Suggested Summer Reading for Rising Grades 5-6

We have a wide range of readers in rising Grades 5 & 6 this year, and no one list could cover all of them. Please take a look at some of the other recommended summer reading lists for more ideas, especially for family read-togethers/read-alouds.

As children become independent readers, reading books aloud and/or reading a book at the same time remains an important part of their continuing development of reading and comprehension skills. Also, sharing thoughts about a book can be really fun. That's why students love book clubs.

There is no required summer reading for Lower School students, but reading independently or together for at least 20 minutes a day is a recommended minimum goal. If it helps to keep a reading log, please do, but it is not required.

**Rising Grade 6 students** are required to read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, as well as one book from this list or by an author from this list. We will have a virtual visit with a representative from Water for South Sudan, the organization created by the book's co-author and they will have an assignment based on the book they chose.

There are many, many amazing books out there and the recommended summer reading lists are (relatively) short. For more ideas, check out [Brightly](https://www.brightly.com), [Imagination Soup](https://imagination-soup.com), and [Common Sense Media](https://www.commonsensemedia.org).

Common Sense Media is also a great resource for finding age appropriate movies and computer games.

Happy reading!

* **A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park

*A Long Walk to Water* tells the stories of two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, makes two trips a day to fetch water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home. The boy, Salva, is one of the “lost boys” of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay.

Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing way. Includes an afterword by author Linda Sue Park and the real-life Salva Dut, on whom the novel is based, and who went on to found Water for South Sudan.
Sweep: The Story of a Girl and her Monster by Jonathan Auxier

Orphaned and alone, Nan Sparrow had no other choice but to spend her days sweeping out chimneys. The job is dangerous and thankless, but with her wits and will, Nan has managed to beat the deadly odds time and time again. When Nan gets stuck in a chimney fire, she fears the end has come. Instead, she wakes to find herself unharmed in an abandoned attic. And she is not alone. Huddled in the corner is a mysterious creature—a golem—made from soot and ash.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic…

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday at a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the magic of the estate, but the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, the owner’s son and the perfect companion for their adventures. The icy-hearted Mrs. Tifton is not as pleased with the Penderwicks as Jeffrey is, though, and warns them to stay out of trouble. Which, of course, they will—won't they?

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

Enthusiastically recommended by this year’s Grade 5!

Alone on a remote island, robot Roz's only hope for survival is to learn from the island's hostile animal inhabitants. The Wild Robot raises thought-provoking questions about the environment, the role technology plays in the world, and what it means to be alive.

Frindle (and others) by Andrew Clements

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Awkward (Berrybrook Middle School Book One) by Svetlana Chmakova

Cardinal rule #1 for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids. Cardinal rule #2 for surviving school: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of these basics. But maybe sometimes you have to break the rules?
Aru Shah and the End of Time (Pandava series #1) by Roshani Chokshi

From Rick Riordan Presents

Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

Family, fairness, and . . . lemonade? This first installment in the best-selling Lemonade War series follows a battling brother-sister duo as they start competing businesses, gather savvy marketing tips, tackle practical math, learn business terms, and dig into a good old sibling rivalry.

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo; companion books Louisiana’s Way Home and Beverly Right Now

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that absolutely everything depends on her. And she has a plan. If she can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see her picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. But to win, Raymie has to do good deeds, learn how to twirl a baton AND contend with frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who’s determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition draws near, the three girls form an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

Out of My Mind (and others) by Sharon Draper

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Black Sand Beach (graphic novel series) by Richard Fairhill

The first book in a spooky, witty new graphic novel series perfect for fans of Gravity Falls.

Twelve-year-old Dash and his best friend Lily are spending the summer at Black Sand Beach, where Dash’s family has a house. Lily can’t understand why Dash isn’t more excited. Three months of surf, sand, and sun. It should be a dream!

But Black Sand Beach is not that kind of vacation spot. So Dash has a new plan for his summer vacation. . . . Survive.
Space Case (MoonBase Alpha Book One), Spy School, Funjungle by Stewart Gibbs

Twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson should be thrilled to be one of the first humans to live on the moon. But he's bored out of his mind. Kids aren't allowed on the lunar surface, meaning they're trapped inside the tiny moon base with next to nothing to occupy their time—and the only other kid Dash's age spends all his time hooked into virtual reality games. Then MoonBase Alpha's top scientist turns up dead...

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Katrina Yan Glaser

The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It's practically another member of the family. So when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are. And all is fair in love and war when it comes to keeping their home.

Theodore Boone: the activist (series) by John Grisham

As all of Strattenburg sits divided over a hot political and environmental issue, aspiring lawyer Theodore Boone finds himself right in the thick of it. The county commission is fighting hard to change the landscape of the town, and Theo is strongly opposed to the plans. But when he uncovers corruption beneath the surface, no one—not even Theo—is prepared for the risks—and potential harm—at stake. Torn between his conscience and the law, Theo will do whatever it takes to stand up for what is right.

