



*The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.*

## **Recommended Reading for Grade 5**

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with their students—your children— to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills will serve students well throughout their school career and beyond.

### **Resources**

In addition to strong book collections in all our school buildings, we provide online resources for students and families to use. From a home Internet connection, you can access the Library Media Program's web pages at [www.shaker.org](http://www.shaker.org). Click "Resources for Learning" and you will find a link to "Library Resources" where you will find online databases, curriculum-based web links and the online catalog for our school libraries. Some of these resources require a password, which is available from your child's school library or from the District Library Media Office.

The Internet has increased our resources for learning, but also overwhelms us in its quantity, with no assurance of quality. Our goal is to help our students make good selections and learn to judge the quality and intent of information in all formats.

To help students and parents make good selections, we provide a variety of online subscription databases which will give you reliable information from encyclopedias, magazines, and other reference materials. For upper elementary students, we particularly recommend you look at *World Book Online*, *Britannica Online* and *Sirs Discoverer*.

We encourage you to use the Shaker Heights Public Library to for a multitude of good books and reading experiences. The library staff can suggest just the perfect book for you, and they provide reading activities and events all year round.

### **Reading Links**

Fairrosa Cyber Library was designed by a middle school librarian to share information about reading and authors for young people. The address is [www.fairrosa.info/](http://www.fairrosa.info/)

Check the [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) website for our library links to good reading materials. You can go to [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) and choose resources, library resources, your school building and the "reading links" section on the navigation bar. The direct address is <http://shaker.org/resources/library/woodbury/readingLinks.htm>

Shaker Public Library also provides great resources for you to use at home, including resource lists, subject guides and even online books to read. Their kids' page can be found at <http://www.shpl.lib.oh.us/Kids/>

*For more information about the Shaker Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-4180.*

**Allison, Jennifer** *Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator*

During the summer before 9th grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his 13-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower. Sequel is *Gilda Joyce: The Ladies of the Lake*. *Fiction*

**Applegate, Katherine** *Home of the Brave*

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his American 5th-grade classroom. He longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner. *Fiction*

**Armstrong, Alan** *Raleigh's Page*

In the late 16th century, 15-year-old Andrew leaves school in England and must prove himself as a page before embarking to Virginia with Sir Walter Raleigh. *Fiction*

**Armstrong, Jennifer** *American Story: 100 True Tales from American History*

Roger Roth's full-color illustrations and Jennifer Armstrong's short, exciting stories of American history make this a perfect browser for the entire family. *Nonfiction*

**Armstrong, William** *Sounder*

A young black boy learns the pain of humiliation and anger when his father is given an unjust jail sentence. *Fiction*

**Avi** *Poppy*

Poppy the deer mouse wants her family to move to a cornfield big enough to feed them all forever. Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other plans. Poppy's adventures continue in *Poppy and Rye* and *Ragweed*. *Fiction*

**Avi** *Something Upstairs: A Tale of Ghosts*

Kenny discovers that his new house is haunted by the spirit of Caleb, a young black slave, who asks Kenny to return with him to the early 19th century to prevent his murder by slave traders. *Fiction*

**Ball, Johnny** *Go Figure! A Totally Cool Book about Numbers*

Why do daisies always have a set number of petals? This and other mathematical patterns and puzzles will delight your brain! *Nonfiction*

**Barnes, Joyce** *The Baby Grand, the Moon in July, & Me*

In 1969, the launching of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon fuels Annie's dream of becoming an astronaut. Problems at home, including the unexpected arrival of a piano, make her realize that only hard work will make her dream come true. *Fiction*

**Barron, T. A.** *Tree Girl*

Rowanna, the foster child of an old fisherman, is lured by a bear cub into the magic world of a nearby forest as she searches for her identity. *Fiction*

**Bauer, Marion Dane** *Runt*

Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father, King, and the rest of the pack and to earn a new name. When he ventures into human territory, he learns his own worth. *Fiction*

**Blume, Lesley** *Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters*

Eleven-year-old Cornelia, daughter of world-famous pianists, feels very lonely and isolated with her books. When Virginia Somerset moves next door with her servant Patel and a mischievous French bulldog named Mister Kinyatta, Cornelia discovers that the world is a much more exciting place than she thought. *Fiction*

**Bolden, Tonya** *Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl*

In her memoirs Maritcha Remond Lyons, born in 19th-century New York City, describes how she and her family escaped to Rhode Island during the 1863 Draft Riots and how she overcame prejudice to become the first African-American to graduate from Providence High School. *Biography*

