



Suggested Books & Authors for Summer Reading  
Fifth Grade into Sixth Grade – Summer 2017  
Middletown Public Schools



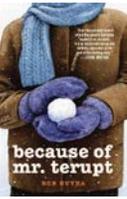
**REALISTIC FICTION**



**Kelly, Erin Entrada**

**Blackbird Fly, The Land of Forgotten Girls, Hello, or Universe**

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)



**Ripken, Cal**

**Wild Pitch, Hot Head, Super Slugger, Squeeze Play**

These books draw off Ripken's experience playing baseball, as well as the issues he sees facing kids today. It's an area Ripken is expertly qualified to write about: The Hall of Famer works with kids through his Ripken Baseball program to help them appreciate the value of hard work and sportsmanship while having fun playing the game. (Publisher)

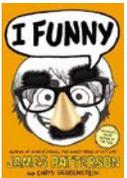


**Palacio, R.J.**

**Wonder, Auggie and Me**

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.

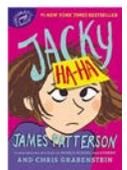
*Auggie & Me* gives readers a special look at Auggie's world through three new points of view. Three stories are a treasure for readers who don't want to leave Auggie behind when they finish *Wonder*. (Publisher)



**Patterson, James and Chris Grabenstein**

**I Funny** (Any book in the series)

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



**Patterson, James**

**Jacky Ha Ha**

In his new middle grade novel, James Patterson introduces his hilarious new heroine, Jacky Ha-Ha, a class clown who makes people laugh *with* her so they can't laugh *at* her. (Publisher)



## **Fish in a Tree**

**Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. (Publisher)

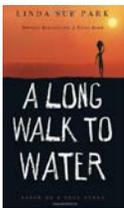


## **Short**

**Holly Goldberg Sloan**

Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of *The Wizard of Oz*, she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. She hasn't ever thought of herself as a performer, but when the wonderful director of *Oz* casts her as a Munchkin, she begins to see herself in a new way. (Publisher)

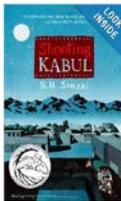
## **HISTORICAL FICTION**



**Park, Linda Sue**

**A Long Walk to Water**

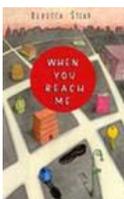
When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who after immigrating to America in 1996,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



**Senzai, N.H.**

**Shooting Kabul**

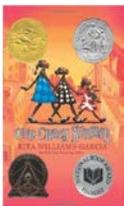
Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind. (Publisher)



**Stead, Rebecca**

**When You Reach Me**

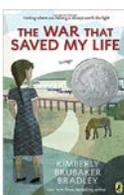
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's television game show *The \$20,000 Pyramid*, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. (Publisher)



**Williams-Garcia, Rita**

**One Crazy Summer** (Any book in the series)

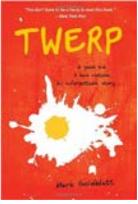
In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion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



**Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker**

**The War That Saved My Life**

This *New York Times* bestseller is an exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War for fans of *Counting by 7s*. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. (Publisher)



**Goldblatt, Mark**

**Twerp**

Julian Twerski isn't a bully. He's just made a big mistake. So when he returns to school after a weeklong suspension, his English teacher offers him a deal: if he keeps a journal and writes about the terrible incident that got him and his friends suspended, he can get out of writing a report on Shakespeare. Julian jumps at the chance. And so begins his account of life in sixth grade--blowing up homemade fireworks, writing a love letter for his best friend (with disastrous results), and worrying whether he's still the fastest kid in school. Lurking in the background, though, is the one story he can't bring himself to tell, the one story his teacher most wants to hear. (Publisher)



**Draper, Sharon**

**Stella by Starlight**

Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end. (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** (Any book in the series)

Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route! (Publisher)



**Buckley, Michael**

**The Sisters Grimm Series** (Any book 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 Grimm** (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)



### **Stewart, Trent Lee**

#### **The Mysterious Benedict Society** (Any book in the series)

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)



### **Markel, Denis**

#### **Click Here to Start**

What if playing video games was prepping you to solve an incredible real-world puzzle and locate a priceless treasure? Twelve-year-old Ted Gerson has spent most of his summer playing video games. So when his great-uncle dies and bequeaths him the all so-called treasure in his overstuffed junk shop of an apartment, Ted explores it like it's another level to beat. And to his shock, he finds that eccentric Great-Uncle Ted actually has set the place up like a real-life escape-the-room game! (Publisher)



### **Gibbs, Stuart**

#### **Space Case** (Any book in the series)

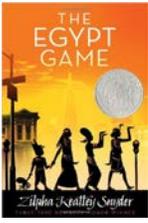
It's a murder mystery on the moon in this humorous and suspenseful space adventure. Like his fellow lunarnauts—otherwise known as Moonies—living on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is famous the world over for being one of the first humans to live on the moon. And he's bored out of his mind. Kids aren't allowed on the lunar surface, meaning they're trapped inside the tiny moon base with next to nothing to occupy their time—and the only other kid Dash's age spends all his time hooked into virtual reality games. Then Moon Base Alpha's top scientist turns up dead. Dash senses there's foul play afoot, but no one believes him. Everyone agrees Dr. Holtz went onto the lunar surface without his helmet properly affixed, simple as that. But Dr. Holtz was on the verge of an important new discovery, Dash finds out, and it's a secret that could change everything for the Moonies—a secret someone just might kill to keep.



