

Jackson Township School District

5th Grade Suggested Summer Reading List



Title	Summary
<u>Fake Mustache</u> By: Tom Angleberger Lexile: 710	<i>Fake Mustache</i> by Tom Angleberger is a humorous and zany adventure that follows seventh-grader Lenny Flem Jr. as he tries to thwart his former best friend, Casper Bengue, who has used a hypnotic fake mustache to embark on a crime spree and run for president. The mustache leads to a series of absurd events that only Lenny and TV star Jodie O'Rodeo can stop. The story is filled with slapstick humor, quirky characters, and a fast-paced plot that keeps readers engaged.
<u>El Deafo</u> By: Cece Bell Lexile: 420	<i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell is a graphic novel that chronicles the author's childhood experiences with hearing loss. At the age of four, Cece contracts meningitis, resulting in profound hearing loss. To navigate her new world, she uses a hearing aid called the Phonic Ear, which amplifies sounds but also makes her feel different from her peers. Embracing her unique situation, Cece adopts the superhero persona "El Deafo," using her enhanced hearing abilities to her advantage. Through this alter ego, she learns to accept herself, find true friendship, and understand that being different is not a limitation but a strength.
<u>The War that Saved My Life</u> By: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley Lexile: 580	<i>The War That Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley is a historical novel set during World War II. It follows 10-year-old Ada Smith, who has been confined to her London apartment by her abusive mother due to Ada's clubfoot. When her younger brother, Jamie, is evacuated to the countryside to escape the war, Ada secretly joins him, seeking freedom and a chance at a better life. They are taken in by Susan Smith, a reclusive woman who gradually becomes a surrogate mother to the children. As Ada learns to read, ride a pony, and navigate her new life, she discovers her own strength and the power of love and acceptance.
<u>No Talking</u> By: Andrew Clements Lexile: 750	<i>No Talking</i> by Andrew Clements is a humorous and thought-provoking novel that explores the power of words and communication. Set in Laketon Elementary School, the story centers on a challenge between the fifth-grade boys and girls to see who can speak the least over two days. The competition begins when Dave Packer, known for his loudmouth tendencies, decides to remain silent for a day. His silence sparks a rivalry leading to a school-wide contest. As the students navigate the challenge, they learn valuable lessons about the impact of their words, the importance of listening, and the dynamics of communication.

<u>Lost and Found</u> By: Andrew Clements Lexile: 780	<i>Lost and Found</i> by Andrew Clements is a humorous and thought-provoking novel about identical twins Ray and Jay Grayson. After moving to a new town, they enroll in a new school. On the first day of sixth grade, Ray stays home sick, and Jay discovers a clerical error: the school has no record of Ray. Ray isn't on the attendance lists, doesn't have a locker, and doesn't even have a student folder. Jay decides to keep this information to himself, leading to a series of events that explore themes of identity, honesty, and the dynamics of being a twin. The story delves into the boys' experiences as they navigate their new school and the consequences of their actions.
<u>Bud, Not Buddy</u> By: Christopher Paul Curtis Lexile: 950	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis is a historical fiction novel set in 1936 during the Great Depression. It follows 10-year-old Bud Caldwell, a boy living in Flint, Michigan, who has been shuffled through multiple foster homes after his mother's death. Armed with a suitcase of personal belongings and a flyer for a jazz band led by Herman E. Calloway, Bud embarks on a journey to find the man he believes to be his father. His quest leads him to unexpected discoveries about family, identity, and resilience.
<u>James and the Giant Peach</u> By: Roald Dahl Lexile: 790	<i>James and the Giant Peach</i> by Roald Dahl is a whimsical adventure that follows young James Henry Trotter. After tragically losing his parents to a rhinoceros, James is sent to live with his cruel aunts, Spiker and Sponge. His life takes a magical turn when he accidentally spills a bag of magical crocodile tongues near an old peach tree, causing a giant peach to grow. Inside the peach, James befriends a group of insects. Together, they embark on a fantastical journey across the ocean, facing various challenges and discovering the true meaning of friendship and courage.
<u>Flora and Ulysses</u> By: Kate DiCamillo Lexile: 520	<i>Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures</i> by Kate DiCamillo is a whimsical and heartfelt story that blends prose and comic-style illustrations. It follows Flora Belle Buckman, a self-proclaimed cynic and comic book enthusiast, who rescues a squirrel named Ulysses after he is accidentally sucked into a vacuum cleaner. Miraculously revived, Ulysses gains superpowers, including strength, flight, and the ability to write poetry. As Flora and Ulysses embark on adventures, they form an unlikely friendship that helps Flora navigate her parents' divorce and discover the importance of hope and compassion.
<u>The Fourteenth Goldfish</u> By: Jennifer Holm Lexile: 550	<i>The Fourteenth Goldfish</i> by Jennifer L. Holm is a middle-grade novel that blends humor and science to explore themes of family, identity, and the passage of time. Eleven-year-old Ellie has always been uncomfortable with change. She misses her old best friend, her fifth-grade year, and even her departed goldfish. Her world is turned upside down when a strange boy named Melvin shows up—bossy, moody, and suspiciously familiar. To Ellie's astonishment, Melvin is her grandfather, a scientist who has discovered a way to reverse aging. Now, in the body of a teenager, Grandpa Melvin is determined to continue his research, but Ellie must navigate the complexities of their new relationship and the ethical dilemmas his discovery presents.

