



May 2026

Dear Rising 5th Grade Students and Parents,

I am so excited to work with you in the coming 2026-27 school year. I hope you have a restful summer and that you also get to spend your summer with a few good books. Your required assignment for summer reading is to read 1 of the following **2026-27 Bluebonnet CHAPTER books. Your choices are:**

1. *Danilo Was Here* by Tamika Burgess
2. *Fowl Play* by Kristen O'Donnell Tubb
3. *Gracie Under the Waves* by Linda Sue Park
4. *The Library of Unruly Treasures* by Jeanne Birdsall
5. *Pocket Bear* by Katherine Applegate
6. *A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hill* by Jasmine Warga
7. *The Trouble with Heroes* by Kate Messner
8. *Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

We will discuss these books and share our projects during the first week of the school year. On the next page, you will find your choice of projects for your summer reading book. The purpose of these activities is to encourage you to think critically about what you are reading, share your understanding in creative ways, and to foster discussion when the school year starts in the fall.

Your summer reading project will be due the first week of the school year on **Friday, August 21, 2026**. Use the included Summer Reading Project Rubric to guide your work. Please don't hesitate to email me over the summer if you have any questions. I can't wait to share these summer book projects and celebrate your hard work in the fall. One special aspect of being a 5th grader is your eligibility to participate in the Bluebonnet Reading Challenge. Students must read at least 10 books from the [Texas Bluebonnet Award List](#) to attend a special celebratory Bluebonnet breakfast in February! I look forward to seeing you next year. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rainman

5th Grade Language Arts

srainman@stmes.org



5th Grade Summer Reading Assignments

Choose 1 of the following projects to complete after you have read your summer reading book.

Option 1: Postcards

Create 3 postcards in the voice of 1 of the characters in the book and address them to me. You will bring the 3 postcards to school on our first day. On the back of each postcard, write a short summary of an important event from the book. Be sure to address the postcard and draw a stamp. On the front, illustrate the event. Create a unique illustration that is not something already drawn in the book. Consider what a postcard looks like and how you can recreate one for this project! You may need to look up what a postcard looks like to make the best project possible. Remember, your text is very important.

Address: Mrs. Rainman

3816 Bellaire Blvd.

Houston, TX 77025

Option 2: Vision Board

Envision the different aspects of the novel: characters, setting, and major events. Use magazines, online photos, or other sources to illustrate the novel. This might be a poster or a tri-fold. Make sure that you represent each aspect. Limit the use of words, but use them where needed to ensure the observer's understanding of the story.

Option 3: Graphic Novel (not an option if your selected book is a graphic novel)

Write a graphic novel version of your book. You should use 3 pieces of printer paper. Each page should have 5 panels of varying sizes. Do not use the back of a page. I should be able to set the 3 pieces of paper side by side and see the story. The first page should have an extra panel for the title, author's name, and your name. That means you should have 15 panels for the story, and 1 extra panel for the title, author's name, and your name. Color your illustrations and include the main points from the novel.



Reading Project Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Understanding of the Novel	The student's understanding of the novel is evident based on what was submitted for the project. The project captures major themes, or ideas, from the novel, and demonstrates an understanding of the characters by including personality traits and beliefs.	The project includes some evidence of an understanding of the novel.	It is unclear that the student understands the bigger themes asked of the project.	The project does not demonstrate understanding of the novel.
Creativity	The project demonstrates creativity and individual thinking in its presentation. The student has taken time to present their work in a visually appealing way. (Examples of ways to do this include using a straight-edge to draw lines, tracing over pencil with a fine-tipped marker, mounting any printed and cut paper to give it a border and "finished" look, centering titles / words, etc.)	The project meets most of the criteria expectations.	The project does not meet several of the criteria expectations.	The project was completed with minimal creativity and does not meet any of the expectations.
Evidence of Information and Organization	The complete work, ideas, and details are presented in an organized manner so that the thoughts are easy to follow.	The student followed most aspects of the project instructions, but not all.	The project includes a few of the required elements, but not all.	The project does not include any of the required elements. Care was not taken in the completion of the assignment.
Writing Conventions: - Capitalization - Usage - Punctuation - Spelling	Punctuation is correct, spelling is accurate, and there are no major errors in grammar.	The project includes some errors in writing conventions—few punctuation, spelling, and/or grammatical issues—but not enough to cause difficulty in reading and understanding of the text.	Several punctuation, spelling, and grammatical errors stand out in the writing.	Punctuation, spelling, and grammatical errors are very common and stand out.

Total: _____/16