

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

A Christmas Carol

Author: Dickens	Readability: 4.6
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Charles Dickens's tale in which a miser learns the true meaning of Christmas when three ghostly visitors review his past and foretell his future.

A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal 1830-1832

Author: Blos	Readability: 6.0
--------------	------------------

Summary: The journal of a 14-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

A Long Way from Chicago

Author: Peck	Readability: 4.2
--------------	------------------

Summary: A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

A Mango Shaped Space

Author: Mass	Readability: 6.8
--------------	------------------

Summary: Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

A Wrinkle In Time

Author: L'Engle	Readability: 5.8
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Three extra-terrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

Acquaintance with Darkness

Author: Rinaldi	Readability: 4.8
-----------------	------------------

Summary: When her mother dies and her best friend's family is implicated in the assassination of President Lincoln, fourteen-year-old Emily Pigbush must go live with an uncle she suspects of being involved in stealing bodies for medical research.

Across Five Aprils

Author: Hunt	Readability: 6.5
--------------	------------------

Summary: Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Alien Secrets

Author: Klaus	Readability: 6.8
---------------	------------------

Summary: On her journey to the distant planet where her parents are working, twelve-year-old Puck befriends a troubled alien and becomes involved in a dangerous mystery involving a precious artifact.

Amos Fortune, Free Man

Author: Yates	Readability: 5.0
---------------	------------------

Summary: A biography of Amos Fortune, born the son of an African king, but captured at 15 and sold as a slave in Massachusetts where he purchased his freedom when he was sixty and became a respected citizen.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Anne of Green Gables

Author: Montgomery	Readability: YA
--------------------	-----------------

Summary: Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Banner in the Sky

Author: Ullman	Readability: 6.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: Sixteen-year-old Rudi dreams of being the first to climb the Citadel, the highest mountain in Switzerland

Bearstone

Author: Hobbs	Readability: 5.3
---------------	------------------

Summary: Sequel: *Beardance*. A troubled Indian boy goes to live with an elderly rancher whose caring ways help the boy become a man.

Blackstar Bright Dawn

Author: O'Dell	Readability: 4.8
----------------	------------------

Summary: Bright Dawn must face the challenge of the Iditarod dog sled race alone when her father is injured.

Blood on the River

Author: Carbone	Readability: 4.8
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of Jamestown, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

Blue Willow

Author: Gates	Readability: 5.3
---------------	------------------

Summary: A girl, who wants to have a real home and to go to a regular school, hopes that the valley her family has come to, which resembles the pattern on her treasured blue willow plate, will be their permanent home.

Brain's Winter

Author: Paulsen	Readability: 6.2
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Companion book to *Hatchet* and *The River*. Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book *Hatchet*, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Bridge to Teribithia

Author: Paterson	Readability: 6.0
------------------	------------------

Summary: The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Bud, Not Buddy

Author: Curtis	Readability: 5.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Cages

Author: Kehret	Readability: 5.7
----------------	------------------

Summary: Kit gains a new perspective on her life and future after she is sentenced to twenty hours of volunteer work at the humane society for shoplifting a bracelet.

Call it Courage

Author: Sperry	Readability: 5.8
----------------	------------------

Summary: Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

Carry On, Mr. Bowditch

Author: Latham	Readability: 5.1
----------------	------------------

Summary: A fictionalized biography of the mathematician and astronomer who realized his childhood desire to become a ship's captain and authored *The American Practical Navigator*.

Charley Skedaddle

Author: Beatty	Readability: 5.0
----------------	------------------

Summary: During the Civil War, a twelve-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman.

Cracker Jackson

Author: Byars	Readability: 5.5
---------------	------------------

Summary: After attempting to save his ex-babysitter from wife abuse, Cracker Jackson gains an adult insight into the sadness of failed heroics.

Cryptid Hunters

Author: Smith, Roland	Readability: 6.8
-----------------------	------------------

Summary: Twins, Grace and Marty, along with a mysterious uncle, are dropped into the middle of the Congolese jungle in search of their missing photojournalist parents.

