**Summer Reading Recommendations for Incoming 5th Graders, 2023**

\*If a series is listed, it is the first in the series that is described. Read “any in the series” as long as you are reading the books in their proper sequence.

\*Angleberger, Tom. The Strange Case of Origami Yoda (or any in the series) **HUMOR, FANTASY**

Sixth-grader Tom and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether the puppet can really predict the future.

Avi.   Something Upstairs **GHOSTS, FICTION**

When he moves to Providence, RI, Kenny discovers his new house is haunted by the spirit of a black slave boy who asks Kenny to time travel back to the 1800’s to prevent his murder by slave traders.

Bell, Cece. El Deafo **GRAPHIC NOVEL, REALISTIC FICTION**

In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear--sometimes things she shouldn't--but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is.

\*Cabot, Meg.  Moving Day (or any in the series) **FRIENDS, REALISTIC FICTION**

Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules.

Christopher, Matt. Comeback Challenge (any title by author) **SPORTS, REALISTIC FICTION**

             Mark, center for his middle school’s soccer team, the Scorpions, must cope with

             his parents’ divorce and a teammate who holds a grudge against him.

Cline-Ransome, Lisa. Finding Langston **HISTORICAL, SCHOOL, BULLIES**

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

Colfer, Chris. The Land of Stories:The Wishing Spell **FANTASY, QUEST, ADVENTURE**

"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 fairytale characters they grew up reading about."

\*Colfer, Eoin.  Artemis Fowl (or any in the series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Artemis Fowl is a genius, a criminal mastermind, and a millionaire and he is only twelve. But when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit, he doesn't realize the danger that he has gotten himself into.

Creech, Sharon.  Love that Dog **REALISTIC FICTION**

An unwilling student must keep a journal for class, the reader discovers the truth about the mysterious dog in the title and reader may be amazed by the power of words.

DiCamillo, Kate.  Because of Winn-Dixie **REALISTIC FICTION**

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

\*D'Lacey, Chris.  The Fire Within (or any in the series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

College student David Rain rents a room in an unusual boardinghouse full of clay dragons and soon wonders, is it possible that these sculptures come to life at night?

Draper, Sharon.  Out of My Mind **SCHOOL, REALISTIC FICTION**

Personal narrative of a brilliant fifth-grader, considered by many to be mentally retarded, who discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

\*Erdrich, Louise.  The Birchbark House (or any in series) **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Gantos, Jack.  Joey Pigza Loses Control **REALISTIC FICTION, ADHD**

Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team his father coaches win the championship.

George, Jean Craighead.  My Side of the Mountain **SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE, FICTION**

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs  human companionship.

\*Gidwitz, Adam.  A Tale Dark & Grimm (or any title in series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering witches, devils, warlocks, kindly strangers, and some horrific adventures as they take charge of their own happily ever after.

\*Gutman, Dan.  Honus and Me (or any in the series) **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card that helps him travel back in time to meet Honus.

\*Haddix, Margaret Peterson.  Among the Hidden (or any in the series) **SUSPENSE,  SCIENCE FICTION**

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.

Hahn, Mary Downing.  Deep, Dark and Dangerous **GHOSTS, SUSPENSE, FICTION**

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret and comes upon a mysterious and not very nice friend.

\*Holm, Jennifer L. The Lion of Mars **MARS, SCIENCE FICTION**

Bell has spent his whole life - all eleven years of it - on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid - he loves cats, any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why they don't have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

Jeter, Derek. The Contract   (or any in the series) **SPORTS, REALISTIC FICTION**

As a young boy, Derek Jeter dreams of being the shortstop for the New York Yankees. He even imagines himself in the World Series. So when Derek is chosen for the Little League Tigers, he hopes to play shortstop. But on the day of the assignments, Derek Starts at second base. Still, he tries his best while he wishes and dreams of that shortstop spot.

Keesler, Liz.  The Tail of Emily Windsnap **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

After convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.

\*Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody.  School Spirit (or any in the series) **GHOSTS, FANTASY**

Like her mother, a professional medium, Kat has been able to see dead people since turning thirteen, and although they would prefer to be normal, Kat and her best friend come to terms with their own talents while helping free the spirit of a girl trapped at their middle school.

