

June 2026



Dear Fifth Grade Parents and Students,

Summer is a wonderful opportunity for students to enjoy the many benefits of independent reading. As educators, we understand the importance of reading year-round and encourage students to continue reading throughout the summer to maintain and strengthen the skills they've developed during the school year. More importantly, we hope that independent reading fosters a love of literature and helps students grow into lifelong readers and learners.

Your child may select a summer reading book that matches their interests and reading level. For your convenience, we have included a list of recommended titles—many of which are award-winning classics. If needed, we would be happy to provide a copy of a book from the list upon request.

Students entering 6th grade are invited to read one of the books recommended below and complete the **“A Book in a...?”** project according to the attached instructions.

In addition to the book project, we encourage students to read more books over the summer. Don't forget—the Spotswood Public Library is a great resource for finding exciting new reads. We've also included a **Summer Reading Calendar** filled with fun and engaging activities. Students should aim to complete at least 2–3 activities per week, mark each one as completed, and return the calendar to school in September.

We sincerely appreciate your support in encouraging your child to read over the summer. Instilling a lifelong love of reading inspires children to imagine, wonder, and explore the endless possibilities that books have to offer.

Happy Reading!

Educationally yours,

The Fifth Grade Team

Book Suggestions:

	<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> by Katherine Paterson
	<i>Maniac Magee</i> by Jerry Spinelli
	<i>On My Honor</i> by Marion Dane Bauer
	<i>Souder</i> by William H. Armstrong
	<i>The Disappearing Bike Shop</i> by Elvira Woodruff
	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> by C.S. Lewis
	<i>The Trumpet of the Swan</i> by E.B. White

A Book in a ...?



This fun Summer Reading project is called “A Book in a...?”

Please choose a summer reading book based on your interests and reading level.

Here are the directions and requirements of this project:

The Outside

Choose any **container** for your book project. You may choose any container that suits your needs or theme of your book (manila envelope, paper bag, plastic bag, box, or any other container that you can imagine... be creative!).

Decorate the container with details appropriate to the book. We should know something about the book by examining the outside. Be sure your name, title of the book and author are clearly labeled.

The Inside

The inside of the container should include the following:

A. Five Items that depict the story in some way. These items may be actual items. You may choose to create special items or pictures that are important to the characters, setting, plot, etc.

B. Literature Elements - The following elements must be presented and labeled somewhere in your project:

- 1. Setting(s)** – You may choose to write about or illustrate it.
- 2. Character(s)** - You may choose to write about or illustrate them.
- 3. Brief Summary** - Must be written (may be typed or handwritten) and should include at least three paragraphs.
- 4. Conclusion** – Must be written (may be typed or handwritten) and include at least one paragraph on your impression of the book, author, characters, and recommendation.

Presentation

In September, you will present your "A Book in a....?" project to your ELA class. You will explain the following:

- A. Why you decorated the container the way you did**
- B. Why you included the five items that you did**
- C. The 4 literature elements**

Checklist

Please check off each requirement after you've completed it in order to keep track of your progress:

___ **The Outside Container:** Container, size, and shape are appropriate to the book. Decorations are neat, eye appealing, creative, and show effort.

___ **Five Items:** You have five items that depict the story in some way. The items are creative and have meaning to the story.

___ **Literature Elements:** Setting, Character(s), Summary, and Conclusion are neatly included in your project.

___ **Overall Effort:** Your project/report is neatly put together and demonstrates that time, thought, and effort were used.

We hope you enjoy completing “A Book in a...?”

HAPPY READING

JULY READING ADVENTURE CALENDAR



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Week 1

Book Cover Design:
Create a new, colorful cover for your favorite summer book.

Character Diary Entry:
Write a diary entry from the perspective of a character in your book.

Summer Poetry:
Create an Acrostic poem with one of the main characters.

Summarize the Story:
Write a paragraph that summarizes the book from beginning to end.

Reading Scavenger Hunt:
Find items or words from your book (like a map, storm, dragon, etc.) and list them.

Week 2

Compare & Contrast:
Compare two characters or books—what's similar and different?

Letter to the Author:
Write a letter to the author sharing thoughts or questions.

Reading Picnic:
Take your book outside and read under a tree or at a park.

Story Soundtrack:
Pick songs that fit scenes or characters in your story.

Comic Strip: Draw a comic showing an important scene from the book.

Week 3

New Ending: Write a new, creative ending for a book you've read.

Book in a Bag:
Put 5 items in a bag that represent parts of the story and explain their meaning.

Story Map: Draw the story's setting and label the important places.

Reading Selfie: Take a selfie with your book and write a short review.

Act It Out!: Act out a favorite scene with family or friends.

Week 4

Word Collector: Find and define interesting or tricky words from your book.

Character Interview:
Write 5 questions and answer them as if you were the character.

Book Tower Challenge:
Stack and photograph all the books you've read this summer.

Read with a Pet or Stuffedie: Read your book aloud to an animal or stuffed friend.

Genre Switch:
Rewrite a scene from your book in a different genre like fantasy or sci-fi.

Week 5

Book Trailer: Create a video or script to promote your book like a movie trailer.

Chapter Title Re-Write:
Give each chapter a new creative title.

Reading Timeline:
Create a timeline of the major events in your story.

Main Idea Poster: Make a poster showing the main idea and key details.

Create a Bookmark:
Design a bookmark that reflects the book's theme, setting, or characters.