**Bonk, John J.** *Dustin Grubbs: One-man Show*

A 6th-grader who longs to see his name in lights recounts life at Buttermilk Falls Elementary in preparation for the school drama production. *Fiction*

**Bosch, Pseudonymous** *The Name of This Book is Secret*

Two 11-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality. *Fiction*

**Boyd, Candy Dawson** *Charlie Pippin*

Spunky 11-year-old Charlie hopes to understand her rigid father by finding out everything she can about the Vietnam War. Her father survived the war, but it killed his dreams. *Fiction*

**Bruchac, Joseph** *Skeleton Man*

After her parents disappear Molly is turned over to the care of a stranger who claims to be her great-uncle. She relies on dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and maybe even for her life. *Fiction*

**Bruchac, Joseph** *Wabi: A Hero's Tale*

After falling in love with an Abenaki Indian woman, a white great-horned owl named Wabi transforms into a human being and experiences trials and adventures while adapting to his new life. *Fiction*

**Byars, Betsy** *King of Murder*

Herculeah meets a murder mystery writer and has the uneasy feeling that he knows more about murder than he should. (A Herculeah Jones mystery) *Fiction*

**Cameron, Ann** *The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods*

Amanda discovers she is a different person than most people know. When she adds a "K" to her name, it starts a series of events that leave her and her family changed forever. *Fiction*

**Clements, Andrew** *No Talking*

The noisy 5th-grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud 5th-grade girls to a "no talking" contest. *Fiction*

**Clements, Andrew** *The Report Card*

Nora just wants to be normal, so she hides her genius from everyone. When she comes up with a plan to prove that grades aren't important, things go out of control. *Fiction*

**Codell, Esmé Raji** *Diary of a Fairy Godmother*

Hunky Dory likes wishcraft more than witchcraft. When she is kicked out of charm school, she's determined to follow her heart and become a fairy godmother. It seems impossible until she meets Cinderella. *Fiction*

**Codell, Esmé Raji** *Sahara Special*

Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new, unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each student. *Fiction*

**Codell, Esmé Raji** *Viva la Paris*

Fifth-grader Paris learns about dealing with bullies of all kinds as she considers how to stop a classmate from beating up her brother at school and hears stories from her piano teacher about the Holocaust. *Fiction*

**Collard, Sneed** *The Prairie Builders: Reconstructing America's Lost Grasslands*

Follow scientists working on Iowa's 8,000-acre Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge as they work to bring back part of America's vast tallgrass prairie. Read how they locate native plant seeds, use fire to control plants, and restore bison, elk and butterflies to their habitat. *Nonfiction*

**Coville, Bruce** *Monster's Ring*

Russell escapes to Mr. Elive's magic shop to get away from Eddie, who's ready for a fight. The \$1 green ring he buys has powers that turn Russell into a monster, striking fear into people—including Eddie! *Fiction*

**Cowell, Cressida** *How to Train Your Dragon*

Follow the adventures and misadventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third. His goal is to pass the initiation test for his Viking clan, the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, by catching and training a dragon. Sequels are *How to Be a Pirate*, *How to Speak Dragonese*, and *How to Cheat a Dragon's Curse*. *Fiction*

**Creech, Sharon** *Heartbeat*

Annie loves to run, but doesn't like to compete. She looks forward to her mom's new baby, but is dismayed that her grandfather's health is failing. A school assignment lets her put all her feelings into words. *Fiction*

**Creech, Sharon** *Ruby Holler*

Fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage. Their lives change forever when a sweet but eccentric older couple invites them each on an adventure. *Fiction*

**Cummins, Julie** *Tomboy of the Air: Daredevil Pilot Blanche Stuart Scott*

When other women were fighting for the right to vote, Blanche was determined to become a pilot. Her spunky personality and determination made her the first American woman to fly as a commercial pilot. *Biography*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul** *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*

Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's huge dog Zoopy solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it. *Fiction*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*

Kenny lives through the ups and downs of family life in Flint, Michigan. An exiting trip to his grandmother's home in Alabama takes a serious turn when her church is blown up. *Fiction*

**Daley, Michael J.** *Space Station Rat*

A lavender rat that has escaped from a laboratory and a lonely boy whose parents are scientists meet on an orbiting space station, communicate by email, and ultimately find themselves in need of each other's help and friendship. *Fiction*

