

SUMMER READING TRAILERS & AUTHOR INFORMATION 2018
5TH INTO 6TH GRADE

Keep in mind that links to sites can change. Last checked May, 2018.

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.

[first 30 pages](#) [Author site](#) [Beetles song main character likes:](#)



Buyea, Rob

Because of Mr. Terupt

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)



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. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)



Ripken, Cal

Wild Pitch, Hot Head, Super Slugger, Squeeze Play

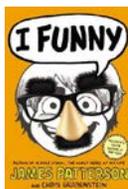
These books draw off Ripken's experience playing baseball, as well as the issues he sees facing kids today. It's an area Ripken is expertly qualified to write about: The Hall of Famer works with kids through his Ripken Baseball program to help them appreciate the value of hard work and sportsmanship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



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. [Book trailer](#) [Book site](#)



James Patterson 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. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



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. [Book trailer](#)



Hunt, Lynda Mullaly
Fish in a Tree

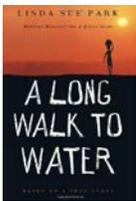
Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright,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



Sloan, Holly Goldberg
Short

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. [Author site](#)

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 emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan. [Book trailer](#) [Salva's story](#)



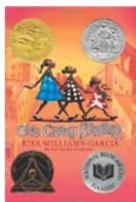
Senzai, N.H.
Shooting Kabul

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. [Book trailer](#)



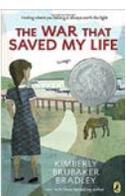
Stead, Rebecca
When You Reach Me

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s 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. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)



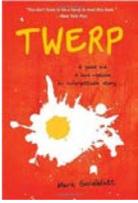
Williams-Garcia, Rita
One Crazy Summer

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. [Book trailer](#)



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. [Book talk](#) [Author site](#)



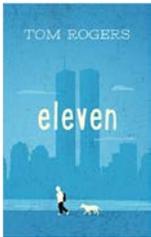
Goldblatt, Mark
Twerp

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. [Book trailer](#)



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. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



Rogers, Tom
Eleven

Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. Radar, his new dog, pretty much feels the same way. But this day has bigger things in store for both of them. This is a story about bullies and heroes. About tragedy and hope. About enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza. This is *Eleven*: the journey of a boy turning eleven on 9/11.

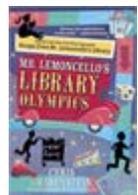
[book trailer](#)

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. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



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. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



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. [Book trailer](#)



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. [Author discusses book](#)

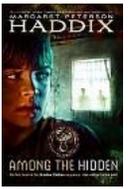


Gidwitz, Adam

A Tale Dark and Grimm (Any book in the series)

Follows 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.

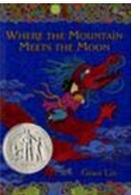
[Author discusses book](#) [Meet the author](#)



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. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)



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. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)



Stewart, Trenton 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. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)



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! No trailer found.



Gibbs, Stuart

Space Case (Any book in the series)

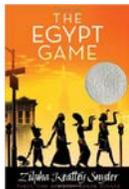
It's a murder mystery on the moon in this humorous and suspenseful space adventure. Like his fellow lunarnauts—otherwise known as Moonies—living on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is famous the world over for being one of the first humans to live on the moon. And he's bored out of his 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. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



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? [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



Snyder, Zilpha Keatley

The Egypt Game

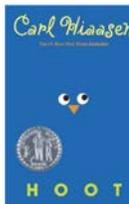
The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there 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? [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



Raskin, Ellen

The Westing Game

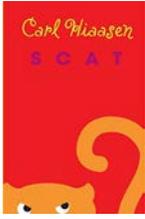
A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be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



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? [Book trailer](#)

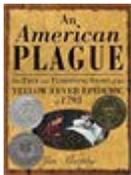


Hiaasen, Carl

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. [Book trailer](#)

NONFICTION



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. [Book trailer](#) [Meet the author](#)

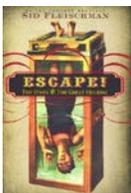


Cunningham, Darryl

How to Fake a Moon Landing: Exposing the Myths of Science Denial

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.

[Book trailer](#)



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, vanish elephants? 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. [Information on his life and videos](#) [Author site](#)



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.

[Author speaks about her past](#)



Tarshis, Lauren

I Survived True Stories (Any book in the series)

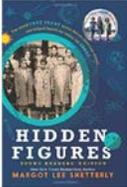
Each book takes readers into the heart of history's most thrilling and terrifying events, including the sinking of the Titanic, the Shark Attacks of 1916, Hurricane Katrina, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the San Francisco earthquake, 9/11, the Battle of Gettysburg and many more. [Book trailer](#) [Author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



Copeland, Misty

Life in Motion, Young Readers Edition

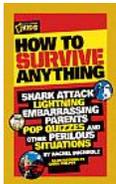
Determination meets dance in this middle grade adaptation of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir by the first African-American principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre history, Misty Copeland. As the first African-American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has been 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. [The story behind the book](#)



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. [Movie trailer](#)



National Geographic

How to Survive Anything

Offers advice on how to survive any challenge, whether at school or in the jungle.
(No trailer available) [See inside the book](#)

GRAPHIC NOVELS



Hale, Nathan

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)*.

[Author's book trailer for Alamo All Stars](#)



Telgemeier, Raina

Smile

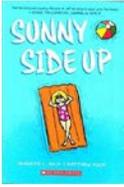
Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



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. [Book trailer](#)



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.

[Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)

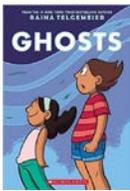


Bell, Cece

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.

[Book trailer](#)



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.

[Book trailer](#)



Martin, Ann

The Baby-Sitters 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. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



Hatke, Ben

Mighty Jack

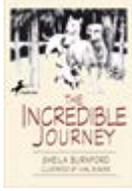
Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one 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. [book trailer](#)

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. [Movie trailer](#)



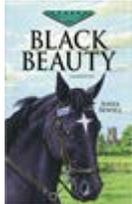
Burnford, Sheila
The Incredible Journey

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. (No trailer available)



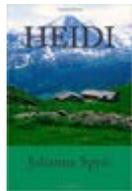
Montgomery, L.M.
Anne of Green Gables

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. [Book trailer](#)



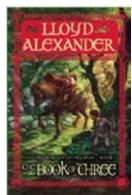
Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty

A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters. [Book trailer](#)



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. (No trailer found) [Book trailer](#)



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. [Book trailer](#)

These books were added to the summer reading list, we do not have book trailers available at this time:

Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

The Nest by Kenneth Oppel

Glory Be by Augusta Scattergood

Nightmares by Jason Segel

The Trials of Apollo series by Rick Riordan

Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard series by Rick Riordan

Hello Universe by Kelly Estrada

The Wild Robot series by Peter Brown

Serafina series by Robert Beat