

Lynnfield Middle School
Lynnfield, Massachusetts 01940



June 2024

Dear Families of Incoming 5th Graders,

The Lynnfield Middle School English Department feels strongly that summer reading should be an integral part of the curriculum. Our goals are **three-fold**: to foster our students' lifetime reading habits, to provide an opportunity to maintain reading comprehension skills in the summer months, and to directly tie summer reading to the first term of the new school year.

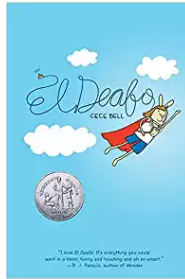
Incoming Grade 5 students are required to read **ONE book: *El Deafo*** by Cece Bell. While students are only required to read one book, we encourage each student to set a reading goal and read as many books as they can! Thanks to our media center teacher, Mrs. Peirson, we have included optional suggested texts students may be interested in reading.

A graded project will be assigned after classes resume. Attached is a graphic organizer students must use for note taking for *El Deafo*. Please fill out and sign the attached required reading form and return it to your child's teacher on the second day of school. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Robin Doherty, Director of ELA/Social Studies (dohertyr@lynnfield.k12.ma.us).

Sincerely,

Emily Brunelle, Mary Cacciapuoti, Patricia Hazelton, Elisabeth Jones, Bonnie O'Keefe,
Kathleen Pinette
Grade 5 English Teachers

El Deafo Cece Bell



From School Library Journal

Gr 2-6—Cece loses her hearing from spinal meningitis, and takes readers through the arduous journey of learning to lip read and decipher the noise of her hearing aid, with the goal of finding a true friend. This warmly and humorously illustrated full-color graphic novel set in the suburban '70s has all the gripping characters and inflated melodrama of late childhood: a crush on a neighborhood boy, the bossy friend, the too-sensitive-to-her-Deafness friend, and the perfect friend, scared away. The characters are all rabbits. The antics of her hearing aid connected to a FM unit (an amplifier the teacher wears) are spectacularly funny. When Cece's teacher leaves the FM unit on, Cece hears everything: bathroom visits, even teacher lounge improprieties. It is her superpower. She deems herself El Deafo! inspired in part by a bullied Deaf child featured in an Afterschool Special. Cece fearlessly fantasizes retaliations. Nevertheless, she rejects ASL because it makes visible what she is trying to hide. She ventures, "Who cares what everyone thinks!" But she does care. She loathes the designation "special," and wants to pass for hearing. Bell tells it all: the joy of removing her hearing aid in summer, the troubles watching the TV when the actor turns his back, and the agony of slumber party chats in the dark. Included is an honest and revealing afterword, which addresses the author's early decision not to learn ASL, her more mature appreciation for the language, and her adage that, "Our differences are our superpowers."—Sara Lissa Paulson, The American Sign Language and English Lower School, New York City.

Student Name: _____

Brainstorm *El Deafo's* Plot below:

<p><u>BEGINNING:</u></p> <p>Describe the events that happen at the beginning of the novel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
<p><u>MIDDLE:</u></p> <p>What is the big problem? How do characters start to deal with problem?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
<p><u>END:</u></p> <p>Describe how the characters solve the problem. Tell how the story ends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••

Student Name:_____

Optional: Additional Books of Choice

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>

Student Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

**GRADE 5 ADDITIONAL SUMMER READING
SUGGESTIONS FROM LMS MEDIA SPECIALIST, MS. PIERSON**

<i>The First State of Being</i> by Erin Entrada Kelly (Realistic Fiction)
<i>Max in the House of Spies: A Tale of World War II</i> by Adam Gidwitz (Historical Fiction, Fantasy)
<i>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus</i> by Dusti Bowling (Realistic)
<i>Nik Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy</i> by Angie Thomas (Fantasy)
<i>A Rover's Story</i> by Jasmine Warga (Science Fiction)
<i>The Unteachables</i> by Gordon Korman (Humor)
<i>Fablehaven</i> by Brandon Mull (Fantasy)
<i>Spy School</i> by Stuart Gibbs (Spy/espionage)
<i>Roller Girl</i> by Victoria Jameison (Graphic Novel)
<i>Treasure Hunters</i> by James Patterson & Chris Gaberstein (Adventure)
<i>Bob</i> by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead (Magical Realism)