**Danziger, Paula** *United Tates of America*

Aspiring artist Skate experiences many changes when she enters middle school, finds her best friend drifting away from her, and loses her beloved great-uncle. *Fiction*

**DiCamillo, Kate** *Because of Winn-Dixie*

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

**DiTerlizzi, Tony, and Holly Black** *The Field Guide (The Spiderwick Chronicles, Book 1)*

In this, the first book of the "Spiderwick Chronicles" series, the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, where they discover a field guide to fantastic creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. *Fiction*

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark** *Chicken Boy*

Since the death of his mother, Tobin's family life and school life have been in disarray, but after he starts raising chickens with his 7th-grade classmate, Henry, everything starts to fall into place. *Fiction*

**Equiano, Olaudah** *The Kidnapped Prince*

This adaptation of Olaudah Equiano's autobiography tells the incredible story of a young boy who was kidnapped in Africa in 1775 and sold into slavery, and of his struggles to regain his freedom. *Biography*

**Fardell, John** *The 7 Professors of the Far North*

Eleven-year-old Sam finds himself involved in a dangerous adventure when he and his new friends, brother and sister Ben and Zara, set off for the Arctic to try to rescue the siblings' great-uncle and five other professors from the mad scientist who is holding them prisoner. Sequel is *Flight of the Silver Turtle*. *Fiction*

**Fast, Natalie** *The Secret Apartment*

New to New York City, 11-year-old Jillian makes friends, spies on her neighbors, and solves a mystery. *Fiction*

**Ferris, Jean** *Once Upon a Marigold*

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father. *Fiction*

**Flake, Sharon** *Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street*

Ten-year-old Queen, a spoiled and conceited African American girl who is disliked by most of her classmates, learns a lesson about friendship from an unlikely "knight in shining armor." *Fiction*

**Fleischman, Sid** *Disappearing Act*

When Kevin and his opera-singing older sister discover someone is stalking them in their Albuquerque house, they flee to Venice, California, where they hope that new identities will keep them safe. *Fiction*

**Fleming, Thomas** *Everybody's Revolution: A New Look at the People Who Won America's Freedom*

This history of the American Revolution focuses on the roles played by women and ethnic groups. *Nonfiction*

**Fortey, Jacqueline** *Eyewitness Great Scientists*

Full-color illustrations and photographs introduce readers to the world's great scientists and their discoveries, from ancient to modern times. *Nonfiction*

**Freedman, Russell** *Who Was First*

Most people believe that Christopher Columbus was the first explorer to 'discover' America. Read new evidence that Columbus was not the first but among the last of the explorers to reach the Americas. *Nonfiction*

**Funke, Cornelia** *Dragon Rider*

Ben joins forces with a dragon and a bad-tempered brownie to enter into mortal combat against Nettlebrand, a dragon machine who wants to kill all of dragonkind. *Fiction*

**Gaiman, Neil** *Coraline*

Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own. She is forced to challenge a gruesome entity to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others. *Fiction*

**Gantos, Jack** *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention and controlling his mood swings when his prescription medicines wear off. Read more in the sequel, *Joey Pigza Loses Control*. *Fiction*

**Gardner, Lyn** *Into the Woods*

Pursued by sinister Dr. DeWilde and his ravenous wolves, three sisters -Storm, the inheritor of a special musical pipe, Aurora, and baby Any - flee into the woods and begin a treacherous journey to defeat their pursuer and keep him from getting the magic pipe and control of the land. *Fiction*

**Giles, Gail** *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters*

Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier. *Fiction*

**Gordon, Amy** *The Gorillas of Gill Park*

While spending the summer before 7th grade with his aunt, Willy Wilson finds his first friends ever in the colorful characters who all love the neighborhood park owned by an eccentric old man. *Fiction*

**Grandits, John** *Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems*

You'll laugh through these word-and-shape snapshots of Robert's life—from a thank-you for an ugly sweater to odes about pizza and baseball. *Poetry*

**Greenberg, Jan** *Chuck Close Up Close*

This is an inspiring look at a contemporary artist who struggles with learning disabilities as a youngster, becomes a celebrated painter in the 1960s and overcomes paralysis to continue creating gigantic portraits. *Biography*

**Greene, Bette** *Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe*

Beth is a bright, lively girl whose only problems are caused by her crush on Philip Hall. She tracks down turkey thieves, sells vegetables, and rescues Philip. The sequel is *Get On Out of Here, Philip Hall*. *Fiction*

