

A young person's reading brain is like a sailboat that needs wind to carry it forward. During the summer months without reading practice, those sails aren't filled and a reader not reading can stagnate in one place or even drift backward in their reading ability. Through your child's school vacation, it is important for him/her to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis—whether a beginning reader or a fluent reader. Obviously, we could not include every book that a child in his grade might enjoy but here are some suggestions to try and hopefully make your school-aged child's summer full of literacy fun. The books on this list are available in e-book, paperback, or hardcover editions in bookstores as well as on library shelves. If you discover some treasures that we have overlooked, please tell the librarians in the fall. Happy Summer Reading!



Tips to help your child read.

Be a reader and writer yourself. When you spend time reading books on the beach or even directions for how to put together the grill this summer, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.

Set aside a consistent time each day for reading. Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.

Read aloud to your reader. As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. But, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new words, concepts, and new ways of presenting information. You also enjoy the

closeness of sharing a book with your child.

Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities. Read your child books about camping, such as "Webster and Arnold Go Camping", before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.

Allow your child to choose books for summer reading. While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his school, it is equally important for him to read about topics that interest him, whether it is insects, dragons or a favorite fiction series.

Help your child select books at a comfortable level. Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what he read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. If you are having troubling judging, consult your local children's

librarian, who is likely to be an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the “rule of thumb” in selecting books: if he makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

Encourage your child not to limit summer reading to books. Encourage your child to read the sports page to check up on her favorite baseball team or to read children’s magazines such as Ranger Rick, National Geographic World and New Moon.

Read a book and watch the video together. When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer. Many books, including “Stone Fox”, “Sarah, Plain and Tall” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” are available in movie versions.

Take books along on outings. Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer.

Encourage your child to write this summer, too. From writing postcards to friends and relatives to keeping a journal while on a trip, summer presents unique ways for your child to write about his own experiences. Have your child pack a disposable camera on vacations or day trips and help him create a book about his experiences.

School Library Journal has great suggestions as well. pic
bks: <http://slj.com/bestof2016/picturebooks.php>

Fifth Grade Summer Reading Suggestions -

Barrie, J.M., *PETER PAN*

The Darling children travel to Never Never Land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up. There they encounter the Lost Boys, Tinkerbell, and Captain Hook.

Grahame, Kenneth, *THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS*

The escapades of four animal friends, Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger, who live

Henry, Marguerite, *KING OF THE WIND*

Sham and the stable boy, Agba, travel from Morocco to France to England where, at last, Sham’s majesty is recognized, and he becomes the “Godolphin Arabian,” ancestor of the most superior thoroughbred horses.

Kipling, Rudyard, *THE JUNGLE BOOK*

Mowgli, a boy reared by a pack of wolves and the wild animals of the

jungle, struggles to find his place in the world.

Knight, Eric, *LASSIE, COME HOME*

Lassie is Joe's prize collie and constant companion, but when Joe's father loses his job, Lassie must be sold.

Sewell, Anna, *BLACK BEAUTY*

A nineteenth-century English horse tells his life story, describing his many

Webster, Jean, *DADDY- LONG- LEGS*

Orphaned Judy Abbot relates her college adventures in letters to the mysterious benefactor that she calls Daddy-Long-Legs.

REALISTIC FICTION

Bauer, Joan, *STAND*

TALL

Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school.

Bell, Cece, *EL DEAFO*

The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age.

Burg, Ann E., *SERAFINA'S PROMISE*

A young girl in rural Haiti dreams of becoming a doctor, but she must overcome extreme poverty and a devastating earthquake to make that dream come true.

Creech, Sharon, *ABSOLUTELY NORMAL CHAOS*

Mary Lou Finney grudgingly begins writing a journal as a summer project for school. Then her cousin Carl Ray comes to stay, and what started out as a dull assignment quickly becomes an amazing record of first love and family intrigues.

Dairman, Tara, *ALL FOUR STARS*

Eleven-year-old Gladys Gatsby loves food and cooking, so when she lands an assignment to write a restaurant review for a New York City newspaper, she will do anything to make it happen, even risk the wrath of her fast-food loving parents.

DiCamillo, Kate, *RAYMIE NIGHTINGALE*

Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into a friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur.

Farley, Walter, *THE BLACK STALLION RETURNS*

After the Black is claimed by his rightful owner, a great desert chieftain from across the sea, Alec crosses the desert amid many dangers in search of the stallion.

Fletcher, Ralph, *FLYING SOLO*

When a substitute fails to show up for Mr. Fabriano's sixth grade, the class takes it upon itself to go solo for the day, handling the schedule with surprising maturity (mostly).

Gantos, Jack, *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*

To the constant disappointment of his mother and teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up or acting wired.

Gino, Alex, *GEORGE*

When people look at George they think they see a boy, but she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.

Holm, Jennifer, *SUNNY SIDE UP*

Ten-year-old Sunny Lewin had been looking forward to spending August at the shore as usual, but her parents have suddenly sent her to Florida to stay with Gramps instead.

Horvath, Polly, *THE TROLLS*

Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris. Every night her bedtime stories add another piece to a very suspect family history.

