

Dear Parents of Fifth Graders,

Summer vacation is almost here! I would like each child to read at least two books this summer. Students will complete a **book report** and a **book review** over two of the books they have read. These will be returned on the first day of school, **August 14th**. I have compiled a list of books for your child to choose from. If they have another book in mind that is fine too. Just email me and let me know which book they would like to read if it is not on the list.

In upper elementary, each child is developing on their own continuum. To develop strength as a reader, children need a lot of time to read books that are "just right" for their abilities. It is important that children not read books that are too difficult for them. Research has shown that reading books that are at the "frustration level" can actually send a reader backwards in their development. When in doubt, help your child select books that feel "friendly/familiar" to other books they have enjoyed. Also, check out series books. It is fun to follow familiar characters through new adventures and help a reader grow.

Reading involves practice, and skill building occurs when children read for pleasure. If your child is desperate to read a harder book, read it aloud together. Their ability to comprehend a story read aloud to them is much higher than their ability to understand it alone. I have tried to include a variety of books for them. The more they practice, the better and more confident readers they will become. ☺

Here are some tips to encourage reading:

- Set aside a regular family reading time. Reading aloud and silent reading are both beneficial.
- Read to your child if time permits.
- Visit your local library. Get a library card!
- Recognize that your child's own choice and interests are important towards his reading enjoyment.
- Encourage your child to bring a book, or another form of reading material on trips.

I hope you have some wonderful plans for the summer that involve resting, enjoying friends and family, and reading!!

Warm Regards,

Ms. Gibson

Fifth Grade Summer Reading List

Island of the Blue Dolphins; Scott O' Dell

Old Yeller; Fred Gibson

The Secret Garden; Frances Burnett

Tuck Everlasting; Natalie Babbitt

Journey to Topaz; Yoshiko Uchida

Brown Girl Dreaming; Jacqueline Woodson

The Light Princess; George McDonald

Esperanza Rising; Pam Munoz Ryan

Number the Stars; Lois Lowry

Pedro's Journal: A Voyage with Christopher Columbus August 3, 1492-
February 14, 1493; Pam Conrad

Harriet the Spy; Louise Fitzhugh

Wonder; R.J. Palacio

To Fly: The Story of the Wright Brothers; Wendie Old

Little House on the Prairie; Laura Ingalls Wilder

Name _____

Skill: Book Reports - Nonfiction Books

Book Review

Title: _____

Author: _____

Date published: _____

Subject of the book: _____

Review of the book: _____

Interesting facts I learned from this book: _____

What I would like to know more about: _____

Name _____

Skill: Book Reports - Story Elements

Book Report

1. Title:

2. Author:

3. Name 2 characters in this book. Write a sentence about each one.

A. _____

B. _____

4. Tell where this story takes place. Write a sentence to describe the setting.

5. What is the problem in this story?

6. How is the problem solved?