**Grimes, Nikki** *The Road to Paris*

Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, 8-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family, but, just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision. *Fiction*

**Gutman, Dan** *Jackie and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure*

Able to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson and turns into an African-American boy in the process. *Fiction*

**Gutman, Dan** *The Homework Machine*

Four 5th-grade students - a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker – are bound together by one very big secret: "Belch." *Fiction*

**Hamilton, Virginia** *Bluish*

Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia makes her pale and causes her to use a wheelchair. *Fiction*

**Hannigan, Katherine** *Ida B.*

Ida B. spends endless hours playing in the family orchard, but when her mother faces breast cancer, Ida B. has to go to public school and their family has to sell the beloved orchard. *Fiction*

**Hansen, Joyce** *African Princess*

Read these stories of daring, slavery, and warfare in the lives of African royal women from Hatshepsut to Amina of Zaria to Princess Elizabeth of Toro, who is a Ugandan lawyer, model and ambassador. *Nonfiction*

**Harkrader, L.D.** *Airball: My Life In Briefs*

Uncoordinated Kansas 7th-grader Kirby Nickel braves his coach's ire and becomes captain of the basketball team. He hopes to prove that NBA star Brett McGrew is the father he has never known. *Fiction*

**Hathaway, Barbara** *Missy Violet & Me*

Viney spends a summer away from her family with Missy Violet, and her adventures helping with "catchin' babies" and learning about healing plants will make you smile. *Fiction*

**Hiaasen, Carl** *Hoot*

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. *Fiction*

**Hicks, Betty** *Busted!*

Anxious to distract his very strict mother, 12-year-old Stuart and his best friend, a girl named Mack, determine to fix Mom up with Mack's Uncle Joe. *Fiction*

**Hicks, Betty** *Out of Order*

Four youngsters, ages 9 to 15, narrate one side of the story of their newly-blended family's adjustment, interwoven with grief and loss. *Fiction*

**Hobbs, Valerie** *Defiance*

While vacationing in the country, Toby, a cancer patient, learns some important lessons about living and dying from an elderly poet and her cow. *Fiction*

**Hobbs, Will** *Jackie's Wild Seattle*

Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center called Jackie's Wild Seattle. *Fiction*

**Hoffman, Alice** *Aquamarine*

A love-struck mermaid named Aquamarine supplies adventure and insights to two 12-year-old girls, life-long friends, who are spending their last summer together before one of them moves away. *Fiction*

**Holland, Isabelle** *Paperboy*

In 1881 New York City, Irish immigrant Kevin O'Donnell works as a messenger for a prominent newspaper as he struggles to support his family. Then Kevin is accused of stealing from his employer. *Fiction*

**Horowitz, Anthony** *Stormbreaker*

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, 14-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. *Fiction*

**Hulme, Joy** *Wild Fibonacci: Nature's Secret Code Revealed*

Hulme describes the Fibonacci sequence as it appears through a special shape called an equiangular spiral and in various other things in nature. *Nonfiction*

**James, Mary** *Shoebag*

Shoebag is a happy young cockroach until he is suddenly changed into a little boy. He finds life as a human very strange indeed. *Fiction*

**Jefferis, David** *Black Holes and Other Bizarre Space Objects*

This volume in the "Science Frontiers" series examines black holes and other astronomical phenomena, such as the birth and death of stars, the size of the universe, space-based telescopes, and gamma-ray bursts. *Nonfiction*

**Kadohata, Cynthia** *Kira-Kira*

Katie and her older sister Lynn are inseparable, so Katie is devastated when Lynn becomes ill. Instead of being cared for by Lynn, Katie is now the caretaker, telling the story of Lynn's illness and death. *Fiction*

**Kinney, Jeff** *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

Greg records his 6th-grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend Rowley--undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily--hope just to survive. When Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship. *Fiction*

**Konigsburg, Elaine L.** *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Claudia knows her family won't even miss her when she's gone, so she and her brother Jamie run away from home to live in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Fiction*

**Lewis, C. S.** *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Four English children find their way into the enchanted land of Narnia, where the wicked witch has replaced the rightful ruler, the golden lion, Aslan. Read all five books in the Chronicles of Narnia. *Fiction*

**Lowry, Lois** *Gossamer*

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream-giver tries to save an 8-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteads. *Fiction*

**Lupica, Mike** *Travel Team*

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the same team that his father once led to national prominence--12-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory. *Fiction*

