SUMMER READING
5th and 6th Grade – Summer 2023

Want to learn more about these books? Go to the 5th and 6th grade summer reading LibGuide for videos, links, and descriptions!

Want to read something else? Great! Let us know what you are reading this summer with this form.

2nd St. Campus

For rising fifth graders, the required reading is:

- Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan
- TWO choice books from the independent reading list.

For rising sixth graders, the required reading is:

- The Night Diary by Veera Hirandani
- TWO choice books from the independent reading list

Cooper Campus

For rising fifth graders, the required reading is:

- Lion: A Long Way Home: Young Readers Edition by Saroo Brierley with Larry Buttrose
- TWO choice books from the independent reading list.

For rising sixth graders, the required reading is:

- Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia
- TWO choice books from the independent reading list
Independent Reading List

Non-Fiction

Who Got Game?: Baseball: Amazing But True Stories by Derrick Barnes

Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter

This Is Your Time by Ruby Bridges

(+ Backyard Bears: Conservation, Habitat Changes, and the Rise of Urban Wildlife (Scientists in the Field) by Amy E. Cherrix

Give Us the Vote: Over 200 Years of Fighting for the Ballot by Susan Goldman Rubin

(+ The Mayflower (History Smashers) by Kate Messner, illustrated by Dylan Meconis

Strange Nature: The Insect Portraits of Leon Bliss by Gregory Mone

(+ Who Is Kentanji Brown Jackson? by Sheila P. Moses, illustrated by Dede Putra

Suffragette: The Battle for Equality by David Roberts

(+ If a Tree Falls: The Global Impact of Deforestation (Orca Currents) by Nikki Tate

Genius Under the Table: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Eugene Yelchin

Ancient World & Mythology

(+ The Iliad by Gillian Cross, illustrated by Neil Packer

Lugalbanda: The Boy Who Got Caught Up in a War by Kathy Henderson, illustrated by Jane Ray

The Magical Monkey King: Mischief in Heaven by Ji-Li Jiang, illustrated by Hui Hui Su-Kennedy

(+ Treasury of Egyptian Mythology by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Christina Balit

(+ Mark of the Thief by Jennifer Nielsen

Dreamtime: Aboriginal Stories by Oodgeroo, illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft

Dragonfly Song by Wendy Orr

Aesop’s Fables by Jerry Pinkney

Prince of Fire: The Story of Diwali by Jatinder Nath Verma, illustrated by Nilesh Mistry

Historical Fiction

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hinton

Ahimsa by Supriya Kelkar

War Stories by Gordon Korman

Brother’s Keeper by Julie Lee

Different: A Story of the Spanish Civil War by Mónica Montañés, illustrated by Eva Sánchez Góme

(+ White Bird: A Wonder Story by R.J. Palacio

Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park

Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

(+ Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

My Year in the Middle by Lila Quintero Weaver

Echo Mountain by Lauren Wolk

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson
Realistic Fiction

Once Upon an Eid edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed
(+) Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero by Kelly J. Baptist
Rez Dogs by Joseph Bruchac
Confessions of a Class Clown by Arienne Costner
Starfish by Lisa Fipps
Ahmed Aziz’s Epic Year by Nina Hamza
When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed
(+) Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan
The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon
(+) From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks
(+) Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina
(+) Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian, illustrated by Nasaya Mafaridik
The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Moore
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
The First Rule of Punk by Cecilia C. Pérez
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée
How to Win a Slime War by Mae Respicio
Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds
Towers Falling by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Pay Attention, Carter Jones by Gary D. Schmidt
The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman
(+) Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Adventure, Survival and Sports

A High Five for Glenn Burke by Phil Bildner
Final Season by Tim Green
Jayla Jumps In by Joy Jones
(+) Power Forward by Hena Khan
The Call of the Wild by Jack London
A Wolf Called Wander by Roseanne Parry, illustrated by Mónica Armiño
Wildfire by Rodman Philbrick
Derby Daredevils: Kenzie Kickstarts a Team by Kit Rosewater
(+) Holes by Louis Sachar
Ana on the Edge by A.J. Sass
Takedown by Laura Shovan

Horror, Mystery and Suspense

(+) Small Spaces by Katherine Arden
Trace by Pat Cummings
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson
The Disappearance of Aidan S. (as told to his brother) by David Levithan
Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff
Don’t Turn Out the Lights: A Tribute to Alvin Schwartz’s Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark edited by Jonathan Maberry
The Owls Have Come to Take Us Away by Ronald L. Smith
Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse by Susan Vaught

Fantasy
Samira & Hamza: The War to Save the Worlds by Samira Ahmed
(+ Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston
The Marvellers by Dhonielle Clayton, illustrated by Khadijah Khatib
(+ Girl Giant and the Monkey King by Van Hoang
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton K. Juster, illustrated by Jules Feiffer
When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller
(+ The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Ikenga by Nnedi Okorafor
(+ The Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel Jose Older
(+ The Witch Boy by Molly Knox Ostertag
(+ Forest of Wonders by Linda Sue Park, illustrated by James Madsen
(+ Anya and the Dragon by Sofiya Pasternack, illustrated by Celeste Knudsen
(+ Kingston and the Magician’s Lost and Found by Moses Rucker and Theo Gangi
Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Science Fiction
Maya and the Robot by Eve L. Ewing, illustrated by Christina Almeda
(+ The Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar Giles, illustrated by Dapo Adeola
(+ Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez
(+ A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle
(+ Tiger Honor by Yoon Ha Lee, illustrated by Vivienne To
(+ The Giver by Lois Lowry
We’re Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey
Leonard (My Life as a Cat) by Carly Sorosiak
A Rover’s Story by Jasmine Warga