



RECOMMENDED READ-ALOUD TITLES FOR 5th GRADE STUDENTS

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

The evacuation of Jews from Nazi-held Denmark is one of the great untold stories of World War II. Lowry brings the experience to life through the eyes of 10-year-old Annemarie, whose family harbors her best friend, Ellen, on the eve of the round-up and helps to smuggle Ellen's family out of the country.

Scrambled States of America by Laurie Keller

The United States of America aren't at all united when Kansas wakes up grouchy one morning. Keller gives each of the 50 states a unique personality and, as all of them develop a case of wanderlust, she cleverly presents geography and history lessons. This is a fun *and* educational picture book!

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

After an awkward introduction, Jess and Leslie soon become best friends. Together, they create an imaginary, secret kingdom in the woods called Terabithia. One morning tragedy befalls Leslie as she ventures alone to Terabithia, and Jess's life is changed forever. An emotional, powerful story of friendship. Please ensure that your student is able to cope with the death of a main character in the story.

The 13th Floor: A Ghost Story by Sid Fleischman

Young orphan Buddy calls on his ancestor, Captain Crackstone, rumored to be a pirate, for help after his family's house is in jeopardy. Buddy, his lawyer sister, and a magical elevator whisk the unlikely duo into the past. Entertaining story lines and lots of adventure will mesmerize your student!

Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats (a palendromic name!) has landed in juvenile detention facilities at Camp Green Lake where the camp motto is, "If you take a bad boy and make him dig a hole every day in the hot sun, it will turn him into a good boy." Stanley's unjust sentence is the result of mistaken identity, which doesn't come as a surprise to the Yelnats family, which has become accustomed to a history of bad luck. Have fun watching the plot thicken and unravel in this captivating story!

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

One of our favorite stories! Taylor tells the story of one African American family, fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s. A powerful story of struggle, hardship and love.

Jack Plank Tells Tales by Natalie Babbitt

The pirate business isn't what it used to be, so Jack Plank, a friendly pirate, is let go because his plundering isn't up to par. Jack's only option is to go to shore, find a job and start a new life.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A classic read-aloud that still captivates children. Mary Lennox is orphaned at a young age and falls under the custody of her uncle in England whom she has never met. Mary's life changes when she falls under the spell of a secret, locked-up garden on the Manor grounds.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

Imagine what would happen if every time you read a story aloud the characters came alive! This imaginative story is filled with magical places and characters. You student will enjoy exploring the worlds within words.

The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo

A lovely story that highlights a cast of unlikely heroes whose destinies intertwine to bring about a joyful resolution. DiCamillo creatively weaves four different storylines about a mouse, a princess, a girl and a rat together in a charming, witty way. Both grown-ups and children will adore this story!



POWER LUNCH TIPS & TITLES: 5th GRADE EDITION

Read-Aloud Tips

- **IMPORTANT!** You are reading aloud to the child not the other way around. Research shows that reading at a child's listening level (NOT reading level) helps to increase the student's vocabulary, ability to articulate thoughts, and listening comprehension.
- Set the stage before you begin reading. When reading a chapter book week after week, ask the child if he/she remembers where you left off last week. Ask them to give you a brief re-cap of the events. That will also help you remember where you left off!
- Encourage the child to ask questions about difficult vocabulary or concepts.
- Before beginning a new chapter or new section, ask the child what he/she thinks is going to happen in the upcoming chapter.
- Read with expression! Chapters books and longer stories have many more characters and complex plots—use different voices, read with enthusiasm and change your tone.
- If you find that the your child is zoning out or not focusing, ask the child if he/she knows anyone who has shared a similar experience as one of the characters. Try to break up the text with questions or discussion about the story.
- Switch it up. After reading a chapter book—try a picture book for a change of pace. Even 5th grade students can enjoy and learn a lot from a quality picture book, so do not dismiss them.
- Do research together to learn more about authors and illustrators. Read other books by your favorites!
- Relate to a book that you read in the past and discuss it. “What other character encountered this same situation?”

Other Recommended Titles

Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism

by Georgia Byng [series]

New Kid on the Block by Jack Prelutsky [poetry]

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

Regarding the Sink: Oh Where, Oh Where Did the Waters Go? by Kate Klise

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

The Landry News by Andrew Clements

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinnelli

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief

by Wendelin Van Draanen [series]

The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

The Mysterious Benedict Society

by Trenton Lee Stewart

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science

by John Fleischman [non-fiction]

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

by J.K. Rowling [series]

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