



2009 Summer Reading List for Students Finishing Grades 4 or 5

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Assorted Authors - *The 39 Clues* series. Each book in this 10 book series is written by a different, well-known children's book author (including Rick Riordan, Patrick Carman and Gordon Korman.) Four books are currently available, and the fifth will be published in August 2009. There are also collectible cards, online games and a website with many related activities (www.the39clues.com.) Two children, Amy and Dan Cahill, attend the funeral of their beloved grandmother, the powerful Grace Cahill. At the reading of her will, they find out that she is sending her relatives on an around the world hunt as competing teams for 39 clues which will lead them to the source of their family's power. The reader will experience the thrills and suspense right along with the characters, and may learn a little history along the way – a fun, fun read!

Ruth McNally Barshaw – Looking for a fun read? Try Barshaw's half journal, half graphic novel, the ***Ellie McDoodle*** series which includes ***Ellie McDoodle Have Pen Will Travel*** and ***Ellie McDoodle New Kid in School***. Nine year old Eleanor McDougal, "Ellie McDoodle" keeps a journal of her life and adventures. Follow along reading the entries and drawings in her journal as she goes on a camping trip with relatives in *Have Pen Will Travel* or in *New Kid in School*, when Ellie's family moves to a new town, where nobody else likes to read as much as she does, and even the teachers can't get her name right, she helps students rally against unfair lunch lines.

Jeanne Birdsall - ***The Penderwicks: : A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*** and her newest, ***The Penderwicks on Gardam Street***. Meet the Penderwick sisters, four girls with unique talents and a whole lot of love. In ***Summer Tale***, they spend the summer on an estate in Cape Cod where they meet the boy of the estate and have many exciting adventures. Feels like a modern

day “Little Women.” In ***Gardam Street***, the Penderwick girls return home to Gardam Street to find out that their aunt is trying to fix up their dad, something they work hard to defeat.

Blue Balliett – Enjoy her series of books, ***Chasing Vermeer***, ***The Wright 3***, and her latest, ***The Calder Game***, about Calder, Petra and Tommy as they try to solve the mysteries surrounding great works of art – a Vermeer painting, a Frank Lloyd Wright house and an Alexander Calder sculpture. Intriguing clues keep the reader determined to solve the mystery before the threesome does.

Patrick Carman– If you like fantasy and master storytelling, Carman’s ***Land of Elyon*** series is the book for you! Alexis, the daughter of the mayor of Layrinth, summers in Bridewell with her dad, but she has never been beyond the stone walls that line her world. Soon Alexis discovers that evil lies within the walls and her adventures begin. In the process, Alexis confronts giants, bats, ravenous dogs, and a particularly ghoulish mastermind in order to bring back peace.

Andrew Clements - ***Room One: A Mystery or Two***, follows the adventures of a mystery-loving twelve-year-old boy in Nebraska. ***Lunch Money***, ***The Last Holiday Concert***, ***No Talking*** and his most recent book, ***Lost and Found***, are school-based stories by Clements. Others include ***The Report Card***, ***The Landry News*** and ***School Story***. These stories are so realistic you might expect the appealing characters to step off the page. Look for ***Extra Credit***, to be published this summer.

Eoin Colfer – His exciting ***Artemis Fowl*** series continues this summer with the newest book, ***The Time Paradox***. Other books in the series include ***Artemis Fowl***, ***Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident***, ***Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code***, ***Artemis Fowl: The Lost Colony***. When twelve-year-old evil genius, Artemis Fowl, tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. ***Artemis Fowl*** is a high-tech fantasy, mixing fairies, leprechauns, and computers, in a brilliant, thrilling story that is destined to become a cult favorite.

Bruce Coville - Coville is the author of more than 90 novels, including **The Magic Shop series** that started with *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* and *Jennifer Murdley's Toad*. The latest offering in the series is *Juliet Dove, Queen of Love*. Look also for his *My Teacher is an Alien series* and his *Unicorn Chronicles series*. Coville knows how to write a story that keeps kids reading!

Sharon Creech - Award-winning, Princeton, New Jersey native, Creech has written many wonderful books. Her free verse novels, *Heartbeat*, *Love That Dog*, and her newest book, a sequel, *Hate That Cat*, provide an innovative way of telling a story. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* is a heartwarming story about a 12 year old girl and her relationship with her best friend, enhanced by words of wisdom and food from her grandmother. Newbery Award winning book, *The Wanderer* tells the tale of a 13 year old girl's voyage across the ocean aboard her uncle's sailboat.

Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black - **The Spiderwick Chronicles (5 book series)**: *The Field Guide*, *The Seeing Stone*, *Lucinda's Secret*, *The Ironwood Tree* and *The Wrath of Mulgarath*. Five volumes follow the Grace family as they move into the dilapidated Spiderwick Estate to find themselves sucked into the dark and fascinating world of faeries. You'll be completely absorbed too. DiTerlizzi also has a new series, **Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles**, which includes *Nixie's Song* and *The Giant Problem* and continues this fantasy world with new characters.

Jeanne DuPrau - **City of Ember** is set in an underground world with no natural light, and for decades its inhabitants have forgotten the outside world and survived on the contents of its vast storerooms. Haunting action will capture you as two young people search for meaning and escape from their flickering world. The adventures continue in *The People of Sparks*, *The Prophet of Yonwood* and *The Diamond of Darkhold*.

Patricia Finney/Jan Burchett - Lady Grace Cavendish is the youngest lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth I in this intriguing historical fiction mystery series. *Assassin*, *Betrayal*, *Conspiracy*, *Deception*, *Exile* and *Feud* are the titles so far.

Cornelia Funke - In *Dragon Rider*, the intrepid dragon Firedrake embarks on a journey to the Rim of Heaven in the Himalayas, searching for a safe home for his dragon companions. In *The Thief Lord*, orphans in Venice try to outwit a private detective who is trying to catch them, as they faithfully follow their teen leader without knowing the truth about his real life. Funke is also the author of the exciting, suspenseful, action-packed fantasy novels *Inkheart*, *Inkspell* and *Inkdeath*. *Inkheart* was recently made into a movie.

Patricia Reilly Giff – Giff has a gift for writing historical fiction with strong female characters. Her Nory Ryan series- Nory Ryan's Song, Lilly's Crossing, Maggie's Door. chronicles the trials in the lives of Irish girls through different time periods. The reader grows to care about Giff's characters and hope for their success and happiness. Books include *Other* Giff books include *Willow Run*, *Pictures of Hollis Woods* and *Water Street*.

Anthony Horowitz - Once a screenwriter, Horowitz's *Alex Rider* series, *Stormbreaker*, *Point Blank*, *Skeleton Key*, *Eagle Strike*, *Scorpia*, *Snakehead* and *Ark Angel* read like an action-packed movie about a teen spy who survives difficult situations to complete his missions. A favorite with the boys.

Erin Hunter - (A pseudonym for 3 authors) The extremely popular *Warrior* series follows the cat warrior clans as they roam the wild and fight for survival. The first series *Warriors* includes *Into the Wild*, *Forest of Secrets*, *Fire and Ice* and 4 more stories. The second series, *The New Prophecy*, includes *Midnight*, *Moonrise*, *Dawn*, *Starlight*, *Twilight* and *Sunset*. The third series, Power of Three, includes *The Sight*, *Dark River* and *Outcast*. The newest series is *The Seekers*.

Jeff Kinney - What started out as an episodic story on the Internet has taken off and become a favorite book of many children. Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw* are popular reads for this age group. These books, innovatively illustrated, chronicle the adventures and misadventures of Greg as he begins middle school.

Kathryn Lasky – Lasky’s very popular **Guardians of Ga’Hoole** series, a 16 book series, will thrill fantasy and animal lovers alike. Enter the exciting world of owls as Soren, the young barn owl pushed from his nest by his brother, and his new friend Gylfie are taken to a secret school where the leader is training owls to help achieve her goal, one which will threaten owls everywhere.

Gail Carson Levine - Levine’s debut novel, ***Ella Enchanted*** won a Newbery Honor Award and was made into a movie. Her books are rich with elements from existing fairy tales but with an added twist! If you love the romance and adventure of fairy tales try one of Levine’s light-hearted fantasies such as ***The Two Princesses of Barmarre, Fairest, The Wish, Ever*** and her latest book, ***The Fairy’s Return and Other Princess Tales.***

Mike Lupica - Exciting and rich-in-detail sports tales from a professional sports writer include ***Travel Team*** (basketball) and ***Heat*** (baseball). New series, ***The Comeback Kids*** are shorter stories also with a sports theme.

Jenny Nimmo - The Children of the Red King Series: ***Midnight for Charlie Bone; Charlie Bone and the Time Twister, Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy; Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors; Charlie Bone and the Hidden King, Charlie Bone and the Beast.*** Charlie may remind you of another boy wizard named Harry, but this series is filled with intrigue and danger all of its own. Charlie’s gift is being able to hear the thoughts of people in photographs. Also try her new series, ***The Magician Trilogy (The Snow Spider, Emlyn’s Moon and The Chestnut Soldier.)***

Gary Paulsen - Critically acclaimed author of adventure/survival stories, ***Hatchet, Brian’s Hunt*** and the engaging historical fiction **Mr. Tucket** series which ***includes Mr. Tucket, Call Me Francis Tucket and Tucket’s Home.*** ***Lawn Boy*** is a humorous story about a boy who becomes a millionaire by cutting lawns. Check out his newest book ***Mudshark*** for a good laugh this summer!

