HANAFORD SUMMER READING INITIATIVE
Grades 3-5

What the research tells us:
"Literacy development is an ongoing process...In today's fast-paced world, literacy demands are expanding, and they include more reading and writing tasks than at any other time in history. Students [Adolescents] need high levels of literacy to understand the vast amount of information available to them, and to fuel their imaginations as they help create the world of the future." (International Reading Association: Adolescent Literacy Position Statement)

Summertime is a time for vacationing, relaxing, and spending time with family and friends. It's important for all students to include reading among their summertime activities to maintain their level of skill development and avoid the "summer slide," or loss in their reading skills.

All students are required to read THREE books for the summer of 2025.

Rising 5th graders may want to get started reading the "Rooster Books" a.k.a, the Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominees for the 2026 year. Fifth graders need to read at least 10 of the 20 books to qualify for the "Rooster Games," which will be held in June 2026.

**All students must record the books that they read on the reading log provided. This reading log is electronic, so you can make your own copy of the document or you can print it out at home and write your choices down. Here are the reading logs:*

Incoming Grade 3
Incoming Grades 4 & 5

Students are encouraged to engage in a wide variety of reading activities over the summer, such as those held at public libraries, reading magazines, newspapers, maps, and brochures, both in print and online.

If students should want to explore the Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominees for the 2026 year, those books are listed below:

1. *A Bite Above the Rest* by Christine Virnig
2. *Bodega Cats: Picture Purrfect* by Hilda Eunice Burgos
3. *Call Me Roberto!: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos* by Nathalie Alonso
4. *Haiku, Ew!: Celebrating the Disgusting Side of Nature* by Lynn Brunelle
5. *The Happy Shop* by Brittany Long Olsen
6. *Invisible Isabel* by Sally J. Pla
7. *Jupiter Nettle and the Seven Schools of Magic: A Graphic Novel* by Sangu Mandanna
8. *The Kids in Mrs. Z's Class: Emma McKenna, Full Out* by Kate Messner
9. *Legendarios #1: Wrath of the Rain God* by Karla Arenas Valenti
10. *The Life-Changing Magic of Chess: A Beginner's Guide with Grandmaster Maurice Ashley* by Maurice Ashley
11. *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All* by Chanel Miller
12. *Mixed-Up* by Kami Garcia
13. *My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story* by George Takei
14. *Off the Map* by Meika Hashimoto

15. *The Racc Pack* by Stephanie Cooke
16. *Search for a Giant Squid: Pick Your Path* by Amy Seto Forrester
17. *Stranded!: A Mostly True Story from Iceland* by Ævar Þór Benediktsson
18. *They Call Me No Sam!* by Drew Daywalt
19. *Wagnificent: The Adventures of Thunder and Sage* by Bethanie Deeney Murguia
20. *Wings of an Eagle: The Gold Medal Dreams of Billy Mills* by Billy Mills, Donna Janell Bowman

If students read or listen to at least three of these books, they can participate in the voting process for their favorite book in March of 2026.

We all hope you are safe and healthy and have a wonderful summer! You have earned it!

Happy Reading!
Hanaford Teachers

*Link to books and their descriptions: https://olis-ri.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=80729065
*Hanaford Library Website: http://guides.rilinkschools.org/hanaford

2026 Rooster Games

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER

Dear Fifth Grade Families-

Every year for nearly two decades, fifth grade students in East Greenwich, at both Hanaford and Eldredge, participate in The Rooster Games. This is a grade-level reading event that takes place in June, and one that students and teachers work hard to prepare for all year long.

In order to qualify for the Rooster Games, fifth grade students must read and fill out a form for a minimum of **ten** of the books from the RI Children's Book Award (RICBA) nominees for the current school year. The RICBA list is made up of 20 titles that were selected by a panel of librarians, reading specialists and teachers from across the state. The books vary in interest and reading level from grades 3 to 5, and include both fiction and nonfiction, picture books, chapter books, and graphic novels.

The Rooster Games is a cooperative event between the fifth grade teachers and the library media specialist, and one we encourage every fifth grader to work towards participating in. We regularly remind and encourage students to read the books and complete the forms, in addition to reading several of the books aloud throughout the year.