Dear Mr. Henshaw

Author: Cleary	Readability: 5.0
----------------	------------------

Summary: In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parent's divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Devil in Vienna

Author: Orgel	Readability: 6.3
---------------	------------------

Summary: A Jewish girl and the daughter of a Nazi have been best friends since they started school, but in 1938 the thirteen-year-olds find their close relationship difficult to maintain.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Dive Series (The Discovery, The Danger, The Deep)

Author: Korman	Readability: 5.3-5.8
----------------	----------------------

Summaries:

The Discovery: Four adolescents interning as research divers for the summer find themselves searching for a centuries-old treasure and fending off killer sharks. Interweaves their story with that of Samuel Higgins, a boy who died in a shipwreck in the same waters in 1665.

The Danger: Four adolescents try to raise a British ship which sank in the Caribbean in 1665 with a cargo of gold on board. However, they cannot trust anyone not even themselves.

The Deep: Diving interns Kaz, Dante, Adriana, and Star take desperate measures to reclaim the sunken treasure that has been stolen away from them by their supervisor Tad Cutter.

Dogsong

Author: Paulsen	Readability: 5.8
-----------------	------------------

Summary: A Fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy who feels assailed by the modernity of his life takes a 1400-mile journey by dog sled across ice, tundra, and mountains seeking his own "song" of himself.

Eldest

Author: Paolini	Readability: 7.0
-----------------	------------------

Summary: After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

Eleanor

Author: Cooney	Readability: 4.2
----------------	------------------

Summary: Presents the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, who married a president of the United States and became a great humanitarian. (nonfiction)

Elephant Run

Author: Smith	Readability: 5.0
---------------	------------------

Summary: Nick's father and others are taken prisoner when his plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, leaving Nick and his friend Mya to risk their lives in order to free them from the POW camp.

Ender's Shadow

Author: Card	Readability: Young Adult
--------------	--------------------------

Summary: Bean must overcome his past and prove to the recruiters at the Battle School that he can help save the planet from an alien invasion.

Escape from Slavery

Author: Rappaport	Readability: 6.9
-------------------	------------------

Summary: Five accounts of black slaves who managed to escape to freedom during the period preceding the Civil War.

Escape From Warsaw

Author: Serrailier	Readability: 6.0
--------------------	------------------

Summary: During 1942 in Warsaw, Edek shoots a Nazi storm trooper. Edek and his two sisters must escape from the secret police.

Escape To Freedom

Author: Davis	Readability: 5.9
---------------	------------------

Elementary English/Language Arts NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Summary: Born a slave, young Frederick Douglass endures many years of cruelty before escaping to the North to claim his freedom.

Esperanza Rising

Author: Ryan	Readability: 6.2
--------------	------------------

Summary: Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Everest Series (The Contest, The Summit, The Climb)

Author: Korman	Readability: 5.1-5.3
----------------	----------------------

Summaries:

The Contest: Four climbers, winners of an American Junior Alpine Association contest, vie to become the youngest person ever to reach the peak of Mount Everest.

The Summit: Four climbers, making a final push to be the youngest people to reach the summit of Mount Everest, must deal with low supplies, extreme conditions, a storm, and possible sabotage by one of their companions.

The Climb: The climbing contest to see who will be the youngest person to climb Mount Everest turns into a life-or-death rescue mission.

Family Under the Bridge

Author: Carlson	Readability: 5.1
-----------------	------------------

Summary: An old tramp, adopted by three fatherless children when their mother hides them under a bridge on the Seine, finds a home for mother and children and a job for himself.

Flipped

Author: Van Draanen	Readability: 5.9
---------------------	------------------

Summary: In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Flight #116 is Down!

Author: Cooney	Readability: 6.7
----------------	------------------

Summary: Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.

Flush

Author: Hiassen	Readability: 5.0
-----------------	------------------

Summary: With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Freak the Mighty

Author: Philbrick	Readability: 6.3
-------------------	------------------

Summary: At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, who has a learning disability, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Good Night, Mr. Tom

Author: Magorian	Readability: 5.9
------------------	------------------

Summary: A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English country side during the Second World War.

