



Suggested Books & Authors for Summer Reading  
Fifth Grade into Sixth Grade – Summer 2016  
Middletown Public Schools



**REALISTIC FICTION**



**Kelly, Erin Entrada**

**Blackbird Fly**

Future rock star or friendless misfit? That's no choice at all. In this acclaimed novel, twelve-year-old Apple grapples with being different, with friends and backstabbers, and with following her dreams. (Publisher)



**Buyea, Rob**

**Because of Mr. Terupt** (Any book in the series)

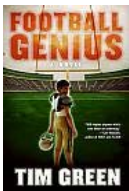
Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by rookie teacher, Mr. Terupt. (Publisher)



**Clements, Andrew**

**A Week in the Woods**

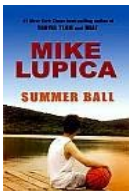
The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him. (Publisher)



**Green, Tim**

**Football Genius** (Any book in the series)

Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players. (Publisher)



**Lupica, Mike**

**Summer Ball or The Big Field**

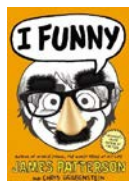
*Summer Ball*-Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp. *The Big Field*- When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl; he tries to work through his insecurities about Darryl and his remote and silent father who was once a great ball player too. (Publisher)



**Palacio, R.J.**

**Wonder**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, struggles to be seen as just another student. (Publisher)



**Patterson, James and Chris Grabenstein**

**I Funny**

Jamie Grimm tries to win the Planet's Funniest Kid Comic Contest while also dealing with his stepfamily, friends, and a school bully. (Publisher)

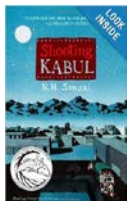
## HISTORICAL FICTION



**Park, Linda Sue**

### **A Long Walk to Water**

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who after immigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan. (Publisher)



**Senzai, N.H.**

### **Shooting Kabul**

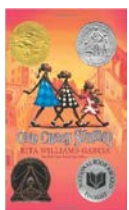
Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind. (Publisher)



**Stead, Rebecca**

### **When You Reach Me**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's television game show *The \$20,000 Pyramid*, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. (Publisher)

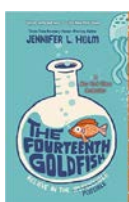


**Williams-Garcia, Rita**

### **One Crazy Summer**

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. (Publisher)

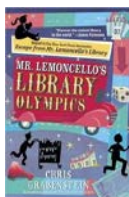
## ADVENTURE/SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY



**Holm, Jennifer**

### **The Fourteenth Goldfish**

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter. (Publisher)



**Grabenstein, Chris**

### **Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics**

Mr. Lemoncello has invited teams from all across America to compete in the first ever Library Olympics, but someone is trying to censor what the kids are reading. This book is the second book in a series, but it stands very well on its own. (Publisher)



**Buckley, Michael**

### **The Sisters Grimm Series (Any book **except** for the first in the series)**

When orphaned sisters Sabrina and Daphne are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother, Relda Grimm, who lives in a strange town in New York State known for its extraordinary number of unexplained and unusual crimes, they begin to unravel a mystery that leads to their ancestors' magical beginnings. (Publisher)



**Colfer, Chris**

**The Land of Stories** (Any book in the series)

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. (Publisher)



**Gidwitz, Adam**

**A Tale Dark and Grim** (Any book in the series)

Follow Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales - Faithful Johannes: Hansel and Gretel, The Seven Ravens, Brother and Sister, The Robber Bridegroom, and The Devil and his Three Golden Hairs. (Publisher)



**Haddix, Margaret Peterson**

**Among the Hidden** (Any book in the series)

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. (Publisher)



**Nielsen, Jennifer A.**

**The False Prince**

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war. (Publisher)



**Stewart, Trent Lee**

**The Mysterious Benedict Society**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (Publisher)

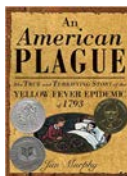
**NONFICTION**



**Brown, Don**

**The Great American Dust Bowl**

A speck of dust is a tiny thing. In fact, five of them could fit into the period at the end of this sentence. On a clear, warm Sunday, April 14, 1935, a wild wind whipped up millions upon millions of these specks of dust to form a duster, a savage storm, on America's high southern plains. The sky turned black, sand-filled winds scoured the paint off houses and cars, trains derailed, and electricity coursed through the air. Sand and dirt fell like snow, people got lost in the gloom and suffocated . . . and that was just the beginning. (Publisher)



