays that their new coach taught them, but who was the strange individual who secretly mailed the plays to the coach, and what if they stopped coming?

Clymer, Eleanor. Horse in the Attic

Twelve-year-old Caroline's discovery of a painting in the family barn leads to her father's restoration of the portrait of Sprite, a filly in the Racehorse Hall of Fame.

Conford, Ellen. Felicia the Critic

Felicia learns that instant and constant criticism is not the best way to win friends.

Cooper, Christopher. Eyewitness Science: Matter

Follows conventional themes such as changes of state, molecules, and the nucleus.

Cresswell, Helen. Ordinary Jack

Jack, the only "ordinary" member of the talented and eccentric Bagthorpe family, concocts a scheme to distinguish himself as a moder-day prophet.

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Danzinger, Paula. Remember me to Harold Square

When Frank spends the summer with Kendra and her family in their New York City apartment, a friendship develops as the two teenagers set off on a scavenger hunt exploring the city's museums, restaurants, and other landmarks.

Danzinger, Paula. Cat Ate My Gymsuit

When an English teacher is fired, a junior high student uses her new-found courage to campaign for the teacher's reinstatement.

De Angeli, Marguerite. Door in the Wall

In the Middle Ages a young boy crippled by the plague has an adventurous journey from London to the castle where he becomes a page.

Erwin, Betty K. Go to the Room of the Eyes

Susan Evans and her brothers and sisters have just moved into an old home. A strange message fell out of an old window shade and it didn't take long to discover that clues were hidden throughout the house to a mysterious treasure hunt.

Farley, Walter. Black Stallion

Alec Ramsey and his magnificent horse, Black Stallion, find adventure and excitement.

Fleischman, Sid. Whipping Boy

Awarded the Newbery Medal, 1987. This story follows the fortunes of Prince Roland and his whipping boy as they change places.

Forbes, Esther. Johnny Tremain

Awarded the Newbery Medal, 1944. Story of a young Boston apprentice during the year of the Boston Tea Party.

Freedman, Russell. Children of the Wild West

Historical photographs show what life was like for pioneer and Indian children growing up in the American West during the 19th century.

Fritz, Jean. Homesick: My Own Story

Fritz tells the story of her childhood in China.

Fritz, Jean. Make Way for Sam Houston

Gives the biography of Houston and the history of Texas to 1846.

Fritz, Jean. Cabin Faced West

Ten-year-old Ann learns to appreciate her role in the settling of western Pennsylvania.

Fritz, Jean. Double Life of Pocahontas

A biography of the famous American Indian princess, emphasizing her life-long adulation of John Smith and the roles she played in two different cultures.

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George, Jean Craighead. Julie

Sequel to "Julie of the Wolves." When Julie returns to her father's Eskimo village, she struggles to find a way to save her beloved wolves in a changing Arctic world.

Goldstein, Bobby. What's on the Menu? Food Poems

A delicious collection of poems that young readers will enjoy from Jack Prelutsky's "Mother's Chocolate Valentine" to Rachel Field's "The Ice-Cream Man." Vivid and cartoonlike illustrations make this menu all the more inviting.

Grahame, Kenneth. Wind in the Willows

Toad's enthusiasm for caravans and motor cars leads him into trouble.

Greene, Constance C.. Isabelle the Itch

When she takes over her brother's paper route, Isabelle finds an outlet for her excess energy and a way to make friends out of enemies.

Hahn, Mary Downing. Dead Man in Indian Creek

When Matt and Parker find a corpse staring at them from the creek water they are terrified.

Hamilton, Virginia. House of Dies Drear

A black family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Henry, Marguerite. Benjamin West and His Cat Grimalkin

Benjamin was a Quaker lad who lived in Pennsylvania when it was an English province. His family disapproved of his urge to make pictures, but at the suggestion of his cat Grimalkin, who could almost talk, Benjamin practiced and practiced and became a great painter

Henry, Marguerite. Misty of Chincoteague

Paul and Maureen Beebe want to own the beautiful mare and her colt, Misty.

Johnston, Ginny & Cutchins, Judy. Slippery Babies: Young Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders

Crisp, detailed photographs in stunning color capture familiar and exotic amphibians that begin life as "slippery babies."

Kerr, Judith. When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

When Anna's family leaves Berlin to escape the Nazis, she leaves behind her Pink Rabbit thinking she will soon return.