Gossamer

Author: Lowry	Readability: 4.9
---------------	------------------

Summary: While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteeds.

Grandpa's Mountain

Author: Reeder	Readability: 5.9
----------------	------------------

Summary: During the Depression, eleven-year-old Carrie makes her annual summer visit to her relatives in the Blue Ridge Mountains and watches her determined grandfather fight against the governments attempt to take away his farm land for a new national park.

Guests

Author: Dorris	Readability: 5.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: Moss and Trouble, an Algonquin boy and girl, struggle with the problems of growing up in the Massachusetts area during the time of the first Thanksgiving.

Hatchet

Author: Paulsen	Readability: 6.0
-----------------	------------------

Summary: After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Heat

Author: Lupica	Readability: 5.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Hoot

Author: Hiassen	Readability: 5.1
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

How Many Days to America

Author: Bunting	Readability: 3.2
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Refugees from a Caribbean island embark on a dangerous boat trip to America where they have a special reason to celebrate Thanksgiving.

I am Mordred : a tale from Camelot

Author: Springer	Readability: 4.2
------------------	------------------

Summary: When Mordred learns the identity of his father, he struggles with feelings of hatred, but also fights the fate which determines that he kill the good and gracious king.

Elementary English/Language Arts NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

I Heard the Owl Call My Name

Author: Bunting	Readability: 6.8
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Sent to live with an Indian tribe in British Columbia, a young minister learns not to fear his impending death.

I, Juan de Pareja

Author: Trevino	Readability: 6.4
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Juan de Pareja, a slave, and his master, Velazquez, the seventeenth century Spanish court painter, develop a relationship of friendship and equality.

Ida B.

Author: Hannigan	Readability: 6.3
------------------	------------------

Summary: In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

Author: Lord	Readability: 3.8
--------------	------------------

Summary: In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Incident at Hawk's Hill

Author: Eckert	Readability: 6.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: A shy, lonely six-year-old wanders into the Canadian prairie and spends a summer under the protection of a badger.

Incredible Journey

Author: Burnford	Readability: 6.3
------------------	------------------

Summary: A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.

Island Series (Shipwreck, Escape, Survival)

Author: Korman	Readability: 5.0-5.9
----------------	----------------------

Summaries:

Shipwreck: Six children try to survive on a desert island in the Pacific Ocean after a storm destroys their boat.

Escape: Four children, having survived a shipwreck and a week with no food, arrive on a deserted island in the Pacific Ocean, missing two of their friends, and find themselves in danger of being found by some very dangerous people.

Survival: Six kids shipwrecked on an obscure Pacific island urgently need a plan to get home when they realize they are sharing their living space with a deadly group of smugglers--and the situation grows even more dire when the smugglers stumble across an atomic bomb left there in 1945.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Jack's Run

Author: Smith	Readability: 5.4
---------------	------------------

Summary: Sequel to *Zach's Lie*. Kidnapped by drug czar Alonzo Asnar and held hostage in Argentina, Jack and his sister Joanne attempt a daring escape while their parents, aided by some old friends, set out to rescue them.

Jacob Have I Loved

Author: Paterson	Readability: 5.8
------------------	------------------

Summary: Filled with resentment over the attention showered upon her twin sister, and awaiting the day she can leave her town behind, young Louise meets a wise old sea captain and begins learning how to let go of her anger.

Jaguar

Author: Smith	Readability: 4.8
---------------	------------------

Summary: While accompanying his father on an expedition up the Amazon River to a jaguar preserve in Brazil, fourteen-year-old Jacob must contend with dangerous animals and fortune hunters.

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life

Author:	Readability: 5.0
---------	------------------

Summary: Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

Johnny Tremain

Author: Forbes	Readability: 5.5
----------------	------------------

Summary: The Revolutionary War with its famous Boston Tea Party is described in this historical novel of the revolt in Boston.

Journey to the Center of the Earth

Author: Macdonald	Readability: 4.4
-------------------	------------------

Summary: A graphic novel adaptation of Jules Verne's novel in which three men dare to adventure into a subterranean world full of danger and beauty discovering many unusual things on their trip to the Earth's mysterious core.

