

Ross School Summer Reading 2025 Rising Grade 5



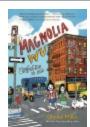
Crenshaw Applegate, Katherine 245 pages

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything? Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.



Chasing Vermeer or Pieces and Players Balliett, Blue 254 pages

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. When thirteen high-value pieces of art are stolen from a secret museum, Calder, Petra, and Tommy are grouped with two new companions to solve puzzles that are complicated by the clever Mrs. Sharpe.



Magnolia Wu Unfolds it All Miller, Chanel 145 pages

Down at the bottom of the tall buildings of New York City, Magnolia Wu sits inside her parents' laundromat. She has pinned every lost sock from the laundromat onto a bulletin board in hopes that customers will return to retrieve them. But no one seems to have noticed. In fact, barely anyone has noticed Magnolia at all. What she doesn't know is that this is about to be her most exciting summer yet. When Iris, a new friend from California, arrives, they set off across the city to solve the mystery of each missing sock, asking questions in subways and delis and plant stores and pizzerias, meeting people and uncovering the unimaginable. With each new encounter, Magnolia learns that when you're bold enough to head into the unknown, things start falling into place.



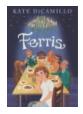
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Kamkwamba, William 293 pages

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land. Retold for a younger audience, complete with photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue that will bring readers up to date on William's story, this is the perfect edition to read and share with the whole family.



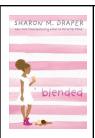
The Marvellers Clayton, Dhonielle 401 pages

Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds, but when she falls under suspicion for helping a criminal escape prison, she must, with the help of her new friends and her own growing powers, find a way to clear her family's name.



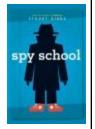
Ferris (and others by this author) DiCamillo, Kate 226 pages

During the summer before fifth grade, Ferris Wilkey has her hands full with her little sister terrorizing the town, her Aunt Shirley moving into their basement, and her grandmother seeing a ghost--one who has wild, impractical, and illuminating plans.



Blended Draper, Sharon 262 pages

Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.



Spy School Series / FunJungle Series / Charlie Thorne Series

Gibbs, Stuart

290 pages

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.



The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street Glaser, Karen Yan

297 pages

Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.

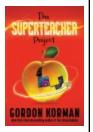


The Million Dollar Shot

Gutman, Dan

114 pages

When Eddie Ball finds out about the contest--a chance to win a million dollars just by sinking a foul shot at the NBA finals--he realizes it could be the end of his family's troubles. But someone is trying to sabotage his million-dollar shot.



The Superteacher Project (and others by this author)

Korman, Gordon

292 pages

Determined to teach their new teacher who's boss, Oliver Zhan and his best friend Nathan realize that Mr. Aidact is not what they expected and, suspecting something is fishy, must get to the bottom of the mystery.



The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

McAnulty, Stacy

293 pages

Surviving a lightning strike that has given her genius-level math skills, 12-year-old Lucy is offered entry into college but reluctantly takes her grandmother's advice to attend one year of middle school, make a friend, join a club, and read a non-math book. A first middle-grade novel by the author of the Dino Files chapter books.



Merci Suarez Changes Gear (and others in this series) Medina, Meg

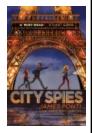
355 pages

Alienated from her more privileged classmates at a Florida private school, sixth-grade scholarship student Merci Suarez is targeted by a competitive rival at the same time her beloved grandfather begins to develop memory problems. By the award-winning author of Mango, Abuela, and Me.



Pax Pennypacker, Sara 276 pages

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be--with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile, Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. . . .



City Spies (and others in this series) Ponti, James 378 pages

Sara Martinez is a hacker. She recently broke into the New York City foster care system to expose her foster parents as cheats and lawbreakers. However, instead of being hailed as a hero, Sara finds herself facing years in a juvenile detention facility and banned from using computers for the same stretch of time. Enter Mother, a British spy who not only gets Sara released from jail but also offers her a chance to make a home for herself within a secret MI6 agency.

Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from various parts of the world. When they're not attending the local boarding school, they're honing their unique skills, such as sleight of hand, breaking and entering, observation, and explosives. All of these allow them to go places in the world of espionage where adults can't.



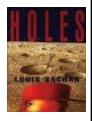
Miles Morales Spider-Man Reynolds, Jason 261 pages

Brooklyn Visions Academy student Miles Morales may not always want to be a superhero, but he must come to terms with his identity--and deal with a villainous teacher--as the new Spider-Man.



Percy Jackson and the Olympians Riordan, Rick (and others by this author) 176 pages

After learning that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea, Percy Jackson is transferred from boarding school to Camp Half-Blood, a summer camp for demigods, and becomes involved in a quest to prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.



Holes Sachar, Louis 233 pages

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.



Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code

Wallmark, Laurie

unpaged

"If you've got a good idea, and you know it's going to work, go ahead and do it."

The inspiring story of Grace Hopper—the boundary-breaking woman who revolutionized computer science—is told in an engaging picture book biography.



The Lemonade Wars (and others in this series)

Davies, Jacqueline

173 pages

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade, and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn one hundred dollars.



Front Desk (and others in this series) Yang, Kelly

286 pages

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning. Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.



The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum

Yee, Lisa

276 pages

Dropped off at the strangest boarding school ever, Olive discovers the "reforming arts" academy isn't what it seems - and neither is she - as she joins an elite group of misfits who fight crime and need her help to stop the heist of the century.

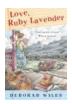


The Secret Garden on 81st Street: A modern graphic retelling of The Secret Garden

Weir, Ivy Noelle

246 pages

After the death of her parents, Mary Lennox moves to New York City to live with her uncle, where she discovers a rooftop garden and works to restore it to its former glory while learning to grieve, build real friendships and grow.



Love, Ruby Lavender Wiles, Deborah

212 pages

When her quirky grandmother goes to Hawaii for the summer, nine-year-old Ruby learns to survive on her own in Mississippi by writing letters, befriending chickens as well as the new girl in town, and finally coping with her grandfather's death.



Aru Shah and the End of Time (and others in this series)

Chokshi, Roshani

355 pages

Twelve-year-old Aru Shah tells lies to fit in with her wealthier classmates who vacation in exotic places, while she stays at the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, where her archaeologist mother works. When three classmates challenge her claim about a cursed lamp in the museum, Aru lights it to prove herself. This disastrous decision releases an ancient demon called the Sleeper, who freezes her mother and classmates in time. To save them, Aru must find the reincarnations of the five Pandava brothers from the Hindu epic Mahabharata and travel through the Kingdom of Death—a daunting quest for a girl in Spider-Man pajamas.