Kipling, Rudyard. Jungle Book

Adventures of Mowgli, a child lost in the jungle and adopted by a family of wolves, and other jungle stories.

Kirschner, David & Ernie Contreras. Pagemaster

Ten year old Richard, who is timid and overcautious, is forced to confront his fears when he is given an adventure that will change his life forever.

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Kjeigaard, Jim. Big Red

The story of a champion Irish setter and a trapper's son who grew up together roaming the wilderness.

L'Engle, Madeleine. Wrinkle in Time

Awarded the Newbery Medal, 1963. Meg and her friends are spirited to another world by three extraterrestrial beings.

Lasky, Kathryn. Jem's Island

Jem goes on his first overnight kayak trip with his father to an island in Penobscot Bay.

Latham, Jean. Carry On Mr. Bowditch

Awarded the Newbery Medal, 1956. The story of a boy who mastered navigation in an age when men sailed by the "lookout and the stars."

Lauber, Patricia. Journey to the Planets

Explores the planets of our solar system, highlighting the prominent features of each. Includes new photos and information gathered by the Voyager and Magellan explorations.

Lewis, C. S.. Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Tells how a noble lion freed Narnia from the spell of the White Witch.

Lord, Betty Bao. In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

A chinese child moves to Brooklyn where she starts to feel at home when she discovers baseball and the Dodgers.

Lowry, Lois. Anastasia Again!

When Anastasia and her family move to the suburbs, her new home brings many surprises, including a cute boy who lives down the street.

Lowry, Lois. Number the Stars

Best friends Annemarie Johansen and Ellen Rosen must pretend to be sisters when Ellen's parents go into hiding to escape a Nazi roundup.

Macaulay, David. Castle

Details the history of an imaginary 13th century castle built to subdue the Welsh hordes.

Macaulay, David. Pyramid

The construction of a pyramid in 25th century B.C. Egypt is described.

Macaulay, David. Way Things Work

Text and imaginative drawings illustrate how everyday items work, from lawn sprinklers to electric guitars.

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MacLachlan, Patricia. Arthur, For the Very First Time

A recounting of 10-year-old Arthur's activities and introspections during a summer spent with a great-uncle and great-aunt.

MacLachlan, Patricia. Sarah, Plain and Tall

Loving story of a motherless family, and the tall plain woman who comes to stay with them and eventually becomes their mother. 1986 Newbery Medal.

Martin, Charles. Summer Business

By running small businesses catering to the summer visitors to their island home, Heather and her friends earn enough money for a trip to the Harvest Fair on the mainland.

McCormick, Dell. Paul Bunyan Swings His Ax

The stirring tales about the giant woodsman and his Blue Ox are told for children in spirited narrative and sturdy illustrations.

Merrill, Jean. Pushcart War

Twenty ton trucks versus pushcarts is the theme of this epic about the truckers who conspire to keep peddlers off the streets.

Montgomery, L. M.. Anne of Green Gables

Anne, an orphan girl, finds romance for the first time in this realistic story of her life with her foster parents.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. All But Alice

Heading for the seventh grade, Alice has some burning questions about her brother having three girlfriends, about her father's dating one of her teachers, about sex-education classes and about being one of the in-crowd.

Norton, Mary. Borrowers

A perceptive boy enters into the miniature world of the "little people" who live under the floor in an old country house.

O'Brien, Robert C.. Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

When Timothy, the youngest in a family of field mice, becomes ill, his mother asks the Rats of NIMH to help move their house out of the path of a farmer's plow.

O'Dell, Scott. Island of the Blue Dolphins

Awarded the Newbery Medal, 1961. The story of an Indian girl who spent 18 years on a deserted island off the California coast.

Osborne, Mary Pope. American Tall Tales

In the first new collection of American tall tales in more than 25 years, children are introduced to our folk heroes in nine stories-each wildly exaggerated and funny.

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Park, Barbara. Nick Harte was here

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Nick and his death in a bicycle accident.

Paterson, Katherine. Bridge to Terabithia

The life of a boy expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently dies during a storm.

Paterson, Katherine. Great Gilly Hopkins

Galadriel is placed in a new foster home with an unusual foster mother.

Peck, Robert Newton. Soup

The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town.