Letters from a Slave Girl

Author: Lyons	Readability: Young Adult
---------------	--------------------------

Summary: A fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written during her slavery in North Carolina and as she prepared for escape to the North in 1842.

Letters from Rifka

Author: Heese	Readability: 5.1
---------------	------------------

Summary: Rifka, a young Jewish girl, writes to her cousin, chronicling her family's experiences fleeing Russia in 1919, and her own trials after being left in Belgium on her own while the others emigrate to America.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Life on the Ice

Author: Goodman	Readability: 6.3
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Describes the living conditions of those who work in the polar regions. Topics presented include the difficulties of flying to and landing at the poles, scientific research done at each pole, and the challenge of human survival in the extreme cold. (Nonfiction)

Lily's Crossing

Author: Giff	Readability: 5.2
--------------	------------------

Summary: During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Little Women

Author: Alcott	Readability: 7.4
----------------	------------------

Summary: Chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sisters--Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth--as they grow into young ladies and marry in nineteenth-century New England.

Loser

Author: Spinelli	Readability: 5.2
------------------	------------------

Summary: Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Love that Dog

Author: Creech	Readability: 4.1
----------------	------------------

Summary: A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Lupita Manana

Author: Beatty	Readability: 6.2
----------------	------------------

Summary: To help her poverty-stricken family, 13-year-old Lupita enters California as an illegal alien and starts to work while constantly on the watch for "la migra."

Maniac Magee

Author: Spinelli	Readability: 5.4
------------------	------------------

Summary: After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. This parable-like story includes themes about racism, friendship, and family.

Master Puppeteer

Author: Paterson	Readability: 7.3
------------------	------------------

Summary: A thirteen-year-old boy describes the poverty and discontent of eighteenth century Osaka and the world of puppeteers in which he lives.

Missing May

Author: Rylant	Readability: 6.7
----------------	------------------

Summary: After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

Mississippi Bridge

Author: Taylor	Readability: 5.9
----------------	------------------

Elementary English/Language Arts NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Summary: During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River.

Moccasin Trail

Author: McGraw	Readability: 7.5
----------------	------------------

Summary: A pioneer boy, brought up by Crow Indians, is reunited with his family and attempts to orient himself in the white man's culture.

Morning Girl

Author: Dorris	Readability: 6.3
----------------	------------------

Summary: Morning Girl, who loves the day, and her younger brother Star Boy, who loves the night, take turns describing their life on an island in pre-Columbian America; in Morning Girl's last narrative, she witnesses the arrival of the first Europeans to her world.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh

Author: O'Brien	Readability: 5.4
-----------------	------------------

Summary: With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer's tractor, too ill to be moved.

My Brother Sam is Dead

Author:	Readability: 5.8
---------	------------------

Summary: Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Narnia Series

Author: C.S. Lewis	Interest Level: 5-8
--------------------	---------------------

Summary: Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Number the Stars

Author: Lowry	Readability: 4.9
---------------	------------------

Summary: In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friends from the Nazis.

One-Eyed Cat

Author: Fox	Readability: 5.7
-------------	------------------

Summary: An eleven-year-old shoots a stray cat with his new air rifle, feels guilty and assumes responsibility for his actions.

Park's Quest

Author: Patterson	Readability: 6.6
-------------------	------------------

Summary: Eleven-year-old Park makes some startling discoveries when he travels to his grandfather's farm in Virginia to learn about his father who died in the Vietnam War.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Peak

Author: Smith	Readability: YA
---------------	-----------------

Summary: A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Petey

Author: Mikaelson	Readability: 7.0
-------------------	------------------

Summary: In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

Phoenix Rising

Author: Hesse	Readability: 3.8
---------------	------------------

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Nyle learns about relationships and death when fifteen-year-old Ezra, who was exposed to radiation leaked from a nearby nuclear plant, comes to stay at her grandmother's Vermont farmhouse.

Pictures of Hollis Woods

Author: Giff	Readability: 6.4
--------------	------------------

Summary: A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

Pinballs

Author: Byars	Readability: 4.0
---------------	------------------

Summary: Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and each other.