Where can I access the forms?

Forms are located on the Hanaford Library Website (guides.rilinkschools.org/hanaford), under Grade 5 Resources.

What is the deadline to qualify?

Students have until **TUESDAY MAY 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.**

How can I access Rooster Books?

The Rooster Books are the current year's RI Children's Book Award Nominees. This list is the same across the state, so be aware that there may be a waiting list at both our school library and the public library.

- Each fifth grade classroom will have one set of the books, courtesy of our PTG.
- The Hanaford Library will have two sets of the books, courtesy of our PTG.
- All public libraries in Rhode Island will have the lists and special sections for the books
- You may also purchase your own books on Amazon, Barrington Books or Barnes and Noble

What if I hate to read or I have difficulty in reading?

The fifth grade teachers work directly throughout the year with resource teachers, the reading specialist and the library media specialist to make any necessary accommodations for students so that anyone who wants to participate can. Please talk to any one of us about your concerns and we will work out a plan!

What if I don't participate?

Students who do not participate will have work to complete independently in their classrooms during the games. This is still a full day of school. Games take place in the morning and will conclude by lunchtime.

2026 RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD NOMINEES Grades 3-5

https://tinyurl.com/8m3ht35w

A Bite Above the Rest by Christine Virnig
Caleb starts school in a new town where everyone dresses up as witches, monsters and vampires and Halloween decorations are up all the time. Is everyone playing dress-up or did he move into a town full of real werewolves and vampires?
Mystery Chapter Book

Bodega Cats: Picture Purrfect by Hilda Eunice Burgos
Miguel longs to be an artist, but his parents want him to help out at their family's bodega in his spare time. Lolo is a stray cat who finds a home in Miguel's bodega. Together the two learn how to balance family, responsibilities, and friendships.
Illustrated Chapter Book

Call Me Roberto!: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos by Nathalie Alonsoby
Roberto Clemente used a tin can and a tree branch to teach himself how to play baseball, and then swung his way into a Hall of Fame career. *Picture Book Biography*

Haiku, Ew!: Celebrating the Disgusting Side of Nature by Lynn Brunelle
Maggots, hagfish, slimy fur and caterpillar soup! These are just some of the disgusting (and poetic) things that can be found in nature-and this book! *Poetry Picture Book*

The Happy Shop by Brittany Long Olsen
Darcy is feeling low after moving to a new town but discovers and starts working for a shop that sells happy feelings. She begins to wonder whether happy feelings are the only feelings people need and chooses to do something about it. *Graphic Novel*

Invisible Isabel by Sally J. Pla
Isabel is sandwiched in the middle of 5 siblings and never seems to get much attention from her family. When a new popular girl moves to town, Isabel is targeted for being "weird" and learns to stick up for herself, even around adults. *Novel in Verse*

Jupiter Nettle and the Seven Schools of Magic: A Graphic Novel by Sangu Mandanna
Jupiter is so excited to join the Seven Schools of Magic but is disappointed when she is chosen for Earth Magic. But when the school is threatened by an ancient force, can she use her talents to help? *Graphic Novel*

The Kids in Mrs. Z's Class: Emma McKenna, Full Out by Kate Messner
Emma McKenna can't wait for a fresh start in third grade. She wants to forget all about her awful nickname from second grade - until she walks into class and sees her once best friend, now enemy, who gave her the nickname. Can she turn it around?
Realistic Fiction Chapter Book

Legendarios #1: Wrath of the Rain God by Karla Arenas Valenti
After twins Emma and Martin move from Mexico to Chicago, they discover they have a bit of Mexican magic. Through a magical book they visit an ancient Aztec village that is being ravaged by Tlaloc, the rain god. Emma and Martin journey to visit Tlaloc to save the ancient village. *Fantasy Chapter Book*

The Life-Changing Magic of Chess: A Beginner's Guide with Grandmaster Maurice Ashley by Maurice Ashley
Grandmaster Maurice Ashley reveals how chess skills are like superhero abilities that turbocharge your brain and life. Whether you're just starting or already a chess wizard, Ashley's insights will have you powering up in no time! *Graphic Nonfiction*

Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by Chanel Miller
Magnolia Wu is a sock detective on a mission to reunite lonely socks left behind in her parents' laundromat. Despite her efforts to display lost socks on a bulletin board, few notice her or the socks. But this summer, things are about to get a lot more interesting! Magnolia teams up with a new acquaintance, and together they set off on an adventure through the city to unfold the mystery of the missing socks. *Mystery Chapter Book*

Mixed-Up by Kami Garcia
Fifth-grader, Stella is getting overwhelmed with schoolwork and the demands of reading. She learns that she has a learning difference, dyslexia, and the help and support of her friends and caring grownups in her life help her to succeed.
Realistic Graphic Novel

My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story by George Takei
George Takei, an actor in the TV series Star Trek, shares his story about living in a Japanese internment camp during WWII. His story reflects the experience and the lasting effects of growing up under suspicion, even as a child. *Picture Book Memoir*

Off the Map by Meika Hashimoto
Marlo and Amos have always been best friends until the new school year when it all fell apart. Now they are on an Alaskan wilderness trip and stuck in a canoe together when they are separated from their parents. *Realistic Fiction Chapter Book*

The Racc Pack by Stephanie Cooke
Do you love trash as much as a raccoon? How about as much as a whole pack of raccoons?! Then you must read all about these hilarious raccoons that go to great lengths to steal trash!
Graphic Novel

Search for a Giant Squid: Pick Your Path by Amy Seto Forrester
Choose your own adventure as you take a submersible on an ocean expedition to reach the giant squid. What lies beneath the surface and how will you get there? *Nonfiction*

Stranded!: A Mostly True Story from Iceland by Ævar Þór Benediktsson
This is a true story about an explorer who gets stranded on a volcanic island in Iceland. Well, it's *mostly* a true story. Can you find the one thing in this story that's not actually true?
Nonfiction Picture Book

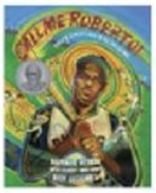
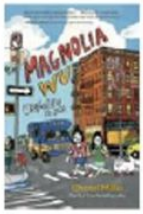
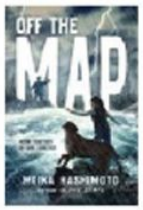
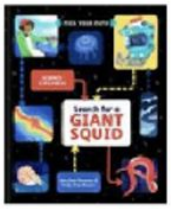
They Call Me No Sam! by Drew Daywalt
Sam the well-meaning pug tells the story of how he is trying to protect his new family from the evils of the neighborhood while enjoying his treats from his treasure chest. Or is it a garbage can? Things get exciting when Sam's family really needs him to save the day! *Illustrated Chapter Book*

Wagnificent: The Adventures of Thunder and Sage by Bethanie Deeney Murguia
Thunder the dog and her favorite human Sage live a peaceful life sharing many adventures together. That is until Thunder's inner wolf appears and he must decide if he wants to be Sage's loyal friend or embrace his wildness. *Graphic Novel*

Wings of an Eagle: The Gold Medal Dreams of Billy Mills by Billy Mills & Donna Janell Bowman
Billy Mills ran his way into history while overcoming many challenges and believing in himself. *Picture Book Biography*

2026 Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominees

Individual Tracking Chart - Check the circle after you have read the book.
For more information about RICBA visit https://tinyurl.com/8m3ht35w

I read it! ○  *A Bite Above the Rest* Christine Virnig	I read it! ○  *Bodega Cats: Picture Purrfect* Hilda Eunice Burgos	I read it! ○  *Call Me Roberto!: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos* Nathalie Alonso	I read it! ○  Emma McKenna, Full Out Kate Messner
I read it! ○  *Haiku, Ew! Celebrating the Disgusting Side of Nature* Lynn Brunelle	I read it! ○  *Invisible Isabel* Sally J. Pla	I read it! ○  *Jupiter Nettle and the Seven Schools of Magic* Sangu Mandanna	I read it! ○  *Legendarios: Wrath of the Rain God* Karla Valenti
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