

### **Entering 5th grade summer reading**

1. Required summer reading:

***Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren**—Students need to bring this book to class with them the first week of school. We will be discussing the book and taking a test.

2. Choose at least one book **that you have not already read** from the list. You will complete a book report/project on this book when you return to school. You need to bring the copy of the book to class the first week of school.

### **5th grade summer reading choice books**

***Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliet**: Set in Chicago, a Vermeer painting is stolen, and Petra and Calder, two bright, quirky sixth-graders, come together to solve the crime that has the whole world baffled. (2005 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery)

***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters* by Jeanne Birdsall**: The motherless Penderwick sisters spend the summer in a Berkshire cottage with their botanist father and protective dog, Hound. The cottage is on the grounds of a mansion owned by snobby Mrs. Tifton, whose young son Jeffrey, with whom the girls become friends, is a brilliant pianist forced by his mother to attend military school.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**: In 1935, when Alcatraz was a prison for notorious criminals like Al Capone, 12-year-old Moose moves there so his father can work as a prison guard and his autistic sister Natalie can attend a special school in San Francisco. Not only does Moose have to leave the baseball team and fit in at a new school, but he must also avoid getting caught up in the warden's irresistible daughter Piper's countless plots and keep an eye on his sister. (2005 Newberry Award Honor Book)

***Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr**: This is the true story of a Japanese girl who develops leukemia because of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima. During long hospital stays, she makes origami cranes to pass the time. Her goal is to make 1000, but she dies with only 644 completed. Sadako's classmates finish making the cranes, and all 1000 are buried with her.

***New Kid* by Jerry Craft:** Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. (2020 Newberry Award).

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle:** Meg, Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin dangerously search through space for their missing scientist father by means of a “tesseract”, or wrinkle in time, and arrive at the dark planet Camazotz, whose puppetlike inhabitants are controlled by IT, a brain without a body. (1963 Newberry Award).

***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio:** August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

***The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer:** (series) Twins Alex and Conner Bailey are given a fairy-tale book by their grandmother. The twins fall into the book and into the very weird Land of Stories where Goldilocks is a fugitive, Red Riding Hood runs her own kingdom, and Cinderella is a queen about to become a mother! The twins try to get back home, but the Evil Queen is hot on their trail, preventing them from doing so.

***The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan:** (series) Twelve-year old Percy Jackson is expelled from another school because he clashed with mythological monsters only he can see. Percy is taken to Camp Half-Blood, where he learns he is a demigod, and his father is the Greek god Poseidon, ruler of the sea. A prophecy from the Oracle sends Percy on his first quest, a mission to the Underworld to prevent a war among the gods of Olympus.

***The Misadventures of Beanie Girl* by Stacy McAnulty:** Lucy survived a lightning strike that left her with genius-level math talent—and

obsessive-compulsive disorder. She's only 12 and capable of attending college, but her grandmother enrolls her in middle school to spend time with kids her own age.

***Football Genius* by Tim Green:** Troy White can predict any football play before it happens. When his single mom gets a job with the Atlanta Falcons, Troy knows it's his big chance to help them out of their slump—and finally prove his football genius. But unless Troy can convince star linebacker Seth Halloway that he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship—and Troy's mom's job—are in serious jeopardy.

***Leonard (My Life as a Cat)* by Carlie Sorosiak:** While no cat can be called ordinary, Leonard is definitely no ordinary cat. In fact, he is an alien, sent on earthly sabbatical and mistakenly given the body of a scruffy stray. Rescued by animal lover Olive, Leonard does his best to study the humans he helped to join while contending with the indignities of hair balls, kitty litter, and a compulsion to shred the curtains. As he collects experiences, Leonard finds himself unexpectedly caught up in one of the most human of emotions of all: love. The trouble? He needs to get to his pickup spot two thousand miles away by the end of the month or he will be stuck on Earth as a cat forever!

***The Winning Stroke* by Matt Christopher:** When Jerry Grayson turns to the swimming pool to help heal his baseball injury, he never suspects that he will become interested in the sport of competitive swimming. To Jerry, swimming is pretty tame, until the day he catches the last part of a swim meet. After watching the quick starts, photo finishes, and powerful strokes, he finds himself wondering if there isn't more to this sport than he thought. But does he have what it takes to make a real splash?

**\*\*You may choose any other book by Matt Christopher.**

***The Birthday Buck* by Jimmy Tidmore:** A boy named Jet works to get his first deer. His journey teaches him valuable lessons about life and the outdoors.

***The Frog Princess* by E.D. Baker:** Princess Esmerelda, who dislikes her arranged marriage and the courtly life, meets a talking frog who claims to be a cursed prince. She kisses him to break the curse, but instead, she turns into a frog as well. Together, Esmerelda and the now-frog Eadric embark on an adventure to find the witch who

cursed him and reverse the spell, facing magical creatures and other challenges along the way.

***Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone:** Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U12 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way.

Strike one: As the sole team of all-brown faces, Shenice and the Firebirds have to work twice as hard to prove that Black girls belong at bat.

Strike two: Shenice's focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending—and family-name-ruining—crime may have been a setup.

Strike three: Broken focus means mistakes on the field. And Shenice's teammates are beginning to wonder if she's captain-qualified.

It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past—and fast—before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

***The Apothecary* by Maile Meloy:** It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy. When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia, in order to find him, all while keeping it out of the hands of their enemies - Russian spies in possession of nuclear weapons. Discovering and testing potions they never believed could exist, Janie and Benjamin embark on a dangerous race to save the apothecary and prevent impending disaster.