\*Korman, Gordon.  Shipwreck (1st of a trilogy) **SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE, FICTION**

Six strangers, all kids, are stranded on a deserted island and must rely on one another to survive.

Levine, Gail.  Ella Enchanted (or any by this author) **HUMOROUS, FANTASY**

Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Lord, Cynthia.  Rules **REALISTIC FICTION, FRIENDS,**

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence and worries that his behavior will ruin her chances of becoming friends with their new neighbor.

Lupica, Mike.  Long Shot: a Comeback Kids Novel(any in this series) **SPORTS, REALISTIC FICTION**

Pedro, an avid basketball player, decides to run for class president, challenging a teammate who is also one of the most popular boys in school.

Mass, Wendy. 11 Birthdays   **FRIENDS, FANTASY FICTION**

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and after not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately, but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself again.

Morpurgo, Michael.  An Elephant in the Garden **WWII, SUSPENSE, HISTORICAL FICTION**

Lizzie and Karl’s mother, a zookeeper, persuades the zoo director to allow Marlene, a young elephant to be nursed back to health in their backyard. Can they keep themselves and the elephant safe as the war looms closer?

Mlynowski, Sarah. Fairest of All (or any in Whatever Afterseries) **FANTASY, FAIRY TALES**

After moving to a new house, ten-year-old Abby and her younger brother Jonah discover an antique mirror that transports them into the Snow White fairy tale.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.  The Boys Start The War (or any in the series) **HUMOR, ADVENTURE, FICTION**

Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, nine-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a war of practical jokes on the girls.

Palacio, R. J.  Wonder **REALISTIC FICTION**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan. Will he be able to endure the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student

Paulsen, Gary.  Lawn Boy **REALISTIC FICTION, ADVENTURE**

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

Relf, Pat.  A Dinosaur Named Sue **NONFICTION**

The story of the colossal fossil - the world’s most complete T. Rex.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. Ninth Ward **SURVIVAL, ADVENTURE**

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them.

Riordan, Rick.  Lightning Thief (any Percy Jackson or Kane Chronicles) **FANTASY**

Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him.  When his mom finds out, she knows it’s time that he knew thetruth about where he came from and that he go to the one place he’ll be safe.At Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods, a mystery unfolds.

Sachar, Louis.  Holes **MYSTERY, ADVENTURE,**

As further evidence of his family’s bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a horrible correctional camp where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of self.

Selznick, Brian. Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures **MYSTERY, ADVENTURE,**

Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets Rose. Just who is she, and what does she have to do with Ben?

\*Snicket, Lemony.  A Series of Unfortunate Events The Bad Beginning(or any in the series) **FANTASY**

Join Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire as they try to evade the evil plots of the treacherous villain, Count Olaf.

Speare, Elizabeth George.  The Sign of the Beaver **HISTORICAL FICTION, ADVENTURE**

Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

 Sternberg, Julie. Like Bug Juice on a Berger **REALISTIC FICTION, SUMMER** **CAMP**

At first she's excited to carry on the family tradition at Camp Wallumwahpuck, but when she gets there she finds icky bugs, terrible food, and worst of all: swim class, where she just can't seem to keep up with everyone else. But as the days go on, Eleanor realizes that even the most miserable situations can be full of special surprises.

Sutherland, Tui. The Dragonet Prophecy bk.1  The Wings of Fire  **FANTASY FICTION, DRAGONS**

Determined to end a generations-long war among the seven dragon tribes, a secret movement called the Talons of Peace draws on a prophecy that calls for a great sacrifice, compelling five appointed dragonets to fulfill a painful destiny against their will.

Vernon, Ursula. Dragonbreath **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up-close underwater tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea-serpent cousin, encountering giant squid and mako sharks--and learn about standing up to bullies in the process.

Watson, Renee. Ways to Make Sunshine **REALISTIC, FAMILY, SCHOOL**

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.

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Description automatically generated with medium confidence Weston, Carol. Ava and Pip **REALISTIC, FRIENDS, SIBLINGS**

When ten-year-old Ava uses her writing talents to help her older sister overcome her shyness, both girls learn the impact their words and stories can have on the world around them.

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Description automatically generated with medium confidence Winthrop, Elizabeth.  The Castle In The Attic **FANTASY, ADVENTURE**

When William receives the gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, he is excited. But it is not until he holds the toy knight in his hand and it comes to life that the adventure begins.