Project Ultra Swan

Author: Osborn	Readability: 6.7
----------------	------------------

Summary: Describes the life of large trumpeter swans, how they nearly became extinct, and efforts to reintroduce them to the Northeastern United States and to help them relearn migration routes. (nonfiction)

Reaching for the Moon

Author: Aldrin	Readability: 4.5
----------------	------------------

Summary: Presents an illustrated account of astronaut Buzz Aldrin's life and the determination and experiences that led him to be part of the first mission to land men on the moon. (nonfiction)

Red Dog

Author: Wallace	Readability: 5.0
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Living with his family in the rugged, often dangerous, Wyoming mountains in the 1860's twelve-year-old Adam finds his courage put to the test when he is left in charge of the household during his stepfather's absence.

Rescue Josh McGuire

Author: Mikaelson	Readability: 5.7
-------------------	------------------

Summary: When thirteen-year-old Josh runs away to the mountains of Montana with an orphaned bear cub destined for laboratory testing, they both must fight for their lives in a sudden snowstorm.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Rifles for Watie

Author: Keith	Readability: 7.1
---------------	------------------

Summary: The struggles and hardships faced by Jeff Bussey on his 300-mile escape route during the Civil War.

Rules

Author: Lord	Readability: 3.5
--------------	------------------

Summary: Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents.

Running Out of Time

Author: Haddix	Readability: 6.4
----------------	------------------

Summary: When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Author: Coerr	Readability: 5.0
---------------	------------------

Summary: Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.

Sang Spell

Author: Naylor	Readability: 4.8
----------------	------------------

Summary: When his mother is killed in an automobile accident, high-schooler Josh decides to hitchhike across country, and finds himself trapped in a mysterious village somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains, among a group of people who call themselves Melungeons.

Sarah Bishop

Author: O'Dell	Readability: 6.8
----------------	------------------

Summary: Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who took opposite sides in the War for Independence and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

Shackleton's Stowaway

Author: McKernan	Readability: 4.6
------------------	------------------

Summary: A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship Endurance was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of his toes to frostbite, during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

Sing Down the Moon

Author: O'Dell	Readability: 5.3
----------------	------------------

Summary: A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, as prisoners of the white soldiers.

Sky Pioneer

Author: Szabo	Readability: 6.3
---------------	------------------

Summary: A biography, with numerous photographs and quotes from Earhart herself, tracing this determined woman's life and interest in flying. (nonfiction)

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

So Far From the Bamboo Grove

Author: Watkins	Readability: 6.0
-----------------	------------------

Summary: A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.

Souder

Author: Armstrong	Readability: 6.5
-------------------	------------------

Summary: Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding with the help of the devoted dog Souder.

Sparrow Red Hawk

Author: Milaelsen	Readability: 5.3
-------------------	------------------

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Ricky, the Mexican American son of a former Drug Enforcement Agency man, tries to avenge his mother's murder by crossing over into Mexico to steal a high-tech radar plane from drug smugglers.

Stepping on the Cracks

Author: Hahn	Readability: 6.3
--------------	------------------

Summary: In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully, Gordy, when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

Summer Ball

Author: Lupica	Readability: 5.3
----------------	------------------

Summary: Sequel to: *Travel Team*. Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.

Summer of My German Soldier

Author: Greene	Readability: 7.4
----------------	------------------

Summary: When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

Surviving the Applewhites

Author: Tolan	Readability: 5.7
---------------	------------------

Summary: Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Taking Sides

Author: Soto	Readability: 5.7
--------------	------------------

Summary: Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.

Terror at the Zoo

Author: Kehret	Readability: 6.1
----------------	------------------

Summary: Twelve-year-old Ellen and her younger brother Corey are excited about their overnight camp-out at the zoo, until they discover that they are locked inside with a desperate escaped convict.

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

The Big Field

Author: Lupica	Readability: 4.4
----------------	------------------

Summary: When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer, too.

The Cay

Author: Taylor	Readability: 5.5
----------------	------------------

Summary: When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy and an old blackman are stranded on a Caribbean Island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love.

