

Rising Fifth Grade Summer 2026 Reading List

The following titles are age-appropriate books from a variety of genres that are considered to be excellent literature. These stories are recommended by our teachers to feed children's imaginations, fuel their excitement in learning, and nourish their souls during summer vacation. The reading is not required but highly encouraged for young and old alike.

Fiction and Historical Fiction

Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Gone-Away Lake by Elizabeth Enright
One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Early Thunder by Jean Fritz
Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
Guns for General Washington: A Story of the American Revolution by Seymour Reit+
Mr. Revere and I by Robert Lawson +
Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos by Robert Lawson +
The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
The Children's Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Fall of Troy by Padraic Colum
Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss *
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame *
Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi *
At the Back of the North Wind by George MacDonald

Biographies

Abe Lincoln: Log Cabin to White House by Sterling North +
Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia by Margaret Cousins +
The Great Little Madison by Jean Fritz
Pocahontas and the Strangers by Robert Clyde Bulla
John Paul Jones by Sperry Armstrong
Why Not, Lafayette? by Jean Fritz +
Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold by Jean Fritz +
Around the World in a Hundred Years by Jean Fritz +
Pocahontas by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Columbus by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire +
Leif the Lucky by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Benjamin Franklin by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire +
Stonewall by Jean Fritz +
Daniel Boone: His Own Story by Daniel Boone +
Magellan: Ferdinand Magellan and the First Trip Around the World (Exploring the World) by Michael Burgan +
John Wesley: The World His Parish by Geoff and Janet Bengé +

* Advanced reading level

+ Pertain to topics that will be studied in history or Literature in the upcoming year