

Fifth Grade Books

Adventure

- Emerson **Diary of a 6th Grade Ninja**
By Marcus Emerson
Chase Cooper is recruited by a group of school-aged ninjas at his new school.
- Fleischman **The Giant Rat of Sumatra: Or Pirates Galore**
By Sid Fleischman
A boy named Shipwreck attempts to sail back home to Boston aboard the most notorious pirate ship in the Pacific.
- Hiaasen **Chomp**
By Carl Hiaasen
Wahoo's dad, a professional animal wrangler, is hired to consult on the reality show Expedition Survival!, but the show's star goes missing in the Florida Everglades.
- Probst **Stranded**
By Jeff Probst
A family vacation turns into a game of survival when four kids are shipwrecked on a jungle island in the South Pacific.
- Riordan **The Red Pyramid: Kane Chronicles Book One**
By Rick Riordan
Sadie and Carter embark on a dangerous journey across the globe in order to put things right after their Egyptologist dad unleashes the Egyptian god Set.
- Sachar **Holes**
By Louis Sachar
A curse lands Stanley at the juvenile detention center Camp Green Lake where there is no lake and the boys are forced to dig holes all day for a mysterious purpose.
- Speare **The Sign of the Beaver**
By Elizabeth George Speare
Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy learns the skills of survival from local Native Americans.
- Walden **H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute of Villainous Education)**
By Mark Walden
Otto is kidnapped and forced to enroll in a super villain training school.
- Watson **Loot**
By Jude Watson
When a notorious cat burglar dies during a burglary it's up to his twelve-year-old son to finish his last heist.

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Animal Stories

- Applegate **The One and Only Ivan**
By Katherine Applegate
Ivan the gorilla has been content at the shopping mall zoo for 27 years until a wild baby elephant joins him and he sees their home through her eyes.
- Avi **Ragweed**
By Avi and illustrated by Brian Floca
Ragweed the mouse is determined to see the world, even if it means leaving his family and cozy country home for the big city. A Tales from Dimwood Forest story.
- Fiedler **Mouseheart**
By Lisa Fiedler and illustrated by Vivienne To
A pet shop mouse escapes to find a civilization of ravenous cats, utopian rats, and a generations-long battle involving deadly secrets.
- Jones **Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Chicken Farmer**
By Kelly Jones
Sophie moves from the big city to a rustic farm where the chickens are not what they seem. She is pretty sure the cranky white chicken can move things with its mind and another may be turning itself invisible. Sophie better learn how to take care of the unusual chickens before a chicken thief snatches them away!
- Lasky **The Capture: Guardians of Ga’Hoole Book One**
By Kathryn Lasky
A young barn owl is rescued by a mysterious school for orphaned owls.
- O’Brien **Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH**
By Robert O’Brien
Mrs. Frisby is forced to move her family to safe quarters and turns to the intelligent rats of NIMH for help.
- Pennypacker **Pax**
By Sara Pennypacker
A young boy is forced to give up his pet fox then ventures out alone to find him.

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Fantasy & Sci-Fi

- Beasley **Circus Mirandus**
By Cassie Beasley
Micah sets out to find an enchanted circus to use its magic to save his grandfather’s life.

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- Colfer **The Wishing Spell: The Land of Stories Book One**
By Chris Colfer
Twins Alex and Connor find themselves in a magical land filled with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.
- Collins **Gregor the Overlander: Underland Chronicles Book One**
By Suzanne Collins
After falling through a grate in his apartment building and into the Underland, Gregor embarks on a dangerous quest to fulfill his destiny.
- Dowell **Falling In**
By Frances O’Roark Dowell
Middle-schooler Isabelle Bean ventures into a school closet and falls into a parallel universe where children believe she is a wicked witch come to devour them.
- Levine **Ella Enchanted**
By Gail Carson Levine
Princes, ogres, and fairies, oh my! Unfortunately, a fairy gave Ella the “gift” of obedience at birth and she must go on a quest to reverse the curse.
- L’Engle **A Wrinkle in Time**
By Madeline L’Engle
Meg sets off to the outer reaches of space to find her scientist father who disappeared while researching tesseract.
- Ormsbee **The Water and the Wild**
By K.E. Ormsbee
An orphan named Lottie follows a strange girl down the roots of an apple tree and into another world in hopes of finding a cure for her sick best friend.
- Sachar **Fuzzy Mud**
By Louis Sachar
While taking a detour through the woods to avoid a bully, Tamaya and Marshall come into contact with some odd mud that might affect the future of the world.