Hunt, Lynda Mulaly, *FISH IN A TREE*

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.

Jamieson, Victoria, *ROLLER GIRL*

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole, but after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead.

Johnson, Terry Lynn, *ICE DOGS*

In this survival story set in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Vicky and her dog sled team find an injured sledder in the wilderness.

Korman, Gordon, *NO MORE DEAD DOGS*

Eighth grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to make changes that improve not only the play but his life, as well.

Lawrence, Iain, *THE WRECKERS*

Since the wreckers are best known for making their fortunes on the wealth of nearby coastal shipwrecks and the death of their crews, a young crewmember finds himself in a fearful situation when he is stranded in the village after his ship goes under.

Lupica, Mike, *HEAT*

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

Mass, Wendy, *JEREMY FINK AND THE MEANING OF LIFE*

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink received a keyless locked box—set aside by his father before his death five years earlier—that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

Palicio, R.J., *WONDER*

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Paulsen, Gary, *HATCHET*

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but the hatchet his mother gave him as a present.

Paterson, Katherine, *THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS*

An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.

Philbrick, Rodman, *FREAK THE MIGHTY*

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning-disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a brilliant team.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis, *THE RED PENCIL*

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds a home and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

Preus, Margi, *THE HEART OF A SAMURAI*

In 1841, rescued by an American Whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companion castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Ryan, Pam Munoz, *ESPERANZA RISING*

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Stead, Rebecca, *LIAR AND SPY*

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

Schmidt, Gary D., *THE WEDNESDAY WARS*

For his dad's sake, Holling Hoodhood is trying to stay out of trouble but with hovering bullies and other impinging crises, that seems to be a full-time job.

Soto, Gary, *TAKING SIDES*

Lincoln Mendoza has recently moved from a poor Hispanic neighborhood. When his new school's basketball team plays his former team, he struggles over his loyalties.

Spinelli, Jerry, *JAKE AND LILY*

Jake and Lily are twins and have always felt the same, like two halves of the same person, but the year they turn eleven and Jake begins hanging out with Bump Stubbins, everything changes.

Telgemier, Raina, *SMILE*

From sixth grade through tenth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself.

Weeks, Sarah, *SO B. IT*

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic

neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada to New York to find out who she is.

Williams-Garcia, Rita, *ONE CRAZY SUMMER*

Eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters are sent from Brooklyn to Oakland, California to visit their estranged mother. It is the summer of 1968 at the height of the Black Panther movement.

Woodson, Jacqueline, *LOCOMOTION*

Lonnie C. Motion has had some tough breaks in his life. But this fall, Lonnie's fifth grade class is learning to write poetry and suddenly, Lonnie is finding the words to tell the world about his family, the fire that took his parents away, his little sister, and his world.

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Auxier, Jonathan, *PETER NIMBLE AND HIS FANTASTIC EYES*

Raised to be a thief, blind orphan Peter Nimble, age ten, steals from a mysterious stranger three pairs of magical eyes that lead him to a hidden island where he must decide to become a hero or resume his life of crime.

Broach, Elise, *MASTERPIECE*

The story of a beetle named Marvin with a talent for art who lives under the kitchen sink in a New York City apartment and is friends with James Pompaday, a human boy.

Colfer, Eoin, *ARTEMIS FOWL*

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

Collins, Suzanne, *THE UNDERLAND CHRONICLES #2: GREGOR AND THE PROPHECY OF BANE*

In his second adventure, eleven-year-old Gregor returns to the world beneath New York City to rescue his kidnapped sister, Boots, and to fulfill a prophecy that will restore peace to the people, bats, cockroaches, and spiders that populate the underworld.

Cooper, Susan, *OVER SEA, UNDER STONE*

Three children on vacation in Cornwall find an ancient manuscript that sends them on a dangerous quest and entraps them in the eternal battle between the forces of the Light and the Dark.

DiCamillo, Kate, *THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT*

When a fortuneteller informs Peter Augustus Duchene, a ten-year-old orphan, that his younger sister is alive, a magical tale unfolds, interweaving the lives of

unusual characters including an elephant that inexplicably crashes through the roof of an opera house as the result of a magic trick gone wrong.

Flanagan, John, *RANGER'S APPRENTICE #1: THE RUINS OF GORLAN*

Will hopes to become a knight. Instead he winds up as a Ranger's Apprentice, joining the secretive corps that uses stealth, woodcraft, and courage to protect the kingdom.

Funke, Cornelia, *INKSPELL*

One year after the events of *Inkheart*, one by one, the characters of that book find themselves read from the real world into the Inkworld.

Hale, Shannon, *PRINCESS ACADEMY*

Fourteen-year-old Miri lives on Mount Eskel with her beloved father and sister. When their king issues an edict that the prince's bride-to-be must come from Mount Eskel, Miri leaves home with the other young girls to attend a Princess Academy.

L'Engle, Madeleine, *A WRINKLE IN TIME*

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers in a search for her father who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Levine, Gail Carson, *THE TWO PRINCESSES OF BAMARRE*

When fearful Princess Addie realizes that her sister Meryl is ill with the invariably fatal Gray Death, the same illness that killed their mother, she must set out from the castle alone to confront monsters from which she may learn the cure.