<u>Warriors series</u> By: Erin Hunter Lexile Range: 760-900	The <i>Warriors</i> series by Erin Hunter is a captivating collection of fantasy novels centered around the lives of wild cats living in clans in a forested wilderness. The series is divided into multiple story arcs, each comprising several books that follow the adventures, challenges, and relationships of these feline characters.
<u>Schooled</u> By: Gordon Korman Lexile: 740	<i>Schooled</i> by Gordon Korman is a humorous and heartwarming middle-grade novel that follows the story of Capricorn "Cap" Anderson, a young boy raised in a hippie commune by his grandmother, Rain. Cap has never experienced modern society—he's never watched television, eaten pizza, or even heard of a wedge. When Rain is unexpectedly hospitalized, Cap is forced to leave the commune and attend Claverage Middle School. His unconventional appearance and behavior make him the target of bullies, but when he's elected class president as a joke, Cap's unique perspective begins to change the school in unexpected ways. The novel explores themes of acceptance, kindness, and the impact of individuality.
<u>Elvis and the Underdogs</u> By: Jenny Lee Lexile: 760	<i>Elvis and the Underdogs</i> by Jenny Lee is a humorous and heartwarming middle-grade novel that follows 10-year-old Benji Wendell Barnsworth, a sickly and accident-prone boy who often finds himself in the hospital. To help him cope, his doctor suggests getting a therapy dog. However, Benji's new companion isn't just any dog—it's a 200-pound Newfoundland named Parker Elvis Pembroke IV who can talk! Elvis is bossy, witty, and surprisingly wise, leading to a series of adventures that help Benji navigate school, friendships, and his own self-worth. The story explores themes of acceptance, bravery, and the unexpected ways in which help can come into our lives.
<u>Rules</u> By: Cynthia Lord Lexile: 670	<i>Rules</i> by Cynthia Lord is a Newbery Honor-winning novel that follows twelve-year-old Catherine, who strives for a "normal" life despite the challenges of having a brother with autism. She's spent years teaching David rules to help him navigate social situations, from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public." However, her world shifts when she befriends Jason, a boy who uses a communication book, and Kristi, a new neighbor. Through these relationships, Catherine learns that normalcy isn't as rigid as she once believed and discovers the complexities of acceptance and self-identity.
<u>Tomb Quest series</u> By: Michael Northrop Lexile Range: 650-720	The <i>TombQuest</i> series by Michael Northrop is a middle-grade adventure series that blends modern-day action with ancient Egyptian mythology. Targeted at readers aged 8–12, the series follows Alex Sennefer and his best friend Ren Duran as they battle ancient Egyptian forces after Alex's near-death experience leads to the resurrection of five powerful Death Walkers. The series spans five books, each escalating the stakes as Alex and Ren travel the globe to thwart these malevolent entities.
<u>Wonder</u> By: R.J. Palacio Lexile: 790	<i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio is a heartfelt middle-grade novel that explores themes of kindness, acceptance, and the challenges of fitting in. The story centers on August "Auggie" Pullman, a 10-year-old boy born with a severe facial deformity due to Treacher Collins syndrome. After years of homeschooling, Auggie enters fifth

	grade at Beecher Prep, a private middle school in Manhattan. He hopes to be treated like any other student, but his appearance leads to bullying and social isolation. The novel unfolds from multiple perspectives—including Auggie's, his sister Via's, and his classmates'—offering a multifaceted view of his journey toward acceptance and friendship.
<u>Everything on It (poems)</u> By: Shel Silverstein Lexile: 650	<i>Everything On It</i> by Shel Silverstein is a posthumous collection of poems and illustrations, offering a delightful mix of his signature humor, whimsy, and occasional poignancy. The book presents over 140 poems that explore a wide range of topics, from the absurd to the thoughtful. Readers encounter scenarios like a hot dog piled high with unexpected items, a forgetful king, and a wish-granting popcorn machine. The collection concludes with the touching poem "When I Am Gone," inviting readers to carry forward the legacy of creativity and imagination.
<u>Cupcake Diaries series</u> By: Coco Simon Lexile Range: 570-780	The <i>Cupcake Diaries</i> series by Coco Simon is a delightful collection of middle-grade novels that follow the adventures of four girls—Katie, Mia, Emma, and Alexis—as they navigate the ups and downs of middle school while running their own cupcake business, the Cupcake Club. Each book is told from the perspective of one of the girls, offering readers a personal glimpse into their lives, friendships, and challenges.
<u>A Series of Unfortunate Events series</u> By: Lemony Snicket Lexile Range: 980-1370	<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> by Lemony Snicket is a 13-book middle-grade series that follows the Baudelaire orphans—Violet, Klaus, and Sunny—as they face a series of misadventures after the tragic death of their parents. The series is known for its dark humor, intricate plots, and a unique narrative style that addresses readers directly.
<u>Loot: How to Steal a Fortune</u> By: Jude Watson Lexile: 560	<i>Loot: How to Steal a Fortune</i> by Jude Watson is an action-packed middle-grade novel that follows the thrilling adventures of 12-year-old twins, March and Jules McQuinn. After their notorious cat burglar father, Alfie McQuinn, dies under mysterious circumstances in Amsterdam, he leaves behind a cryptic message: "Find jewels." Their father's clues guide them through a series of heists, aiming to lift the curse and claim a \$7 million reward. The novel is filled with suspense, clever schemes, and a touch of humor, making it a captivating read for middle-grade readers.
<u>Pie</u> By: Sara Weeks Lexile: 930	<i>Pie</i> by Sarah Weeks is a heartwarming middle-grade novel set in the 1950s in the small town of Ipswitch, Pennsylvania. The story follows 10-year-old Alice, whose beloved Aunt Polly, the renowned "Pie Queen of Ipswitch," passes away, leaving behind a legacy of delicious pies and a town that adored her. This sparks a frenzy in the town, with many eager to uncover the secret recipe. Alice, along with her friend Charlie, embarks on a journey to solve the mystery, discovering along the way the true ingredients for happiness: friendship, family, and doing things for the right reasons.