

## SUMMER READING BEFORE FIFTH GRADE

### WELCOME TO FIFTH GRADE!

Dear Students,

The summer reading requirements for *entering fifth graders* are as follows:

1. **Everyone must read *three books* this summer. We have provided you with a list of suggestions. If you see the word “series” it means you may read the title listed or any other book in the same series.**
2. Record the title of each book and note the date of completion in the space provided. Have a parent initial that your information is correct.
3. You are encouraged to read as many books as possible, *but only three are required*.
4. Write a one page summary of one of the books you read. (Write in either neat *cursive* writing in blue or black ink or **type** it in Times New Roman, Double spaced, Font 14). Use the provided outline to help organize your paragraph.
5. **Turn in this completed assignment sheet on the first day of school.**

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Finish Date</u>	<u>Parent Initial</u>
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2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting

Where: \_\_\_\_\_  
When: \_\_\_\_\_

Characters

Main Characters: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Characters: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Main Problem

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Solution to the Main Problem

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## Summer Reading Before Fifth Grade

Choose at least three books from this list to read during the summer. Select your favorite from the books you read, and write a one-page summary. This should be written in neat cursive writing in blue or black ink or type it in Times New Roman, double spaced, Font 14.

### Set 1-Early America/Westward Expansion

**By The Shores of Silver Lake** by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Ma and the girls follow Pa west by train where they make their home at a rough railroad camp and plan for their own homestead. (Newbery Honor)

**The Buffalo Knife** by William O. Steele

In 1782, nine-year-old Andy, his family, and neighbors make a dangerous journey by flatboat down a thousand miles of the Tennessee River to make a new home.

**Worth** by A. LaFaye

After breaking his leg, eleven-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in nineteenth century Nebraska, so when his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse.

### Set 2 – Native Americans

**Sing Down the Moon** by Scott O’Dell

A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.

**Racing the Sun** by Paul Pitts

Learning about the proud Navajo heritage of his father and his grandfather causes major conflict for twelve-year-old Brandon Rogers, who has only known contemporary suburban life.

**The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich

Omakayas, a seven year old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

### Set 3 – Animal Stories

**The Good Dog** by Avi

McKinley, a malamute, is torn between the domestic world of his human family and the wild world of Lupin, a wolf that is trying to recruit dogs to replenish the dwindling wolf pack.

**Stay!: Keeper’s Story** by Lois Lowry

Separated early in life from his mother and siblings, Keeper tells of his adventures with various human masters and his continual search for his little sister.

**Where the Red Fern Grows** by Wilson Rawls

The story of a young boy’s love for two hunting dogs and his coming of age in Oklahoma in the 1930’s.

## Set 4 – Revolution/Colonial Period

### **Calico Bush** by Rachel Field

Marguerite Ledoux, called Maggie by the English family to whom she is bound-out, saves their lives by arranging a May pole dance for attacking Indians.

### **Jump Ship to Freedom** by James Lincoln Collier

In 1787 a fourteen year-old slave, anxious to buy freedom for himself and his mother, escapes from his dishonest master and tries to find help in cashing the soldier's notes received by his father for fighting in the Revolution.

### **Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison** by Lois Lenskil

Recounts the experiences of young Pennsylvania child who is captured by Indians and taken to a Seneca village in New York State.

## Set 5 – Multi-Culture

### **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson** by Bette Lord

In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn, where she starts to feel at home and make friends when she discovers baseball and the Brooklyn Dodgers.

### **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand. (Newbery)

### **Jar of Dreams** by Yoshiko Uchida

A young girl grows up in a closely-knit Japanese American family in California during the 1930's.

## Set 6 – Fantasy

### **The Last of the Really Great Whandoodles** by Julie Edwards

With help from an eccentric professor in giving their imaginations special intensive training, three children succeed in locating the last of the great Whandoodles and granting his heart's desire.

### **The Phantom Tollbooth** by Norton Juster

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

### **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** by C.S. Lewis

Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

### **Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat** by Lynne Jonell

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny, who has access to rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

## Set 7 – Adventure/Courage

### **Hatchet: A Novel** by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year –old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. (Newbery)

### **Peak** by Roland Smith

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

### **A Week in the Woods** by Andrew Clements

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.