Maret Summer Reading 2026: Rising 5th grade

Best Practices:

- Read to relax and explore new things over the summer.
- Read or listen to print books, eBooks, and audiobooks for at least **20 minutes** per day.
- Read beyond the requirements this summer to discover more books to enjoy.

Sora:

- Use Sora to access Maret's digital book collection
- Link your Maret Sora account to DC Public Library to access more books
- Visit the library website to learn more



Format:

*Starred titles are available for checkout online from Maret's Sora collection
+The plus sign indicates that the book is the first in a series or has a sequel

Section 1:

Humanities Department Required Reading: Select **one** book from the following list of memoirs**.**

Path to the Stars by Sylvia Acevedo*	The inspiring memoir for young listeners about a Latina rocket scientist whose early life was transformed by joining the Girl Scouts and who currently serves as CEO of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
March by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell	The late John Lewis was a congressman from Georgia and was, in case you weren't aware, a civil rights hero. John Lewis, who served in Congress from 1987 until his death in 2020, was one of the key figures of the Civil Rights Movement, and his commitment to justice and nonviolence took him from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom.
Someone Like Me by Julissa Arce*	Born in the picturesque town of Taxco, Mexico, Julissa Arce was left behind for months at a time with her two sisters, a nanny, and her grandma while her parents worked tirelessly in America in hopes of building a home and providing a better life for their children. That is, until her parents brought Julissa to Texas to live with them. From then on, Julissa secretly lived as an undocumented immigrant, went on to become a scholarship winner and an honors college graduate, and climbed the ladder to become a vice president at Goldman Sachs.

Life in Motion by Misty Copeland*	As the first African American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has been breaking down all kinds of barriers in the world of dance. But when she first started dancing—at the late age of thirteen—no one would have guessed the shy girl would one day make history in her field.
Proud: Living My American Dream by Ibtihaj Muhammad*	At the 2016 Olympic Games, Ibtihaj Muhammad smashed barriers as the first American to compete wearing hijab, and she made history as the first Muslim American woman to win a medal. But before she was an Olympian, activist, and entrepreneur, Ibtihaj was a young outsider trying to find her place.
This Kid Can Fly by Aaron Philip*	In this heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting memoir, Aaron Philip, a fourteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, shows how he isn't defined so much by his disability as he is by his abilities.
No Summit Out of Sight by Jordan Romero*	On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents.
Knucklehead by Jon Scieszka*	How did Jon Scieszka get so funny, anyway? Growing up as one of six brothers was a good start, but that was just the beginning. Throw in Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, jokes told at family dinner, and the result is *Knucklehead*.
I am Malala (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai*	*I Am Malala* is the memoir of a remarkable teenage girl who tells her story of bravery and determination in the face of extremism, detailing the daily challenges of growing up in a world transformed by terror.
Fierce by Aly Raisman	*Discover Aly Raisman's inspiring story of dedication, perseverance, and learning to think positively even in the toughest times on her path to gold medal success in two Olympic Games—and beyond.*

Section 2:

Humanities Department Required Reading: Select **one** book from Section 2

Genre: Realistic Fiction	
Wishtree by Katherine Applegate*	Once a year, people gather to tie their wishes onto a red oak tree. The tree tells the story of one year when a new immigrant family moves to the neighborhood and the tree's future is threatened.
Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle+*	Nate's dream is to perform on Broadway, so when he sees an open audition for *E.T.: The Musical*, he concocts a harebrained scheme to sneak off to New York for the weekend to try out.
Front Desk by Kelly Yang*+	Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel. If the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting other immigrant families stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed.
A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass*	Mia thinks she's crazy because she sees color with every letter, number, and sound, so she tries to keep it a secret—until life gets too overwhelming to keep it in anymore.
Genre: Fantasy & Science Fiction	
Wild Robot by Peter Brown+*	Roz the robot finds herself alone on a remote island with no memory of why she is there. Her only hope of survival is to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.
Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi+*	Aru may sometimes stretch the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp in her mother is cursed, she accidentally frees an ancient demon who stops time.

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau+*	Ember is a society deep underground and the last refuge for the human race. But 200 years after its creation, supplies are running low, and it's up to Lina and Doon to find a way out.
Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel José Older+*	It's 1863 and dinosaurs roam the streets of New York as the Civil War rages between raptor-mounted armies.
Genre: Mystery	
The Ghost Road by Charis Cotter*	Ruth's father sends her off to spend the summer with family in Newfoundland, where she meets her cousin, who looks more like her twin and hears about a family curse.
The Greenglass House by Kate Milford+*	Milo, the innkeeper's adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but guests arrive with stories about the inn that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, off to solve a mystery.
The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson*	Matthew struggles with a disorder and almost never leaves his room, but watching the neighbors from his window one day, he is the last person to see a toddler before he disappears.

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage+*	Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale set out to uncover the truth behind a murder in their small town to save the family that pulled Mo out of the river when she was a baby.
Genre: Historical fiction	
Rebellion 1776 by Laurie Halse Anderson	In the spring of 1776, thirteen-year-old Elsbeth Culpepper wakes to the sound of cannons. It's the Siege of Boston, the Patriots' massive drive to push the Loyalists out that turns the city into a chaotic war zone. Elsbeth's father—her only living relative—has gone missing, leaving her alone and adrift in a broken town while desperately seeking employment to avoid the orphanage.
The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz*	William, a monastery oblate; Jacob, a Jewish refugee; and Jeanne, a psychic peasant girl, join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution, accompanied by Jeanne's greyhound.
How I Became a Ghost by Tim Tingle	A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from the only land its people had ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost--one with the ability to help those he left behind.
Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan*	Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California struggle to overcome challenges at different points across time, drawing hope and strength from the same enchanted harmonica.
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia+*	Delphine and her sisters move from New York to California in the summer of 1968 to live with a mother they've never known, and the sisters end up in a summer camp with the Black Panthers.