

Reading List for Rising Fifth Graders Summer 2011

Complete the required reading assignment. Also, read two books from the additional reading list. By the start of school, you should have read 3 books. Be ready to talk about the books you read.

A two page paper on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland will be due at the end of the first week of school. In your paper you must describe the setting(s), introduce the main characters, and explain the plot. Include a concluding paragraph in which you explain what you liked, (did not like), about Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and why. Your paper can be typed, or handwritten (cursive, please).

Required Reading (and assignment)

Carroll, Lewis – Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Additional Reading (*It is required that you choose TWO from this suggested reading list*)

Lowry, Lois - Number the Stars – Set during World War II, a young girl has to struggle for her own survival.

Riordan, Rick -The Lightning Thief – Percy Jackson can't quite believe that there really are mythological characters. It's worth reading just for the chapter titles – Chapter 1 'I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-algebra Teacher'. (OR ANY OF THE OTHER TITLES IN THE SERIES.)

Dahl, Roald - The BFG If you like giants you will love this story.

Wells, H.G. The Time Machine – Travel back in time **and** into the future in this extraordinary tale.

Dickens, Charles – Oliver Twist and or A Christmas Carol
Classic Victorian stories full of bad guys and good guys, ghosts and monsters.

Twain, Mark – Adventures of Tom Sawyer
A small town, a small boy, and a great deal of tricks and adventures.

Sewell, Anna – Black Beauty
Written in the first person from the horse's perspective, this book reveals the plight of the workhorse in the 19th Century.

Stevenson, Robert Louis – Treasure Island
Treasure and pirates – a great combination.

Sachar, Louis Holes, (1999 Newbery Medal Winner)
Just why are those boys digging holes in the hot sun? An incredible tale of bad luck and fate unfolds in this award winning book.

Di Camillo, Kate
Because of Winn Dixie (2001 Newbery Honor Book)
Since her mother left when she was three, India Opal Buloni lives with her father, a soft-spoken preacher, in a lonely little trailer. Thanks to the help of a smiling stray she meets, she is able to befriend the people in her small town: Otis, working in a pet shop with an arrest record and a special talent for soothing the savage beast; Miss Franny Block, bear-fighting librarian; and the mysterious Gloria Dump.

The Tale of Despereaux - (2004 Newbery Winner)
This is a great story for children. It is about a tiny mouse named Despereaux, a princess named Pea, a rat named Chiaroscuro, and a peasant girl named Megory Sow. It is about bravery and love, hate and forgiveness.

Snickett, Lemony - "A Series of Unfortunate Events" Books (any one in the series)
"If you have picked up this book with the hope of finding a simple and cheery tale, I'm afraid you have picked up the wrong book altogether," warns the author. "I am bound to record these tragic events, but you are free to put this book back on the shelf and seek something lighter." A great read.

Speare, Elizabeth

The Sign of the Beaver Twelve-year old Matt is left to guard his family's wilderness cabin while his father returns for the rest of his family. They don't make it back as soon as expected, and Matt must survive the winter on his own. He is helped by Native Americans who teach him the necessary skills. They welcome him into their village and offer to take him with their tribe and he must choose between that and possibly seeing his family again.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond - Kit Tyler was raised in Barbados by her wealthy grandfather. When he dies, she travels to the Puritan colony of Connecticut to live with her Aunt, Uncle, and two female cousins. Immediately it is obvious that Kit's world was quite different. As Kit struggles to fit in, she befriends an old Quaker woman who is believed to be a witch. As a result of her friendship, Kit too is accused of witchcraft. She is put on trial, but is found innocent.

Paolini, Christopher

Eragon - When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself.