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 2026.

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 2027 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 2027.

If students should want to explore the 2027 Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominees, please use the links at the bottom of this letter. 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 2027.

**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.

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

Happy Reading!
Hanaford Teachers

LINKS:
*Annotated list of 2027 Rooster Books: https://olis-ri.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=85096887

*Individual Tracking Chart for 2027 Rooster Books: https://olis-ri.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=85095987

*Hanaford Library Website: http://guides.rilinkschools.org/hanaford

2027 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 JUNE 1, 2027 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.

2027 RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD NOMINEES Grades 3-5

olis.ri.gov/RICBA

Awesome Earth: Concrete Poems Celebrate Caves, Canyons, and Other Fascinating Landforms by Joan Bransfield Graham, Tania García (illustrator)
The Earth's crust shakes, water swells, lava flows, and glaciers advance. In this ingenious picture book, the landforms created by Earth's powerful forces are examined through compelling concrete poetry. *Poetry*

The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit by Kelly Crull
Go on patrol with the Black Mambas, South Africa's first women-led anti-poaching unit. Meet the rangers and discover all they do to protect wildlife at the Balule Nature Reserve. *Non-fiction*

Club Microbe by Elise Gravel
It's a germ's world. We're just living in it! Elise Gravel introduces us to the heroes and villains of the microscopic world, stopping to marvel at their unique names and wondrous shapes. *Non-fiction*

Creaky Acres: A Graphic Novel
by Calista Brill, Nilah Magruder (Illustrator)
Nora is a prize-winning horseback rider in a suburban area, with a tight-knit circle of best friends. But when her mom gets a prestigious new job in a poor, rural area, she must adjust to a lot of change: to being the only Black kid in a new class and to a new barn called Creaky Acres. *Graphic Novel*

Dragonborn by Struan Murray Recommended Grade 4+
After 12-year-old Alex Evans awakens with a fiery roar, she's sent to Skralla, one of the last surviving dragon havens, where she trains alongside other young, wild and untamed dragons, and must unlock her dormant power as dark factions rise. *Fantasy*

Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers by Angela Dominguez
Gabby Torres is nine years old and ready to conquer the world. She's already joined the Sea Musketeers, the environmental protection club, and plans to be their best (and youngest) member ever. Gabby's latest and greatest idea: start a social media page for her club. *Realistic Fiction*

Gifts from the Garbage Truck: A True Story About the Things We (Don't) Throw Away by Andrew Larsen, Oriol Vidal (illustrator)
What if everywhere you looked, you saw something to create? This is how Nelson Molina sees the world, and he invites others to view it that way too! *Biography*

Hurricane by Jason Chin
It's a beautiful day on Hatteras Island, North Carolina. But while all seems calm now, a hurricane is barreling across the Atlantic, and everyone is wondering when it will hit the U.S. coast. And where. *Realistic Fiction Chapter Book*

Jasper Rabbit's Creepy Tales!: Troubling Tonsils!
by Aaron Reynolds, Peter Brown (Illustrator)
Jasper Rabbit tells the eerie tale of Charlie Marmot, whose decision to keep his tonsils after surgery leads to creepy, mysterious events. *Mystery*

Millie of the Manor by Karina Evans and Andrea Bell
Amy has always loved a good mystery. So, when her classmate Reagan invites her to a murder-mystery-themed birthday party, she should be ecstatic. But...she's not. Instead, she's worried that her social anxiety will mess everything up. *Realistic Fiction*

On Guard! by Cassidy Wasserman
Grace is trying to find her footing at school...but between a mean girl ex-bff and her parents' divorce, things are pretty rocky. Is the fencing club the answer to finding her people...and maybe even herself? *Realistic Fiction*

Pocket Bear by Katherine Applegate, Charles Santoso (Illustrator)
Born during WWI, Pocket Bear was designed to fit into the pocket of a soldier's jacket. Now, over a century later, Pocket serves as unofficial mayor of Second Chances Home for the Tossed and Treasured, where stuffed toy animals are refurbished and given a fresh opportunity to be loved. *Fantasy*

Popcorn by Rob Harrell Recommended Grade 4+
Andrew's just trying to make it through Picture Day, which is easier said than done when it seems like the whole world is out to get him. But as Andrew goes through the school day, and as one thing after another goes wrong, that little kernel of worry in his stomach gets hotter and hotter, until it threatens to pop and turn into a public panic attack, his worst fear. *Realistic Fiction*

Return to Sender by Vera Brosgol
Ten-year-old Oliver discovers that the wish-granting mailbox in his new apartment may make his dreams come true, but they come with a cost. *Fantasy*

Rewriting the Rules: How Dr. Kathleen Friel Created New Possibilities for Brain Research and Disability by Danna Zeiger
When Kathleen Friel was young, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and a doctor told her parents all the things she'd never be able to do. As Kathleen grew up, she found her own methods to tackle tricky tasks and make her way through the world. She went on to earn a PhD, investigating how injured brains can build new connections. *Biography*

Safe Harbor by Padma Venkatraman
Moving from India to the US is difficult for Geetha, but things start to get better when she and a new friend help rescue a stranded seal. *Realistic Fiction*

School Dance by Sarah Sax
Milo wants to get excited for the school dance, but he can't--because he's cursed. His best friends, Al and Viv, are determined to help Milo break the curse and find the confidence to enjoy the dance. And they're not alone, because Milo's abuela, a legendary dancer, is moving in. *Graphic Novel*

The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest by Aubrey Hartman
An undead fox serving as the usher of souls has his life upended when a mysterious badger soul appears. *Fantasy*

Wat Takes His Shot: The Life & Legacy of Basketball Hero Wataru Misaka by Cheryl Kim, Nat Iwata (Illustrator)
As a kid, Wataru Misaka channeled his endless energy into playing sports. Every Sunday, he raced to the park where his Japanese American community came together to play basketball. Wat wasn't the tallest on the team, but he was fast and loved the game! Encouraged by his father to always do his best, Wat applied this mentality to every aspect and challenge in his life. Biography

Will's Race for Home by Jewell Parker Rhodes
It's 1889, barely twenty-five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and a young Black family is tired of working on land they don't get to own. So, when Will and his father hear about an upcoming land rush, they set out on a journey from Texas to Oklahoma, racing thousands of others to the place where land is free—if they can get to it fast enough. *Historical Fiction*