### **Balliett, Blue**

#### **Chasing Vermeer**

This bewitching first novel is a puzzle, wrapped in a mystery, disguised as an adventure, and delivered as a work of art. When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect; an eccentric old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. As Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, they must draw on their powers of intuition, their problem solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI? (Publisher)



**Snyder, Zilpha Keatley**

**The Egypt Game**

The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians, and they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game until strange things start happening. Has the Egypt Game gone too far? (Publisher)



**Raskin, Ellen**

**The Westing Game**

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game! (Publisher)



**Hiaasen, Carl**

**Hoot**

Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter? (Publisher)

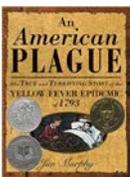


**Hiaasen, Carl**

**Scat**

Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, is missing. She disappeared after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp. And, to be honest, the kids in her class are relieved. But when the principal tries to tell the students that Mrs. Starch has been called away on a "family emergency," Nick and Marta just don't buy it. No, they figure the class delinquent, Smoke, has something to do with her disappearance. And he does! But not in the way they think. There's a lot more going on in Black Vine Swamp than any one player in this twisted tale can see. It's all about to hit the fan, and when it does, the bad guys better scat. (Publisher)

**NONFICTION**



**Murphy, Jim**

**An American Plague** (Other books by Murphy: Blizzard, The Great Fire, and Truce)

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**

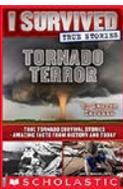
Who was this man who could walk through brick walls and, with a snap of his fingers, make elephants vanish? In these pages you will meet the astonishing Houdini—magician, ghost chaser, daredevil, pioneer aviator, and king of escape artists. No jail cell or straitjacket could hold him! He shucked off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



**Tarshis, Lauren**

**I Survived True Stories (Any book in the series)**

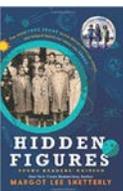
Each book takes readers into the heart of history's most thrilling and terrifying events, including the sinking of the Titanic, the Shark Attacks of 1916, Hurricane Katrina, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the San Francisco earthquake, 9/11, the Battle of Gettysburg and many more. (Publisher)



**Copeland, Misty**

**Life in Motion, Young Readers Edition**

Determination meets dance in this middle grade adaptation of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir by the first African-American principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre history, Misty Copeland. As the first African-American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has been breaking down all kinds of barriers in the world of dance. But when she first started dancing—at the late age of thirteen—no one would have guessed the shy, underprivileged girl would one day make history in her field. (Publisher)



**Shetterly, Margot**

**Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition**

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country. (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

### Smile

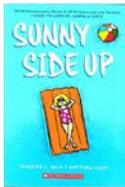
From sixth grade through tenth, Raina copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself. (Publisher)



## 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)



## Holm, Jennifer

### Sunny Side Up

Sunny Lewin has been packed off to Florida to live with her grandfather for the summer. At first she thought Florida might be fun -- it *is* the home of Disney World, after all. But the place where Gramps lives is no amusement park. It's full of . . . old people. *Really* old people. Luckily, Sunny isn't the only kid around. She meets Buzz, a boy who is completely obsessed with comic books, and soon they're having adventures of their own: facing off against golf ball-eating alligators, runaway cats, and mysteriously disappearing neighbors. But the question remains -- *why* is Sunny down in Florida in the first place? The answer lies in a family secret that won't be secret to Sunny much longer. (Publisher)



## Bell, Cece

### El Deafo

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! 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. (Publisher)



## Telgemeier, Raina

### Ghosts

Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. Cat isn't happy about leaving her friends for Bahía de la Luna, but Maya has cystic fibrosis and will benefit from the cool, salty air that blows in from the sea. As the girls explore their new home, a neighbor lets them in on a secret: There are ghosts in Bahía de la Luna. Maya is determined to meet one, but Cat wants nothing to do with them. As the time of year when ghosts reunite with their loved ones approaches, Cat must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister's sake -- and her own. (Publisher)



## Martin, Ann

### The Baby-Sitter's Club Graphix

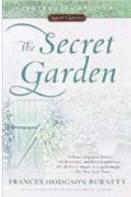
Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey are best friends and founding members of The Baby-sitters Club. Whatever comes up -- cranky toddlers, huge dogs, scary neighbors, prank calls -- you can count on them to save the day. Baby-sitting isn't always easy, and neither is dealing with strict parents, new families, fashion emergencies, and mysterious secrets. But no matter what, the BSC have what they need most: friendship. (Publisher)



**Hatke, Ben**  
**Mighty Jack**

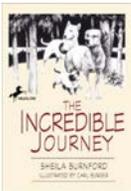
Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk—to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. (Publisher)

**CLASSICS**



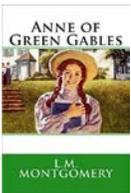
**Burnett, Frances Hodgson**  
**The Secret Garden**

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)



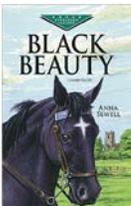
**Burnford, Sheila**  
**The Incredible Journey**

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)



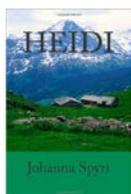
**Montgomery, L.M.**  
**Anne of Green Gables**

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)



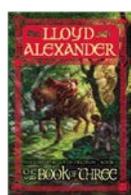
**Sewel, Anna**  
**Black Beauty**

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)



**Alexander, Lloyd**  
**The Book of Three**

Taran is joined by an engaging cast of characters in an epic struggle between good and evil that shapes the fate of the legendary land of Prydain. (Publisher)