

2021 Summer Reading

Summer Reading Suggestions for Grade 5
Prepared by Mrs. Goodwin, MS/HS Librarian



Award Winning Books

Title	Summary	Author	Reading Level	Lexile	Grade
<u>A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart</u>	This powerful poem captures a Black child's wide range of emotions over the passage of a year—from joy to sorrow and anger when he learns of a shooting, and, subsequently, to hope and love. (Caldecott Honor Book)	Zetta Elliott	K-3		All Grade Levels
<u>Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom</u>	The true story of Henry “Box” Brown, who shipped himself to freedom in a box, is told in 51 emotionally intense poems that have implications for the present day. (Newbery Honor Book)	Carole Boston Weatherford	5-8		All Grade Levels
<u>Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks</u>	The biography of Pulitzer-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks reveals her childhood dreams and inspirations, her challenges with race, gender, and poverty, and her desires to share stories through poetry. (Sibert Honor Book)	Suzanne Slade	K-3		All Grade Levels
<u>A Wish in the Dark</u>	Pong, born in a prison, longs to be free and escapes. Nok, the disgraced warden's daughter, looks to capture Pong again. Both discover how the world unfairly brings light only for the rich. (Newbery Honor Book)	Christina Soontornvat		5.6	Grades 3-5
<u>Becoming Muhammad Ali</u>	In alternating verse and prose narratives, Cassius Clay and his friend Lucky create a portrait of the confident child determined to become a boxing champion during the Jim Crow era.	James Patterson		3.1 1010	Grades 3-5

<u>Black Brother, Black Brother</u>	Dark-skinned Donte experiences more racism than his lighter-skinned brother at their private middle school. He finds empowerment through fencing at the local Boys and Girls Club and faces off with a racist bully.	Jewell Parker Rhodes	3.2		Grades 3-5
<u>Catherine's War</u>	This graphic novel tells the story of Rachel, a Jewish girl forced to change her identity during World War II. As Catherine, she uses a camera to document her experiences, vividly capturing moments of terror, exhilaration, and joy. (Batchelder Honor Book)	Julia Billet	3.9		Grades 3-5
<u>Echo Mountain</u>	Having lost everything in the Great Depression, Ellie's family moves to the mountain. When her father is left comatose after a tragic accident, they embrace neighbors and nature in order to survive and revive him.	Lauren Wolk	4.6		Grades 3-5
<u>Efrén Divided</u>	When his mother is deported to Mexico, seventh grader Efrén is the only one who can cross the border to bring his mother home. (Belpré Children's Author Award Book)	Ernesto Cisneros	4.7	710L	Grades 3-5
<u>From the Desk of Zoe Washington</u>	Zoe Washington shows her bravery and determination through a summer bakery internship, a fight with her best friend, and a new relationship with her wrongfully incarcerated father.	Janae Marks	5.2		Grades 3-5
<u>King and the Dragonflies</u>	King is sure that his brother, Khalid, has been reincarnated as a dragonfly, as he comes to terms with his brother's death, questioning both his and his best friend Sandy's sexuality.	Kacen Callender	4.6		Grades 3-5
<u>Letters from Cuba</u>	In a series of letters, young Jewish refugee Esther describes life in 1930s Cuba as she helps her father earn money by sewing dresses so their family can join them and escape persecution in Poland.	Ruth Behar	6.3		Grades 3-5
<u>Lupe Wong Won't Dance</u>	When a dance threatens her chance to meet pitching idol and fellow Mexinese/Chinacan, Fu Li Hernandez, Lupe takes up the cause against square dancing in gym, which proves both challenging and enlightening. (Belpré Children's Author Honor Book)	Donna Barba Higuera	5.4		Grades 3-5
<u>Mañanaland</u>	Max loves fútbol, although his hopes of joining a team are replaced by working with his Dad and eventually discovering that his family are secret guardians who take on refugees and deliver them to "Mananaland."	Pam Munoz Ryan	4.5		Grades 3-5
<u>Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices</u>	An Own Voices collection of Eid celebrations throughout the Muslim world.	S K Ali & Aisha Saeed			Grades 3-5