**McGhee, Allison** *Snap*

Edwina wears different colored rubber bands on her arms to remind herself to do things. When her best friend Sally's grandmother dies, Edwina's challenge is to give up her bands to help her friend. *Fiction*

**Morgenstern, Susie** *Secret Letters From 0 to 10*

Ernest's joyless life changes in unexpected and humorous ways when he meets outgoing Victoria and her huge family. *Fiction*

**Myers, Walter Dean** *Handbook For Boys: A Novel*

Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop. From them, he hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants. *Fiction*

**Napoli, Donna Jo** *Bound*

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, 14-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well. *Fiction*

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds** *The Boys Start the War*

Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, 9-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a practical joke war on the girls. *Fiction*

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds** *Shiloh*

Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home. He tries to hide the dog from his family and the real owner, a mean-spirited man known to mistreat dogs and shoot deer out of season. *Fiction*

**Nimmo, Jenny** *Midnight for Charlie Bone*

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking. *Fiction*

**Park, Barbara** *Mick Harte Was Here*

Phoebe recalls her younger brother, Mick, and his zest for fun, and vents her anger over his early death from a bicycle accident. *Fiction*

**Park, Linda Sue** *Archer's Quest*

Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Koh Chu-mong, archer and ruler of ancient Korea, return to his own time. *Fiction*

**Paterson, Katherine** *The Great Gilly Hopkins*

Unhappy with her foster home, Gilly wants reconciliation with her real mother. *Fiction*

**Paulsen, Gary** *Molly McGinty Has a Very Good Day*

Super-organized Molly loses the binder with "Everything She Needed to Live," and by 9:00 a.m., she has a black eye and has torn her school uniform. All this on the day her free-spirited grandmother is coming to school! *Fiction*

**Paulsen, Gary** *Nightjohn*

Twelve-year-old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly-arrived slave offers to teach her how to read. Read more in *Sarny: A Life Remembered*. *Fiction*

**Pearsall, Shelley** *Crooked River*

Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town. Rebecca watches the town's reaction to the Indian, and struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death. *Fiction*

**Pearsall, Shelley** *Trouble Don't Last*

Local author Pearsall writes about Samuel, an 11-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, as they attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad. *Fiction*

**Peck, Richard** *A Year Down Yonder*

In 1937, during the Depression, 15-year-old Mary Alice is sent to spend a year with her fearsome, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois. She gradually begins to understand and admire her grandmother's unusual qualities. *Fiction*

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis** *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*

Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm and Harriet Tubman are among 10 African-American women standing up for what they believe. *Nonfiction*

**Robinson, Barbara** *The Best School Year Ever*

The rowdy Herdman kids make school life exciting with their antics while other children watch in awe and fear. This is the sequel to *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. *Fiction*

**Robinson, Sharon** *Slam Dunk*

At Harlem's Langston Hughes Middle School, 11-year-old Elijah "Jumper" Breeze and his friends compete against Nia and her girlfriends on the basketball court, in a video dance tournament, and for a Student Council seat. Meanwhile, several of the students face issues with their fathers. *Fiction*

**Rogan, S. Jones** *Daring Adventures of Penhaligon Brush*

When Penhaligon Brush the Fox is summoned by his step-brother to the seaside town of Porthleven, he discovers that his brother is incarcerated in the dungeon at Ferball Manor. *Fiction*

**Rylant, Cynthia** *Missing May*

Summer talks about her deceased Aunt May, who raised her, and attempts to get beyond her own grief and help her uncle survive. *Fiction*

**Sachar, Louis** *Small Steps*

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track. When his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. *Fiction*

**Sachar, Louis** *Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger*

Mrs. Jewels' leave of absence opens the door for some strange and scary substitutes at weird and wacky Wayside School in this sequel to *Wayside School is Falling Down*. *Fiction*

**Schwartz, Virginia** *4 Kids in 5E & 1 Crazy Year*

Family, school, and life in general are seen through the writings of four 5th-graders who are taken out of an overcrowded New York City classroom and placed with a teacher who shows them how to write and how to believe in themselves. *Fiction*

**Scieszka, Jon** *Oh Say, I Can't See!*

The time travelers inspire General George Washington to carry out a surprise attack on Hessian troops. *Fiction*

**Seidler, Tor** *Toes*

After getting lost on Halloween night when he is only a few months old, an intelligent seven-toed kitten makes his way into the life of a struggling musician. *Fiction*