Peck, Robert Newton. Soup for President

Rob's best friend, Soup, and Rob's girlfriend, Norma Jean, are both running for school president.

Perl, Lila. It Happened in America: True Stories from the Fifty States

Not boring facts and statistics, but a collection of fascinating tales from the 50 states. From the discovery of dinosaur bones to the construction of the first Ferris wheel.

Reeves, Nicholas and Froman, Nan. Into the Mummy's Tomb

A modern-day discovery starts the journey back to one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time in this captivating account of the thrilling discovery and unearthing of King Tut's tomb in 1922.

Reiss, Joanna. Upstairs Room

Describes the experiences of two Jewish sisters, sheltered by a Christian family during the German occupation in Holland.

Riskind, Mary. Apple Is My Sign

A ten-year-old boy returns to his parents' apple farm for the holidays after his first term at a school for the deaf in Philadelphia.

Robertson, Keith. Henry Reed's Think Tank

When Henry and Midge set themselves up as consultants for the residents of Grover's Corner, they get into a lot of trouble themselves before eventually solving the problems presented to them.

Rodgers, Mary. Freaky Friday

A humorous story about a girl who awakens one morning in her mother's body and sees herself as others see her.

Rosenthal, Paul. Where on Earth: A Geografunny Guide to the Globe

Children love the humorous presentation of this introduction to various aspects of geography. A lot of academic information is shared about each continent along with a running commentary offered in colored cartoons.

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Rounds, Glenn. Blind Outlaw

A blind outlaw horse is tamed by a boy who cannot speak.

Sachs, Marilyn. Veronica Ganz

Veronica is tall for thirteen, a nuisance to her teacher, and she bullies the little children. Peter (who is smaller than she) taunts and teases her and that's her biggest problem. The Great Truth finally dawns; the changes in Veronica, however, are natural and believable.

Schwartz, Alvin. Flapdoodle

A collection of spoonerisms, word plays, and other nonsense speech.

Sewall, Marcia. Pilgrims of Plymouth

Chronicles, in text and illustrations, the day-to-day life of the early Pilgrims in the Plymouth Colony.

Sharmat, Marjorie. Mysteriously Yours, Maggie Marmelstein

Named the mystery column writer for the school newspaper, Maggie revels in the power she can exert.

Shura, Mary Francis. Jefferson

All the neighborhood boys and girls work at earning money to give Jefferson a surprise birthday party.

Silverstein, Shel. Light in the Attic

A collection of humorous poems and drawings.

Silverstein, Shel. Where the Sidewalk Ends

A collection of tender, funny, sentimental, and ridiculous poems from one of children's favorite authors.

Slote, Alfred. Finding Buck McHenry

Jason is cut from the baseball team, but he receives help from an elderly school custodian, who tells great stories about great players in the Negro leagues.

Smucker, Barbara. Runaway to Freedom

Two young slave girls escape from a plantation in Mississippi.

Speare, Elizabeth George. Sign of the Beaver

Matt awaits the return of his father in the Maine wilderness and becomes friends with an Indian chief and his grandson.

Spinelli, Jerry. Maniac Magee

Young Jeffrey "Maniac" Magee appears in Two Mills and takes the town by storm in a cross between a tall tale and a 20th-century morality play told with exaggeration, humor, and melodrama. Winner of the Newbery Medal, 1990.

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Spinelli, Jerry. Bathwater Gang

When Bertie Kidd refuses to allow boys into her newly formed gang, a neighborhood war involving water balloons, molasses, clothespins, and shaving cream cupcakes rates -- until Granny "wogs" in to clean up everyone's act.

Steig. Abel's Island

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Stolz, Mary. Explorer of Barkham Street

A reformed bully fantasizes about heroic adventures as an explorer and sports star.

Taylor, Mildred D. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

The only black family who owns its own land in Spokane, Mississippi, wages a courageous struggle to remain independent.

White, E. B. Charlotte's Web

Story of a girl who could talk to animals, and of a pig's friendship with a spider who could talk and write.

Yolen, Jane. Letting Swift River Go

A true-to-life remembrance of the Swift River valley before the area was flooded and its residents relocated in order to make a reservoir.

Yolen, Jane. Wings

Wings tells a Greek legend about Daedalus, a gifted craftsman, and his son Icarus. The story is filled with colorful details of the legend that resolves around pride. Beautiful, sensitive watercolors.