The Clay Marble

Author: Ho	Readability: 6.8
------------	------------------

Summary: In the late 1970's twelve-year-old Dara joins a refugee camp in war-torn Cambodia and becomes separated from her family.

The Dark is Rising

Author: Cooper	Readability: 6.7
----------------	------------------

Summary: On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

The Endless Steppe

Author: Hautzig	Readability: 6.1
-----------------	------------------

Summary: During World War II, when she was eleven years old, the author and her family were arrested in Poland by the Russians as political enemies and exiled to Siberia. She recounts here the trials of the following five years spent on the harsh Asian steppe.

The Fighting Ground

Author: Avi	Readability: 5.4
-------------	------------------

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

The Friendship

Author: Taylor	Readability: 5.1
----------------	------------------

Summary: Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

The Glory Field

Author: Myers	Readability: YA
---------------	-----------------

Summary: Follows a family's two-hundred year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.

The Gold Cadillac

Author: Taylor	Readability: 4.2
----------------	------------------

Summary: Two black girls living in the North are proud of their family's beautiful new Cadillac until they take it on a visit to the South and encounter racial prejudice for the first time.

Elementary English/Language Arts NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

The Golden Goblet

Author: McGraw	Readability: 4.0
----------------	------------------

Summary: A young Egyptian boy struggles to reveal a hideous crime and reshape his own destiny.

The Graduation of Jake Moon

Author: Park	Readability: 6.3
--------------	------------------

Summary: Fourteen-year-old Jake recalls how he has spent the last four years of his life watching his grandfather descend slowly but surely into the horrors of Alzheimer's disease.

The House of Dies Drear

Author: Hamilton	Readability: 5.0
------------------	------------------

Summary: An African-American family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The Iceberg Hermit

Author: Roth	Readability: 5.9
--------------	------------------

Summary: Shipwrecked in 1757 on an iceberg in the Arctic seas with only an orphaned polar cub for companionship, seventeen-year-old Allan begins a seemingly hopeless struggle for survival.

The Man Who Loved Clowns

Author: Wood	Readability: YA
--------------	-----------------

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Delrita, whose unhappy life has caused her to hide from the world, loves her uncle Punky but sometimes feels ashamed of his behavior because he has Down syndrome.

The Phantom Toll Booth

Author: Juster	Readability: 5.4
----------------	------------------

Summary: Milo travels through a magical tollbooth and begins a journey to the Kingdom of Wisdom, where he and a "watch" dog named Tock try to end the feud between numbers and words.

The Pigman

Author: Zindel	Readability: 5.9
----------------	------------------

Summary: Two high school sophomores from unhappy homes form a close friendship with a lonely old man who has a terrible secret.

The Prince and the Pauper

Author: Twain	Readability: 7.2
---------------	------------------

Summary: When young Edward VI of England and a poor boy who resembles him exchange places, each learns something about the other's very different station in life.

The Pushcart War

Author: Merrill	Readability: 6.7
-----------------	------------------

Summary: The outbreak of a war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers brings the mounting problems of traffic to the attention of both the city of New York and the world.

The Reappearance of Sam Webber

Author: Fuqua	Readability: YA
---------------	-----------------

Elementary English/Language Arts NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Summary: Since his father's disappearance and his move from a safe neighborhood, eleven-year-old Sam gets help from his new school's janitor and other adult friends in dealing with frightening new experiences.

The River

Author: Paulsen	Readability: 6.3
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Because of his success surviving alone in the wilderness, fifteen-year-old Brian, profoundly changed by his time in the wild, is asked to undergo a similar experience to help scientists learn more about the psychology of survival.

The Slave Dancer

Author: Fox	Readability: 6.4
-------------	------------------

Summary: Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

The Summer of the Swans

Author: Byars	Readability: 5.0
---------------	------------------

Summary: A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally retarded brother gets lost.

The True Confession of Charlotte Doyle

Author: Avi	Readability: 7.0
-------------	------------------

Summary: As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

The Upstairs Room

Author: Reiss	Readability: 5.9
---------------	------------------

Summary: A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.