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Historical Fiction

- Avi **Crispin: The Cross of Lead**
By Avi
An orphan is falsely accused of theft and murder in fourteenth-century England and meets a juggler with a dangerous secret.
- Choldenko **Al Capone Does My Shirts**
By Gennifer Choldenko
A boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 with his autistic sister after his dad gets a job as a prison guard.

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- Curtis **Bud, Not Buddy**
By Christopher Paul Curtis
Bud escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of his father during the U. S. Great Depression.
- Cushman **The Midwife's Apprentice**
By Karen Cushman
A nameless girl in medieval England is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife and given a place in this world.
- Holm **Turtle in Paradise**
By Jennifer L. Holm
Turtle is sent to live with her eccentric but enterprising relatives in Key West, Florida amidst the U.S. Great Depression in 1935.
- Lai **Inside Out and Back Again**
By Thanhha Lai
With the fall of Saigon, Hà and her family flee Vietnam and face the quirks and grief of being immigrants in Alabama.
- Philbrick **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg**
By W. Rodman Philbrick
Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother who was sold into service in the Civil War.
- Preus **Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro**
By Margi Preus
In 1841, Nakahama Manjiro became the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States after an American whaling ship rescues him from a shipwrecked island.
- Williams **One Crazy Summer**
By Rita Williams-Garcia
Three sisters spend the summer of 1968 in Oakland, California with the mother they barely know and end up attending a Black Panther summer camp to stay out of her hair.

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Horror

- Anderson **Zombie Mommy: A Pals in Peril Tale**
By M.T. Anderson
The intrepid Pals in Perils heroes discover Lily's mom has become possessed by a zombie who wants to take over the world.
- Avi **The Seer of Shadows**
By Avi
In New York City in 1872, a photographer's apprentice accidentally frees the ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge.

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- Gidwitz **A Tale Dark and Grimm**
By Adam Gidwitz
Once upon a time, fairy tales were awesome. Awesomely shocking and bloody!
- Harrold **The Imaginary**
By A.F. Harrold
Rudger, an imaginary friend, is being hunted by the evil Mr. Bunting who captures imaginaries.
- Rich **Half-Minute Horrors**
By Susan Rich
Short scary stories by an assortment of authors and illustrators including Neil Gaiman, Jack Gantos, and Lane Smith.
- Segal **Nightmares!**
By Jason Segal and Kirsten Miller
Charlie's dad remarries and moves them into a creepy purple mansion where the creatures of his nightmares may be coming to life.

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Humor

- Angleberger **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**
By Tom Angleberger
Tommy's weird friend Dwight starts wearing a finger puppet Yoda that gives mysteriously good advice and may even predict the future, or does it?
- Barnett **The Terrible Two**
By Mac Barnett
It's prankster against prankster in an epic war of trickery, until the two finally decide to join forces and pull off the biggest prank ever seen. Recommend to Diary of a Wimpy Kid fans.
- Barry **The Worst Class Trip Ever**
By Dave Barry
Wyatt and Matt discover a plot to blow up the White House while on a class trip to Washington D.C.
- Buckley **Nerds: National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society, Book One**
By Michael Buckley
A group of unpopular fifth graders run an international spy network from inside their school.
- Hiaasen **Scat**
By Carl Hiaasen
Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

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- Rodkey **The Tapper Twins Go to War (with each other)**
By Geoff Rodkey
An epic prank battle breaks out after Reese Tapper calls his twin sister, Claudia, Princess Farts-a-Lot in front of the whole sixth grade.
- Tashjian **My Life as a Book**
By Janet Tashjian
Derek looks forward to spending his summer vacation throwing water balloons at the UPS truck and conducting investigations until his parents decide to send him to Learning Camp instead.