**Murphy, Jim**

**An American Plague**

Philadelphia, 1793. The nation's capital and the largest city in North America is devastated by an apparently incurable disease, cause unknown. In a powerful, dramatic narrative drawing on first-hand accounts, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege. (Publisher)



**Cunningham, Darryl**

**How to Fake a Moon Landing**

Author-illustrator Darryl Cunningham looks at hot-button science topics and presents a fact-based, visual assessment of current thinking and research on eight different issues everybody's arguing about. (Publisher)



**Fleischman, Sid**

**Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini**

Who was this man who could walk through brick walls and, with a snap of his fingers, make elephants vanish? In these pages you will meet the astonishing Houdini—magician, ghost chaser, daredevil, pioneer aviator, and king of escape artists. No jail cell or straitjacket could hold him! He shucked off handcuffs as easily as gloves. (Publisher)

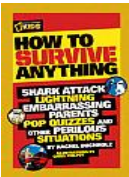


**Ford, Gabriella**

**Gabe & Izzy: Standing Up for America's Bullied**

In middle school, Gabrielle “Gabe” Ford developed a degenerative muscle disease, and was harassed by bullies as a result. She did her best to keep her head high, but it wasn’t easy. Then Gabe got a dog, Izzy, who developed an uncannily similar disorder. They were invited to appear on Animal Planet to talk about their

bond, which in turn led to her ongoing mission to put an end to bullying, one school at a time. (Publisher)



**National Geographic**

**How to Survive Anything**

Offers advice on how to survive any challenge, whether at school or in the jungle. (Publisher)

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**



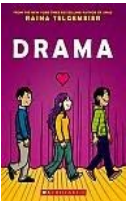
**Hale, Natan**

**Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales (Any book in the series)**

These graphic novels tell the thrilling, shocking, and TRUE stories of American history.

*Big Bad Ironclad!* covers the history of the amazing ironclad steam warships used in the Civil War.

Other titles include *Alamo All Star* and *Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood (A World War I Tale)*. (Publisher)



**Telgemeier, Raina**

**Drama**

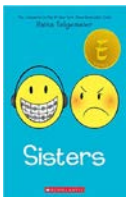
Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of *Moon over Mississippi* as various relationships start and end and others never quite get going. (Publisher)



**Telgemeier, Raina**

**Smile**

From sixth grade through tenth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself. (Publisher)

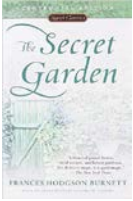


**Telgemeier, Raina**

**Sisters**

Raina can't wait to be a big sister. But once Amara is born, things aren't quite how she expected them to be. Amara is cute, but she's also a cranky, grouchy baby, and mostly prefers to play by herself. Their relationship doesn't improve much over the years, but when a baby brother enters the picture and later, something doesn't seem right between their parents, they realize they must figure out how to get along. (Publisher)

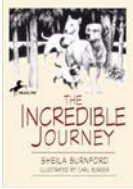
## CLASSICS



**Burnett, Frances Hodgson**

### **The Secret Garden**

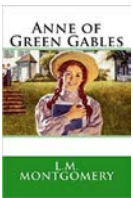
Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden. (Publisher)



**Burnford, Sheila**

### **The Incredible Journey**

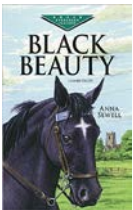
A doughty old Labrador retriever, a roguish bull terrier, and an indomitable Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness to make their way home to the family they love. (Publisher)



**Montgomery, L.M.**

### **Anne of Green Gables**

This classic recounts the adventures of Anne Shirley, an 11-year-old orphan girl who is mistakenly sent to Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, a middle-aged brother and sister who had intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm in Prince Edward Island. The novel recounts how Anne makes her way with the Cuthberts, in school, and within the town. (Publisher)



**Sewel, Anna**

### **Black Beauty**

A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters. (Publisher)



**Spyri, Johanna**

### **Heidi**

An orphaned young girl named Heidi moves to the Swiss Alps to live with her grandfather. Once in her grandfather's quaint Alpine village, Heidi befriends both the children and animals. But just as Heidi grows accustomed to her new rural life, she is swept back into the city to care for an ailing relative. (Publisher)