Zita the Spacegirl (series) by Ben Hatke

When her best friend is abducted, Zita leaps to the rescue and finds herself a stranger on a strange planet. Humanoid chickens and neurotic robots are shocking but Zita is even more surprised to find herself taking on the role of intergalactic hero. Before long, aliens in all shapes and sizes don't even phase her. Neither do ancient prophecies, doomed planets, or even a friendly con man who takes a mysterious interest in Zita's quest.

Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera Winner of the 2022 Newbery Award

Petra Pena wants nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children - among them Petra and her family - have been chosen to journey to a new planet. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to find that a sinister Collective took over the ship during its journey and systematically purged the memories of all aboard - or purged them altogether. Petra alone carries the stories of humanity's past, and with them, any hope for our future.

When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (graphic novel)

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.
When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller, Winner of the 2021 Newbery Award

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her Halmoni's Korean folktales arrives. It seems that long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem!

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil L. Frankweiller by E.L. Konigsburg

When Claudia decided to run away, she planned very carefully. She would be gone just long enough to teach her parents a lesson in Claudia appreciation. And she would go in comfort-she would live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But once the fun of settling into the museum with her brother was over, Claudia had two unexpected problems: She felt just the same, and she wanted to feel different; and she found a statue at the Museum so beautiful she could not go home until she had discovered its maker, a question that baffled the experts, too.

Slacker (and others) by Gordon Korman, #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than 75 books for kids and young adults.

Cameron Boxer is very happy to spend his life avoiding homework, hanging out with his friends, and gaming for hours in his basement. It's not too hard for him to get away with it... until he gets so caught up in one game that he almost lets his house burn down around him.

Oops.

Measuring Up by Lily LaMotte and Ann Xu (graphic novel)

Twelve-year-old Cici, having just moved to Seattle from Taiwan, enters a cooking competition to win the chance to see her grandmother again, but she only knows how to cook Taiwanese food and is certain that she will need a Western recipe to win.

A Wrinkle in Time (series) by Madeline L'Engle

After an encounter with three unearthly strangers, Meg Murry, her younger brother, Charles, and her friend Calvin embark on a journey through space and time, from universe to universe, as they endeavor to save the Murrys' father and the world.

Heat (and others) by Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Mike Lupica’s books revolve around a number of sports, including football, basketball, and baseball.
**Indian No More** by Charlene Willing McManus

It's 1957 and life on the Grande Ronde reservation in Oregon is the only life Regina Petit has ever known. But when the federal government signs a law saying that her tribe no longer exists, her father moves the family to Los Angeles, where Regina encounters a whole new world in her new home on 58th Place.

**Merci Suárez Changes Gears** (series) by Meg Medina

Merci Suárez loves painting with her Papi, playing on his soccer team, telling her Abuelo Lolo about her days at school, and taking pictures of her family when they are together. But lately Lolo has been acting different - he wanders off, forgets things easily, and has even gotten angry. To add to Merci's worries, sixth grade has gotten off to a rocky start.

**Becoming Muhammad Ali** by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

A biographical novel, told in alternating prose and verse, tells the story of Cassius Clay, the determined boy who would one day become Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time.

**The Lightning Thief** (series) by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he goes to the one place he'll be safe - Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (like him). Soon Percy finds himself on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

**Harry Potter** (series) by J.K. Rowling

Many children read Harry Potter when they are in lower grades, but GHS students report that Grades 5 and 6 are the best time to read the series. Harry is 11 in the first book and 17 in the last. Children generally enjoy books where the main character is in their age range or slightly older, but Harry ages so relatively quickly that he soon ages out of a younger child's ability to relate. Students who have re-read the series in Grades 5 or 6 say that the magic was cool when they were younger but they understood the story better when they were closer to Harry's age.

**Doodleville** (graphic novel series) by Chad Sell

For fans of Svetlana Chmakova's *Awkward* and Raina Telgemeier's *Smile*.

Drew is just a regular artist. But there's nothing ordinary about her art. Her doodles are mischievous... and rarely do they stay in Doodleville, the world she's created in her sketchbook. Instead, Drew's doodles prefer to explore the world outside. But after an inspiring class trip to the Art Institute of Chicago--where the doodles cause a bit too much trouble--Drew decides it's time to take her artistic talents to the next level...
The Mysterious Benedict Society (series) by Trenton Lee Stewart

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children--two boys and two girls--succeed and are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Ghosts and others by Raina Telgemeier (graphic novel)

Catrina and her family have moved to the coast of Northern California for the sake of her little sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis--and Cat is even less happy about the move when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts, and Maya sets her heart on meeting one.

The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Fortunately, the girls find shelter--and friendship--on an abandoned bridge. With two homeless boys, Muthi and Arul, the group forms a family of sorts. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help or to keep holding on to their hard-fought freedom.

Epic Athletes (non-fiction series) by Dan Wetzel

New York Times bestselling author and celebrated sports journalist Dan Wetzel's Epic Athletes biographies for young readers presents the inspiring true stories of tennis legend Serena Williams, football star Tom Brady, soccer champion Alex Morgan, basketball MVP Stephen Curry, and more.

Each book features graphic-style illustrations by Kazimier Lee Iskander, Sloane Leong, Cory Thomas, and Zeke Peña, among others.

Front Desk (series) by Kelly Yang

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 students in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son.