

# In-Coming Fifth Grade Summer Reading List

Each student will be responsible for reading **ONE** of the books from this list **AS WELL AS** any book of their choice that contains over 100 pages during the summer vacation. There will be a written assignment that should be completed over the course of the summer. This activity will be turned in ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL and will be graded in lieu of a test. Please choose a book that is ON YOUR READING LEVEL. Do not be afraid to challenge yourself, though! Happy reading!

## 1. Eggs by: Jerry Spinelli

*Eggs* is a quirky and moving novel about two very complicated, damaged children. David has recently lost his mother to a freak accident, his salesman father is constantly on the road, and he is letting his anger out on his grandmother. Primrose lives with her unstable, childlike, fortuneteller mother, and the only evidence of the father she never knew is a framed picture. Despite their age difference (David is 9, Primrose is 13), they forge a tight yet tumultuous friendship, eventually helping each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

## 2. Pieces and Players by: Blue Balliett

THE PIECES: Thirteen extremely valuable pieces of art have been stolen from one of the most secretive museums in the world. A Vermeer has vanished. A Manet is missing. And nobody has any idea where they and the other eleven artworks might be . . . or who might have stolen them. THE PLAYERS: Calder, Petra, and Tommy are no strangers to heists and puzzles. Now they've been matched with two new sleuths -- Zoomy, a very small boy with very thick glasses, and Early, a girl who treasures words . . . and has a word or two to say about the missing treasure. The kids have been drawn in by the very mysterious Mrs. Sharpe, who may be playing her own kind of game with the clues. And it's not just Mrs. Sharpe who's acting suspiciously -- there's a ghost who mingles with the guards in the museum, a cat who acts like a spy, and bystanders in black jackets who keep popping up. With pieces and players, you have all the ingredients for a fantastic mystery from the amazing Blue Balliett.

## 3. Raymie Nightengale by: Kate DiCamillo (National Book Award Finalist)

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

## 4. You'll Like it Here (Everybody Does) by: Ruth White

While Meggie and David Blue are from another planet, they're a lot like Earth kids, with similar hopes and dreams, and can't wait to grow up. BUT they also have GROSSLY UNIQUE qualities, such as blue streaks in their hair that pop up randomly and language skills that sound like nothing on this planet. The story takes these alien kids, along with their mother and grandfather, by accident, to a far planet in which the society is not only oppressive but hostile to individual freedom. People are kept submissive through drugs and brainwashing. The Blues, who have spent time in free societies recognize the upside-down-ness of this world. They're almost helpless to do anything, but do what they can, plan their escape, and vow to help others.

## 5. Wish Girl by: Nikki Loftin

Peter Stone's parents and siblings are extroverts, musicians, and yellers—and the louder they get, the less Peter talks, or even moves, until he practically fits his last name. When his family moves to the Texas Hill Country, though, Peter finds a tranquil, natural valley where he can, at last, hear himself think. There, he meets a girl his age: Annie Blythe. Annie tells Peter she's a "wish girl." But Annie isn't just any wish girl; she's a "Make-A-Wish Girl." And in two weeks she will begin a dangerous treatment to try and stop her cancer from spreading. Left alone, the disease will kill her. But the treatment may cause serious, lasting damage to her brain. Annie and Peter hatch a plan to escape into the valley, which they begin to think is magical. But the pair soon discovers that the valley—and life—may have other plans for them. And sometimes wishes come true in ways they would never expect.

## 6. Word of Mouse by: James Patterson

What makes Isaiah so unique? First, his fur is as blue as the sky--which until recently was something he'd never seen, but had read all about. That's right--Isaiah can read, and write. He can also talk to humans...if any of them are willing to listen! After a dramatic escape from a mysterious laboratory, Isaiah is separated from his "mischief" (which is the word for a mouse family), and has to use his special skills to survive in the dangerous outdoors, and hopefully find his missing family. But in a world of cruel cats, hungry owls,

and terrified people, it's hard for a young, lone mouse to make it alone. When he meets an equally unusual and lonely human girl named Hailey, the two soon learn that true friendship can transcend all barriers.

## In-Coming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Written Assignment

Welcome, future 5<sup>th</sup> Graders! We have chosen to shake things up this summer, and, instead of a test, you will be completing THREE blog-style entries to be collected on the first day of school.

### Step One: Choose a book

Students, you should choose ONE book from the list of six provided and ONE book of your choice (over 100 pages). Once you have made your decision, preview the blog posts (below) that you will be responsible for as you read. It will be easier to complete if you keep a log of ideas as you read.

### Step Two: Blog!

As you read your chosen books, you will need to complete three "blog" posts in a word document. Your blog posts are:

1. **"text-to-self"**: Make a "Text to Self" connection with this novel. This means that you must find something within this story that you personally relate to. You must respond with AT LEAST five sentences saying how and why you can connect with the story.
2. **"text-to-world"**: Make a "Text to World" connection with this novel. This means that you must find something within this story that you can connect with something that is happening around the world or in your own local area. You must respond with AT LEAST five sentences saying how and why the novel relates to an event happening in the world.
3. **"text-to-text"**: Make a "Text to Text" connection. This means that you must find something within your chosen story from the provided list that you can connect to the second book that you have chosen to read over the summer. Please be sure to share the title and author of the book you are connecting with. You must respond with AT LEAST five sentences saying how and why you can make this connection between the stories.

Remember that each response needs to be at least five sentences long and use proper spelling/grammar/capitalization. These can be done in any order you choose. Your reading teacher will be evaluating each response based on quality.

### Step Three: School!

For the first day of school, please bring in your copies of the two books that you have read over this summer as well as your TYPED report. We will complete an activity in class and you will need to use your books.

**Happy reading!!**