Rick Riordan - The hottest children’s author this year and he was a Social Studies teacher! His top-selling **Percy Jackson and the Olympians series**, includes ***The***

Lightning Thief, The Titan's Curse, The Sea of Monsters, The Battle of the Labyrinth and ***The Last Olympian***. Percy Jackson, attending a school for troubled youth, discovers that he is the son of Poseidon and a mortal woman. But Poseidon is accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt, and Percy must locate and return the lightning bolt or humankind is doomed. Lots of adventure and connections with mythology make this series a hit with girls and boys!

Pam Munoz Ryan – The ultimate story-teller, Ryan has written many captivating and diverse stories. ***Riding Freedom***, an historical fiction story based on the life of a real woman in the old West who with the love of horses, survived a difficult life. ***Esperanza Rising***, is the story of Esperanza, a young girl who thought she would always live in her beautiful estate in Mexico, but tragedy strikes and Esperanza and her mother must flee with nothing to the United States during the Great Depression- a story you won't soon forget. ***Paint The Wind***, Ryan's newest novel is set in the open spaces of Wyoming, again featuring the tender connection between a girl and horses.

Angie Sage - The ***Septimus Heap series***. For Harry Potter lovers, here is another story of a young wizard who must face many harrowing experiences as he learns to use his magic. Included in the series are: ***Magyk, Flyte, Physik***, and ***Queste***.

Brian Selznick - Selznick's Caldecott winning, ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret***, is described as a story told in pictures and words. Based on the life of a silent movie film director and told through the eyes of a young boy, this story and its presentation will enthrall kids and adults.

Eileen Spinelli – The veteran children's writer (and wife of Jerry Spinelli) continues with two of her newest stories told in free verse, ***Summerhouse Time***, and ***Where I Live***. In ***Summerhouse Time***, 11 year old Sophie's summer is not the same fun-filled days that she remembers, her cousin isn't speaking to her and her dad is aloof. By the end of the summer, Sophie realizes that she is growing up. A fun, breezy, summer read. In ***Where I Live***, another girl, Diana, tells a story of her love for her family through free verse poems, a new trend in young adult fiction.

Paul Stewart/Chris Riddell – A British author and a British illustrator collaborated to create the marvelous world of **The Edge Chronicles** series, including ***Beyond The Deepwoods, Stormchaser, Midnight Over Sanctaphrax, The Curse of the Gloamglozer, The Last of the Sky Pirates, Vox, Freeglader, The Winter Knights*** and ***Clash of the Sky Galleons***. The reader will meet many quirky characters in this fantasy series. In ***Beyond The Deepwoods***, Young Twig, adopted by a family of Wood Trolls, leaves the Deepwoods to go out into the mysterious and dangerous lands beyond, to find out where he really belongs.

Trenton Lee Stewart - ***The Mysterious Benedict Society*** and the sequel, ***The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey***. Exciting adventures of Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, the four gifted children chosen by Mr. Benedict to infiltrate the school run by a criminal mastermind who is using children to take over the world. In ***Perilous Journey***, the foursome is forced to go on an unexpected search--a search to find the missing Mr. Benedict.

Jeff Stone - **The Five Ancestors series: *Monkey, Tiger, Snake, Crane, Eagle*** and ***Mouse***. Set in medieval China, each book in this series focuses on a young orphan monk. Each orphan is named after a specific animal and is learning kung-fu-style martial arts based on their individual animal's characteristics.

Sylvia Waugh - What if you were a space alien on earth and homesick for your own planet? ***Space Race, Earthborn, and Who Goes Home?*** answer that question. Waugh is also the author of the **Mennymys** series about mysterious rag dolls come to life.

Henry Winkler – Want a laugh out loud story? TV star/producer now turned children's book author, Winkler (Fonzie from *Happy Days*) has created an endearing character in the **Hank Zipzer** series. Hank, the world's biggest underachiever is always coming up with "great ideas" and schemes that never quite work out how he planned, but it makes for a great story. Just the book titles will make you chuckle like ***The Zippity Zinger, I Got A D in Salami*** and ***Who Ordered This Baby? Definitely Not Me***.