

4th - 5th Grade Summer Reading Recommendations 2026

one star* books are next year's Amazing Reading Challenge books

two star ** books are next year's Sasquatch Award nominees

Fantasy

****Elf Dog and Owl Head** by M.T. Anderson

****The Kingdom Over the Sea** by Zohra Nabi

A Game of Noctis by Deva Fagan

Just a Pinch of Magic by Alechia Dow

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell

Ellie Engle Saves Herself by Leah Johnson

Nell O'Dell Hates Quests by Emily B. Martin

The Dragon's Apprentice by James Riley

Vanya and the Wild Hunt by Sangu Mandanna

Return to Sender by Vera Brosgol

Skandar the Unicorn Thief by A.F. Steadman

The Last Hope School for Magical Delinquents by Nicki Pau Preto

Realistic Fiction

***Something Like Home** by Andrea Beatriz Arango

****With Twice the Love, Dessie Mei** by Justina Chen

****Popcorn** by Rob Harrell

Magnolia Wu Unfolds it All by Chanel Miller

A Work in Progress by Jarrett Learner

Maggie Lou, Firefox by Arnolda Dufour Bowes

Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt

Falling Short by Ernesto Cisneros

Second Chance Summer by Sarah Kapit

Carter Avery's Tricky Fourth-Grade Year by Rob Buyea

The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner

Historical Fiction

***Will's Race for Home** by Jewell Parker Rhodes

*****Safiyyah's War** by Hiba Noor Khan

A Seed in the Sun by Aida Salazar

Freewater by Amina Lugman-Dawson

The Night War by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

One Wrong Step by Jennifer A. Nielsen

The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna by Alda P. Dobbs

Max in the House of Spies by Adam Gidwitz

Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood
Light and Air and Mindy Nichols Wendell
Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park

Science Fiction

***Last Dragon on Mars** by Scott Reintgen
Westfallen by Ann Brashares
A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga
Futureland: Battle for the Park by H.D. Hunter
Glitch by Laura Martin
Jinxed by Amy McCulloch
The Area 51 Files by Julie Buxbaum
The Orpheus Plot by Christopher Swiedler
Trouble in the Stars by Sarah Prineas
We're Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey

Adventure

****On a Wing and a Tear** by Cynthia Leitich Smith
96 Miles by J. L. Esplin
Alone by Megan E. Freeman
Concealed by Christina Diaz Gonzalez
The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum by Lisa Yee
Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling
City Spies by James Ponti
The Five Impossible Tasks of Eden Smith by Tom Llewellyn
The Flicker by H.E. Edgmon
Busted by Dan Gemeinhart
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone

Animals

***Dogtown** by Katherine Applegate
Always, Clementine by Carlie Sorosiak
Wombat Waiting by Katherine Applegate
The Great Pet Heist by Emily Ecton
Manatee Summer by Evan Griffith
Good Dog, McTavish by Meg Rosoff
Music for Tigers by Michelle Kadarusman
Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech
The Secret Language of Birds by Lynne Kelly
Wildoak by C. C. Harrington

Scary

****It Came from the Trees** by Ally Russell

Bellwoods Game by Celia Krampien

Deephaven by Ethan M. Aldridge

Another by Paul Tremblay

It Watches in the Dark by Jeff Strand

It Found Us by Lindsay Currie

Tales to Keep you Up at Night by Dan Poblocki

This Appearing House by Ally Mainenko

Mystery

****Spy Ring** by Sarah Beth Durst

Puzzleheart by Jenn Reese

The World-Famous Nine by Ben Guterson

No One Leaves the Castle by Christopher Healy

The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby by G.Z. Schmidt

Mystery in Rocky Mountain National Park by Aaron Johnson

The Mystery of Locked Rooms by Lindsay Currie

A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall by Jasmine Warga

The Cookie Crumbles by Tracy Badua and Alechia Dow

The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle by Taryn Souders

Graphic Novels

***Mabuhay!** by Zachary Sterling

****Ribbon Skirt** by Cameron Mukwa

****Monster Locker** by Jorge Aguirre

Almost Sunset by Wahab Algarmi

Another Kind by Trevor Bream

Space Chasers by Leland Melvin

Ghost Book by Remy Lai

Speak Up, Santiago! by Julio Anta

Lucky Scramble by Peter Raymundo

Lost at Windy River by Trina Rathgeber

Mexikid by Pedro Martin

Nancy Spector, Monster Detective by Stephen W. Martin

Fake Chinese Sounds by Jing Jing Tsong

Way Off Track by Carl Brundtland

How to Talk to your Succulent by Zoe Persico

Wildfire by Breena Bard

Non-Fiction

All Thirteen by Christina Soontornvat

Fallout by Steve Sheinkin

Never Caught: The Story of Ona Judge by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Orca Rescue! By Donna Sandstrom

Seen and Unseen by Elizabeth Partridge

Signs of Survival by Renee G. Hartman

The Eagle Huntress by Aisholpan Nurgaiv

The Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Day

Torpedoed by Deborah Heiligman