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Mystery

- Bosch **The Name of This Book Is Secret**
By Pseudonymous Bosch
Two misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais from finding the secret of immortality.
- Buckley **The Fairy Tale Detectives: Sisters Grimm Book 1**
By Michael Buckley
Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with their eccentric grandmother, Relda, who lives in a town that experiences an extraordinary number of unusual crimes.
- Gibbs **Space Case**
By Stuart Gibbs
Dashiell Gibson lives on Moon Base Alpha and must solve the murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.
- Grabenstein **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**
By Chris Grabenstein
Kyle stays overnight in the new library designed by his game making hero, Luigi Lemoncello, but he and his friends must solve puzzles to escape.
- Milford **Greenglass House**
By Kate Milford
At the smuggler's inn, known as the Greenglass House, the innkeeper's son hears strange stories from the guests leading him on an adventure in this classic whodunit.
- Raskin **The Westing Game**
By Ellen Raskin
The will of a game-loving millionaire leads sixteen strangers on mysterious adventures to determine who will inherit his fortune.
- Turnage **Three Times Lucky**
By Sheila Turnage
Mo LoBeau washed ashore as a baby during a hurricane and has been making waves ever since. A murder in her tiny town turns her and her best friend Dale into detectives.

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Realistic Fiction

- Birdsall **The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy**
By Jeanne Birdsall
Summer adventures of four sisters on the beautiful estate of Arundel.
- Bloor **Tangerine**
By Edward Bloor
Paul's family moves to Florida where life isn't easy, especially with a football star brother who constantly harasses you, but things start to look up when Paul joins the middle school soccer team.
- Clements **Extra Credit**
By Andrew Clements
A Midwestern school girl writes letters to a boy and girl in the mountains of Afghanistan and they all learn more than their teachers intended.
- Dairman **All Four Stars**
By Tara Dairman
An eleven-year-old gourmet cook is mistakenly contacted by one of the largest newspapers in the world to write a restaurant review, but can she sneak into New York City and visit the restaurant without her parents knowing?
- Marcionette **Just Jake**
By Jake Marcionette and illustrated by Victor Rivas Villa
Jake must adapt to a new school when his family moves from Florida to Maryland.
- Palacio **Wonder**
By R.J. Palacio
Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated like an ordinary kid, but being born with a facial deformity makes entering fifth grade a bit more extraordinary.
- Paterson **Bridge to Terabithia**
By Katherine Paterson
One morning Jess's friend visits their imaginary kingdom in the woods without him and tragedy occurs. Jess must overcome his anger and grief in this touching tale.
- Sloan **Short**
By Holly Goldberg Sloan
Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of The Wizard of Oz, she'll realize how big she is inside, and that's where it counts. Theater kids will love this tale, but Sloan's observational humor will make anyone giggle.

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Weeks

Save Me a Seat

By Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Ravi and Joe appear to only have one thing in common, a bully name Dillon. However, appearances and perceptions can be deceiving. Fans of Wonder will enjoy.

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Graphic Novels

Holm

Sunny Side Up

By Jennifer L. and Matthew Holm

Sunny is sent to live with her grandfather in Florida for the summer, but instead of trips to Disney World she must survive his retirement community and face the family secret behind why she's there.

Kibuishi

The Stonekeeper: Amulet Book One

By Kazu Kibuishi

Two siblings try to save their mom from an underground world of talking animals, elves, and demons.

Martin

Kristy's Great Idea: The Babysitter's Club Graphix Book One

By Ann M. Martin and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier

Babysitting isn't easy, and neither are new families, fashion emergencies, strict parents, and secrets, but the BSC always has friendship. The graphic novel adaption of the classic series.

Savage

Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy

By Doug Savage

Get ready to giggle with these 3 short stories about a moose that can shoot laser beams from his eyes, a mutant bear that fell into toxic waste, and a robot squirrel with super strength. Need I say more?

Telgemeier

Smile

By Raina Telgemeier

After falling and injuring her two front teeth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself from sixth grade through tenth.

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Nonfiction

636.7 Furstinger

Paws of Courage: True tales of heroic dogs that protect and serve

By Nancy Furstinger

Collection of stories and photos of heroic dogs that have served and protected the United States military at home and abroad.

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796.357 Nelson

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

By Kadir Nelson

Hundreds of unsung heroes overcame segregation and hatred to do the thing they loved, play ball. For baseball lovers of all ages.

921 Scieszka

Knucklehead

By Jon Scieszka

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? Growing up as one of six brothers was a good start, but 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.

921 Sis

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

By Peter Sis

Excellent mix of history and memories from the author who proudly grew up on the Communist side of the Iron Curtain, but discovers the fruits of the West in adolescence.