The View from the Cherry Tree

Author: Roberts	Readability: 6.6
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Rob admits having seen a murder, but no one believes him--except the murderer.

The View from Saturday

Author: Konisburg	Readability: 4.8
-------------------	------------------

Summary: Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Author: Speare	Readability: 7.2
----------------	------------------

Summary: In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.

The Young Man and The Sea

Author: Philbrick	Readability: 4.6
-------------------	------------------

Elementary English/Language Arts NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Summary: After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge blue fin tuna.

There's a Girl in My Hammerlock

Author: Spinelli	Readability: 7.0
------------------	------------------

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Maisie joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates.

Thimbleberry Stories

Author: Rylant	Readability: 4.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: Nigel Chipmunk shares a pleasant life with his friends Dipper the hummingbird, Little Owl, Copper the butterfly, Claudius the garter snake, and Mudpuppy the salamander.

Things Not Seen

Author: Clements	Readability: 5.0
------------------	------------------

Summary: When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Thunder Cave

Author: Smith	Readability: 5.2
---------------	------------------

Summary: Determined, after his mother's accidental death, to foil his stepfather's plans for his future, fourteen-year-old Jacob travels alone to Africa in search of his father, a biologist studying elephants in a remote area of Kenya.

Timothy of the Cay

Author: Taylor	Readability: 5.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: Having survived being blinded and shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island with the old black man Timothy, twelve-year-old white Phillip is rescued and hopes to regain his sight with an operation. Alternate chapters follow the life of Timothy from his days as a young cabin boy.

Travel Team

Author: Lupica	Readability: 5.3
----------------	------------------

Summary: After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Trial By Ice

Author: Kostyal	Readability: 4.0
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Traces the adventurous life of the South Pole explorer whose ship, the Endurance, was frozen in ice and crushed, leaving the captain and crew to fight for survival. (nonfiction)

Tuck Everlasting

Author: Babbitt	Readability: 5.9
-----------------	------------------

Summary: The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older.

Unwitting Wisdom: Anthology of Aesop's Fables

Author: Ward	Readability: 6.6
--------------	------------------

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADE 5

Summary: Sour grapes -- The trappings of power -- All dressed up -- Pot luck -- A time to dance -- A dinner invitation -- Steady and slow -- Upon reflection -- Size isn't everything-- Not flying, but falling -- Fool's gold -- Hard cheese. An illustrated adaptation of twelve animal fables first told by the Greek slave Aesop.

Walk Two Moons

Author: Creech	Readability: 6.6
----------------	------------------

Summary: After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

War Comes to Willy Freeman

Author: Collier	Readability: 4.8
-----------------	------------------

Summary: A free thirteen-year-old black girl in Connecticut is caught up in the horror of the Revolutionary War and the danger of being returned to slavery when her patriot father is killed by the British and her mother disappears.

Weasel

Author: DeFelice	Readability: 7.0
------------------	------------------

Summary: Alone in the frontier wilderness in the winter of 1839 while his father is recovering from an injury, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as Weasel and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge.

Where the Lilies Bloom

Author: Cleaver	Readability: 5.5
-----------------	------------------

Summary: In the Great Smoky Mountains region, a fourteen-year-old girl struggles to keep her family together after their father dies.

Where the Red Fern Grows

Author: Rawls	Readability: 5.5
---------------	------------------

Summary: The adventures of a ten-year-old boy and the two dogs he bought with money he had earned.

White Mountains

Author: Christopher	Readability: 5.8
---------------------	------------------

Summary: Three boys strive for freedom in a future society run by enormous metal robots called Tripods, who capture mature human beings and make them docile, obedient servants.

Yang and the Youngest & His Terrible Ear

Author: Namioka	Readability: 5.5
-----------------	------------------

Summary: Recently arrived in Seattle from China, musically untalented Yingtao is faced with giving a violin performance to attract new students for his father when he would rather be working on friendships and playing baseball.

Zach's Lie

Author: Smith	Readability: 8.1
---------------	------------------

Summary: When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian and a Basque girl, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Elko, Nevada, after entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down.