

AJHS Recommended 5th Grade Summer Reading List 2010

- Appelt, Kathi.** *The Underneath*. Atheneum, 2008. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. Newbery Honor 2009. National Book Award Finalist 2008.
- Avi.** *Never Mind! : A Twin Novel*. HarperCollins, 2004. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.
- Balliett, Blue.** *Chasing Vermeer*. Scholastic Press, 2004. When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.
- Bolden, Tanya.** *George Washington Carver*. Abrams, 2008. Born a slave during the Civil War and raised by his mother's owners, George Washington Carver, also known as the "Peanut Man," became an important African American conservationist, scientist, researcher, and teacher.
- Broach, Elise.** *Masterpiece*. Holt/Christy, 2008. Marvin, a beetle, and his family live in the home of eleven-year-old James and his family. When James' birthday party fails miserably, Marvin surprises James with an elaborately intricate pen and ink drawing Marvin has created. Trouble is, the drawing is mistaken for James' work, which sets off action that leads to a fast-paced mystery featuring an unlikely friendship, the discovery of art forgery, and thievery.
- Cheng, Andrea.** *Shanghai Messenger*. Lee & Low, 2005. A free-verse novel about eleven-year-old Xiao Mei's visit with her extended family in China, where the Chinese-American girl not only finds many differences, but also the similarities that bind a family together.
- Choldenko, Gennifer.** *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. Putnam, 2004. A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Newbery Honor.
- Codell, Esme Raji.** *Sahara Special*. Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.
- Corbett, Sue.** *Free Baseball*. Dutton, 2006. Baseball is in eleven-year-old Felix Piloto's blood. His Cuban father plays professionally, but Felix knows little else about him. When he runs away to serve as a batboy for a professional baseball team, Felix ultimately discovers his father's story, as well as his love for his mother, a dog, and of course, the game.

- DiCamillo, Kate.** *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Candlewick, 2006. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.
- Dixon, Dougal.** *The Future Is Wild*. Firefly Books, 2002. This companion book to the Animal Planet series uses a variety of scientific principles to imagine how life on planet Earth may evolve over the next 200 million years.
- Feldman, Jody.** *The Gollywhopper Games*. Greenwillow, 2008. When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywhooper Games, Gil Goodson wants to be the lucky winner; this could be the perfect opportunity for his family to move away from Orchard Heights. Can he solve the puzzles and complete the stunts? This may remind you of a modern day Charlie and Chocolate Factory!
- Forester, Victoria.** *The Girl Who Could Fly*. Fiewel and Friends, 2008. “Piper decided to jump off the roof. It wasn’t a rash decision on her part.” And so we meet a strong-willed, generous girl with extraordinary talents.
- George, Jean Craighead.** *Tarantula in my Purse*. Harper, 1997. The unusual George household welcomes animals of all species into their home. This is a collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.
- Gutman, Dan.** *Satch and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure*. HarperCollins, 2006. With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** *Just Ella*. Simon & Schuster, 1999. Fifteen-year old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming’s proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.
- Halls, Kelly Milner.** *Tales of the Cryptids*. Darby Creek Publishing, 2006. Be the judge: are the many mysterious and legendary animals, including Bigfoot and assorted sea serpents, real based on the descriptions, photographs and drawings?
- Hobbs, Will.** *Jackie’s Wild Seattle*. HarperCollins, 2003. Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother Cody spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie’s Wild Seattle.
- Horvath, Polly.** *The Pepins and Their Problems*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family’s unusual problems, which include having a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.
- Jackson, Donna. M.** *ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room*. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. This book discusses the life in an animal ER hospital from the point of view of the veterinarians, the vet technicians, the owners, and their pets.

Kerley, Barbara. *Walt Whitman: Words for America.* Scholastic, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.

Konigsberg, E.L. *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place.* Atheneum, 2004. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her great-uncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.

Lasky, Kathryn. *The Man Who Made Time Travel.* Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. The need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea led to the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *The King of Mulberry Street.* Wendy Lamb, 2005. When nine-year-old Beniamino, a Jewish boy from Naples, is smuggled onto a ship, he assumes his mother is also on the ship. When he ends up alone in New York, he has to deal with his fear and sadness on the one hand and figure out how to get food and shelter on the other as he makes his way in the New World.

Peck, Richard. *On the Wings of Heroes.* Dial, 2007. Set in the time period of World War II, Davy Bowman has two heroes: his dad who fought in World War I and his brother who is currently in the Air Force.

Smith, Roland. *Cryptid Hunters.* Hyperion, 2005. Twins Grace and Mary are sent to live with their mysterious Uncle Travis Wolfe, a veterinarian and mythical creature expert, and as a result of their uncle's secret mission, the twins become involved in a fast-paced action adventure in the Congo to find a mysterious dinosaur cryptid before they all end up in the evil hands of Dr. Blackwood, also known as the cryptid hunter.

Springer, Nancy. *The Case of the Missing Marquess: an Enola Holmes Mystery.* Sleuth Philomel, 2006. Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, escapes to London in disguise to find her missing mother. Along the way, she uses her considerable deductive skills to determine the whereabouts of a young Viscount. This is the first in a series of four books starring Enola Holmes.

St. John, Lauren. *The White Giraffe.* Dial, 2007. After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa, where she learns about a mystical white giraffe.

Stone, Jeff. *Eagle.* Random House, 2008. After attacking and killing his former grandmaster, sixteen-year-old Ying realizes he has been betrayed in addition to being wanted for treason, and consequently is forced to turn to Hok, his old temple sister, for help.

Townley, Roderick. *The Great Good Thing*. Atheneum, 2001. Nothing ever changes inside the storybook kingdom inhabited by twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie, her parents, and many other characters until Sylvie discovers that by allying herself with the Reader she can experience new adventure beyond the confines of the book. Sequel is *Into the Labyrinth: a Novel*.

This list of titles has been compiled by librarians of the PALS Library System. It includes both fiction and nonfiction books by some of the best authors for children and young adults. Books on this list are evaluated annually by grade-level committees. Committee members rely on recommendations from standard, professionally prepared evaluation aids and on input from students and teachers. A conscious effort is made to appeal to the broad range of interests, maturity levels, and reading abilities of students. In most cases the number of books by any given author is limited to one or two per grade level list. An older title with superior literary quality may remain on the list despite newer publications by the same author. Students may find that some titles that are required reading for their classes appear on this list. Be advised that if a book for required reading is selected for independent reading, it may have to be re-read with the class at a later date. This list is offered as one possible source of reading guidance. We hope that books from this list bring students many hours of enjoyment and encourage the life-long love of reading.