



Harmony Elementary School

5th Grade Summer Reading Choices

(For Rising 5th Graders)



It's time to start thinking about getting ready for Fifth grade! Summer Reading is becoming a tradition across the county and research shows that reading comprehension, verbal ability, and test scores increase as students read more.

Each student is responsible for reading one book from the following list. Students will read the book during the summer, and complete the assignment on the back of this sheet. The assignment will be due August 7th (the first day of school.) Students will also be required to complete an in-class assignment using the book they have read. This will be used as a major reading grade.

PARENTS - The list of titles has been created with a variety of reading levels and student interest in mind. Encourage your child to select a book that addresses a topic of interest and one they have not read prior. Also, please assist your child in selecting a book that fits his or her reading level. Books may be found online, at local bookstores, and at local libraries. If bookstores do not have the book, they can easily order it for you. Don't wait until it is too late in the summer!

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Brian Robertson, sole passenger on a Cessna 406, is on his way to visit his father when the tiny bush plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness. With nothing but his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present, Brian finds himself completely alone.

Dash by Kirby Larson

Although Mitsi Kashino and her family are swept up in the wave of anti-Japanese sentiment following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mitsi never expects to lose her home -- or her beloved dog, Dash. But, as World War II rages and people of Japanese descent are forced into incarceration camps, Mitsi is separated from Dash, her classmates, and life as she knows it. The camp is a crowded and unfamiliar place, whose dusty floors, seemingly endless lines, and barbed wire fences begin to unravel the strong Kashino family ties. With the help of a friendly neighbor back home, Mitsi remains connected to Dash in spite of the hard times, holding on to the hope that the war will end soon and life will return to normal. Though they've lost their home, will the Kashino family also lose their sense of family? And will Mitsi and Dash ever be reunited?

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief to be reunited with his fox.

Making Bombs for Hitler by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch

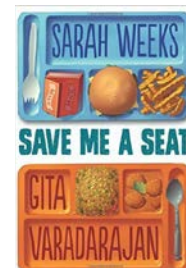
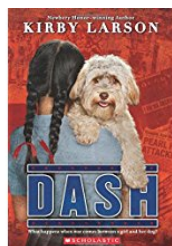
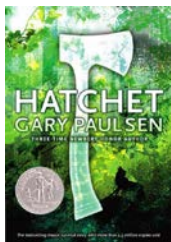
Lida thought she was safe. Her neighbors wearing the yellow star were all taken away, but Lida is not Jewish. She will be fine, won't she? But she cannot escape the horrors of World War II. Lida's parents are ripped away from her and she is separated from her beloved sister, Larissa. The Nazis take Lida to a brutal work camp, where she and other Ukrainian children are forced into backbreaking labor. Starving and terrified, Lida bonds with her fellow prisoners, but none of them know if they'll live to see tomorrow.

Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common -- but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

Rules by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?



What do I do while reading my book?

As you read your book, you are required to **keep a reading response journal**. You will be writing your reactions to what you read and the feelings you felt while reading. Keeping a response journal will give you an opportunity to express your own opinions about what's happening in the novel you are reading. The journal will give you a chance to ask and answer questions that you think are important.

Assignment:

- You will be expected to make 10 journal entries for your book.
- In your journal entries, you can discuss anything that interests you about the material you are reading (a character you despise, a scene that you found particularly moving, a setting that was described in extraordinary detail, etc.)
- **Each journal entry should be at least half a page long.** Keep in mind that these journals **will be taken for a grade**. Think carefully about what you are writing and be sure to give complete answers. This means that you will have to explain in detail your thoughts, feelings, ideas, and opinions.

The following are some possible statement starters for you to choose from when you are making your entries:

- a) My favorite characters are..... because
- b) The part I liked best.....
- c) I would like _____ as a friend because.....
- d) If I were the author I would....
- e) What impressed me in this chapter was....
- f) I noticed.....
- g) It upset me when.....
- h) I wonder about.....
- i) I don't really understand.....
- j) I now understand.....
- k) If I were_____ I would.....
- l) I predict that.....
- m) I was shocked when / by.....
- n) I question.....



You must use at least three of these statements when you are writing in your journal. You can also make up some of your own.

Remember, your journal is an opportunity for you to explore what you think is important.

- Journal entries should be neat, well thought out, and legible. Take the time to read over what you have written after each entry to ensure that your ideas are in order.
- It is not necessary for you to summarize the chapters for me. I am more interested in how you react to what you are reading.