Lewis, C. S., *THE HORSE AND HIS BOY*

A boy and a talking horse share an adventurous and dangerous journey to Narnia to warn of invading barbarians.

Milford, Kate, *THE GREENGLASS HOUSE*

At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house sending Milo and Middy, the cook's daughter into an adventure.

Vande Velde, Vivian, *HEIR APPARENT*

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Geannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Wrede, Patricia C., *DEALING WITH DRAGONS*

Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom.

MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

Black, Holly, *DOLL BONES*

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real live quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Horowitz, Anthony, *ALEX RIDER #1: STORMBREAKER*

Alex Rider becomes the first fourteen-year-old MI6 agent when his uncle is assassinated, and Alex is forced to take over the case involving a suspicious computer baron who has donated thousands of his newest modules to British schools.

Lowry, Lois, *THE WILLOUGHBYs*

Abandoned by their ill-humored parents to the care of an odious nanny, Tim, the twins, Barnaby A and Barnaby B, and their sister Jane, attempt to fulfill their roles as good, old-fashioned children.

Raskin, Ellen, *THE WESTING GAME*

One fateful day, sixteen people gather for the reading of the very strange will of the very rich Samuel W. Westing. To their surprise, the will turns out to be a contest, challenging the heirs to find out who among them is Westing's murderer.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Bradley, Kimberley Brubaker, *THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE*

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Curtis, Christopher Paul, *THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM-1963*

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Morpurgo, Michael, *WAR HORSE*

In 1914, Joey, a beautiful, bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front.

Napoli, Donna Jo, *STONES IN THE WATER*

When Roberto sneaks off to see a movie in his small Italian village, he has no

idea that life, as he knows it, is over. German soldiers raid the theater, round up the boys in the audience, and pack them onto a train.

Park, Linda Sue, *A SINGLE SHARD*

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Sepahban, Lois, *PAPER WISHES*

Near the start of World War II, young Manami, her parents and Grandfather are evacuated from their home and sent to Manzanar, an ugly dreary internment camp in the desert for Japanese-American citizens.

Yelchin, Eugene, *BREAKING STALIN'S NOSE*

In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Diverse Reads –

Ada, Flor, *YES! WE ARE LATINOS* (grades 4-5)

Thirteen young Latinos and Latinas living in America are introduced in this book celebrating the rich diversity of the Latino and Latina experience in the United States.

Byran, A, *FREEDOM OVER ME* (grades 4-5)

Bryan gives voices to the voiceless and presents the dreams of slaves who went to the grave without living them.

Erdrich, L, *MAKOONS* (grades 3-5)

In the sequel to Chickadee, acclaimed author Louise Erdrich continues her award-winning Birchbark House series with the story of an Ojibwe family in nineteenth-century America.

Grimes, N, *PLANET MIDDLE SCHOOL* (grades 4-5)

Joylin Johnson, feels like she has been dropped onto "Planet Middle School" by an alien spaceship.

Kelly, E, *BLACKBIRD FLY*

Future rock star or friendless misfit? That's no choice at all. In this acclaimed novel, twelve-year-old Apple grapples with being different; with friends and backstabbers; and with following her dreams.

Lin, G, *WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON* (grades 3-5)

A girl lives in a hut, in the evenings, her father regales her with folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man who knows the answers to all of life's questions.

Nonfiction Suggestions –

OFFICIAL SCRATCH JR BOOK

An introduction to coding for parents and kids. Includes 18 hands-on activities using Scratch Jr, a programming language designed for young children (ages 5-7). Teaches computational thinking, literacy, and math skills through animated collages, interactive stories, and playable games"

***NOAH WEBSTER AND HIS WORDS* by Jeri Chase Ferris**

An illustrated account of the life of Noah Webster, a Connecticut farm boy who spent twenty years writing what became the first American dictionary ever to be published.

***THE HUMAN BODY* by Maris Wicks**

Welcome to the Human Body Theater, where your master of ceremonies is going to lead you through a theatrical revue of each and every biological system of the human body! Starting out as a skeleton, the MC puts on a new layer of her costume (her body) with each "act." By turns goofy and intensely informative, the Human Body Theater is always accessible and always entertaining.

***HAZARDOUS TALES: ONE DEAD SPY* by Nathan Hale.**

Retells, in graphic novel format, the history of the author's namesake, an officer and spy for the American rebels during the Revolutionary War, revealing facts about Nathan Hale's earlier days at Yale and his unlucky experiences as an military officer.

HAZARDOUS TALES: BIG BAD IRONCLAD

Retells, the history of the ironclad steam warships used in the Civil War, revealing facts about the ship's inventor, William Cushing--who pranked his way through the entire war--and other real-life characters.

HAZARDOUS TALES: ALAMO ALLSTARS "REMEMBER THE ALAMO!"

That rallying cry has been a part of Texas lore for generations. But what, exactly, should we remember? Who were the ragtag group of adventurers

behind the famous slogan, and how did they end up barricaded in a fort against a Mexican army? Who survived, who died, and how?