<u>Prairie Lotus</u>	Hanna, a biracial Chinese American, and her White father move to the Dakota Territory in the 1880's to start over after her mother's death. Hanna struggles to find her own strengths and voice within an unwelcoming community.	Linda Sue Park	5.2		Grades 3-5
<u>Santiago's Road Home</u>	Santiago overcomes many dangerous obstacles to cross the border from Mexico into the United States only to be detained by ICE. While Santiago is used to going it alone, the brutal conditions of the youth detention center are not what he expected to find in the United States.	Alexandra Diaz			Grades 3-5
<u>Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello</u>	This bilingual biography traces the life of Julio C. Tello, from a curious, young boy to an accomplished archaeologist who elevated Peru's indigenous history. (Belpré Youth Illustrator Honor Book)	Monica Brown	4.4		Grades 3-5
<u>Show Me a Sign</u>	Based in the actual Deaf community that existed on Martha's Vineyard during the 1800's, Mary lives a singularly typical life. Never considering the deafness she is born with to be a disability until a prejudiced scientist arrives, Mary finds herself the focus of a study against her will.	Ann Clare LeZotte	4.6		Grades 3-5
<u>The Blackbird Girls</u>	As a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, two girls set aside prejudices when they are forced to live together away from home and family.	Anne Blankman	5.7	680L	Grades 3-5
<u>The Only Black Girls in Town</u>	Alberta is sure she will be friends with the new girl Edie, but realizes they are from two different worlds. Alberta struggles to voice how her family and race dynamics make her feel but the two girls come together to discover a collection of hidden journals that reveal a secret to the past.	Brandy Colbert	4.5		Grades 3-5
<u>The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez</u>	When animals begin disappearing and Abuela starts acting suspicious, Nestor must use his secret ability to communicate with animals to save his town from a tula vieja, a witch that transforms into animals. (Belpré Children's Author Honor Book)	Adrianna Cuavas	5		Grades 3-5
<u>Three Keys (A Front Desk Novel)</u>	Mia Tang and her family work to save the hotel they recently bought in the face of a looming immigration law that could send them back to China if passed and threatens the safety of Mia's friends.	Kelly Yang			Grades 3-5
<u>We Dream of Space</u>	In the days before the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, the Thomas siblings navigate the dangerous space of middle school and the fractured constellation of their family. (Newbery Honor Book)	Erin Entrada Kelly	4.8		Grades 3-5

<u>What Stars Are Made Of</u>	Libby, a young girl with Turner Syndrome who is fascinated by science, sets out to win a science contest and support her pregnant sister's family with the prize money.	Sarah Allen		800L	Grades 3-5
<u>When Stars Are Scattered</u>	Omar, along with his younger brother Hassan, recounts the stories of growing up as orphan refugees at a displacement camp in Kenya.	Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed		GN530 L	Grades 3-5
<u>When You Trap a Tiger</u>	Lily bargains with a magical tiger to return stolen stories in order to save her sick grandmother. (Newbery Medal Book)	Tae Keller		5	Grades 3-5
<u>Where's Baby?</u>	Can you find baby fox? Readers will enjoy following father's journey as he looks over, under, around, and into things, discovering all sorts of other animals, until he finally gets a hint from mother fox. (Geisel Honor Book)	Anne Hunter		2	Grades 3-5
<u>Wink</u>	The humorous journey of a cancer stricken middle schooler, Ross, as he navigates middle school.	Rob Harrell		5.8 580L	Grades 3-5
<u>Your Place in the Universe</u>	Pong, born in a prison, longs to be free and escapes. Nok, the disgraced warden's daughter, looks to capture Pong again. Both discover how the world unfairly brings light only for the rich. (Newbery Honor Book)	Jason Chin		3.5	Grades 3-5