**Selznick, Brian** *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

Twelve-year-old Hugo is an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station. When he meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, Hugo's undercover life and biggest secret are jeopardized. *Fiction*

**Shyer, Marlene Fanta** *Fleabiscuit Sings*

Members of a down-on-its-luck New York City family think they can make some money when they find out that their neighbor's dog can sing harmony in the family's subway singing act. *Fiction*

**Siegel, Siena** *To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel*

The author chooses a graphic novel format to describe how she decided at age 6 that she wanted to be a ballerina, and how that dream carried her from her home in Puerto Rico to dance class in Boston to performing with the New York City Ballet. *Fiction*

**Sleator, William** *The Boy Who Reversed Himself*

When Laura discovers that the unpopular boy living next door has the power to go into the fourth dimension, she makes the dangerous decision to accompany him on his journeys. *Fiction*

**Snicket, Lemony** *The Bad Beginning*

After their parents' sudden death, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to get their fortune. *Fiction*

**Springer, Nancy** *Separate Sisters*

Donnie is so upset over her parents' divorce that she gets into increasingly serious trouble at school, and does not recognize how much her older sister is hurting as well. *Fiction*

**Stewart, Paul, and Chris Riddell** *Fergus Crane*

Nine-year-old Fergus Crane's life is filled with classes on the school ship, interesting neighbors, and helping with his mother's work until a mysterious box flies into his window and leads him to adventure. *Fiction*

**Strauss, Rochelle** *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth*

Water has always been a necessity of life on Earth. Learn how and why it must be protected. *Nonfiction*

**Sullivan, George** *Helen Keller: Her Life in Pictures*

Rarely seen images trace Keller's life from birth, through childhood with Annie Sullivan, to college, and on to her many years as a dedicated social activist. We get a glimpse of her sense of humor, her experiences as a lecturer, her pets, and her last quiet years in Connecticut. *Biography*

**Taylor, Mildred D.** *The Friendship*

Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930's. *Fiction*

**Trumbauer, Lisa** *Practical Guide to Dragons*

In this companion to the "Dragonlance: the New Adventures" series, wizard's apprentice Sindri Suncatcher opens his personal notebooks to share his knowledge of these awe-inspiring creatures, from the life cycle of a kind copper dragon to the best way to counteract a red dragon's fiery breath. *Fiction*

**Voigt, Cynthia** *Bad Girls*

After meeting on the first day in Mrs. Chemsky's 5th-grade class, Margalo and Mikey help each other in and out of trouble. Read more in *Bad, Badder, Baddest*. *Fiction*

**Weatherford, Carole Boston** *Birmingham, 1963*

This poetic novel describes the feelings of a fictional 10-year-old girl, who was a witness to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombings in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. *Fiction*

**Wilson, Jacqueline** *Candyfloss*

When her mother plans to move to Australia with her new husband and baby, Floss must decide whether her loyalties lie with her mother or her father. It doesn't help that her best friend begins to make fun of her. *Fiction*

**Winkler, Henry** *Niagra Falls, Or Does It?*

Hank, Ashley, and Frankie prepare for a magic show at the Rock 'N Bowl. Then Hank's creative alternative to an English essay lands him in detention and grounded during the week of the show. *Fiction*

**Woodson, Jacqueline** *Feathers*

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her 6th-grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's friendship with him makes her see some things in a new light. *Fiction*

**Woodson, Jacqueline** *Last Summer with Maizon*

Margaret tries to accept the inevitable changes that come when her father dies and her best friend Maizon goes away to a private boarding school. Read more in *Maizon at Blue Hill*. *Fiction*

**Woodworth, Chris** *When Ratboy Lived Next Door*

When her new neighbor's pet raccoon bites her, Lydia decides to call Willis "Ratboy," and the two of them do battle, until she learns about the challenges Ratboy is facing in the house next door. *Fiction*

**Yep, Laurence** *The Imp That Ate My Homework*

Jim teams up with his grandfather, who is known as the meanest man in Chinatown, to defeat a powerful demon. *Fiction*

**Yolen, Jane, and Heidi Elisabet Yolen Stemple** *The Salem Witch Trials: An Unsolved Mystery From History*

In Salem, Massachusetts, some girls came down with a horrible, mysterious illness. The town doctor failed to find a reasonable diagnosis, so the townspeople concluded the girls were under a spell -- the spell of witchcraft! Become a detective as you read this true story from "The Unsolved Mystery from History" series. *Fiction*