

5th Grade Summer Reading



Dear 5th Grade Families,

For the summer, we are going to focus on one of the most wonderful children's authors that I have discovered since I began teaching. The extremely talented Kate DiCamillo has written a number of books that are absolutely charming. For the summer, I am going to ask my new 5th Grade students to read two of her books.

The Magician's Elephant

Flora and Ulysses

I would read The Magician's Elephant first. It's a little tougher to comprehend, and it may take a little time to work through some of the more difficult details. We will be working with the two books in the first month of school. I suggest that students keep a notebook while they are reading the book, detailing concepts that they find confusing, as well as noting vocabulary that they think may be a little challenging.

We are also going to be reading ONE biography. It takes the form of a picture book but I think that getting to grips with biographies is difficult, and learning to work with them is a skill that we will practice throughout the year. The biography is entitled The Right Word: Roget and his Thesaurus by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet. It's probably a good idea that the kids read the book numerous times during the summer, because we will be looking at the picture book format and how different media are put together to create a story.

In addition to these books, I think it is reasonable to expect the students to read at least two other books over the summer. Some will read many more, but those who have issues with reading should find 5 [in total] books adequate.

Once again, the school will be registered for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge. Students can go to www.scholastic.com and choose the summer reading challenge option. Their user names and passwords will be on School Notes. They can log their minutes on Scholastic and the school can win cool prizes.

I will be providing a book list from which the students can choose their additional two books. If they have already read those books, then books of their choosing are fine, as long as they are age appropriate. I will also be providing a book report template from which the students can craft a book report. They are required to do ONE book report so they need to choose which of their summer books they want to report on. They are NOT to do a report on The Magician's Elephant or Flora and Ulysses or the biography. The report will be handed in on the first day of school.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. F

Adventure

Kit's Wilderness	David Almond
I am the Ice Worm	MaryAnn Easely
The Warm Place	Nancy Farmer
The White Darkness	Geraldine McCaughrean
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell
Peak	Roland Smith

Animal Stories

The Fast and the Furriest	Andy Behrens
Movie for Dogs	Lois Duncan
News for Dogs	Lois Duncan
Ghost Dog Secrets	Peg Kehret
The Guardians of Ga'Hoole Series	Katherine Lasky
Wolves of the Beyond Series	Katherine Lasky
Pet-rified	Dean Marney
Everything for a Dog	Ann M. Martin
Shiloh	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Rascal	Sterling North

Classics and Short Stories

Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl	Anne Frank
The Light Princess	George McDonald
Baseball in April and Other Stories	Gary Soto

Dramatic Fiction

The View from Saturday

E.L. Konigsburg

The Great Gilly Hopkins

Katherine Paterson

The Winter Room

Gary Paulsen

Fantasy

The Sisters Grimm Series

Michael Buckley

Matilda

Roald Dahl

Snow Wings

Jutta Goetze

The Phantom Tollbooth

Norman Juster

A Wrinkle in Time

Madeline L'Engle

The Two Princesses of Bamarre

Gail Carson Levine

The Magician Trilogy

Jenny Nimmo

Edgar and Ellen Series

Charles Ogden

The Dragon of Lonely Island

Rebecca Rupp

Historical Fiction

Bread and Roses, Too

Katherine Paterson

On the Wings of Heroes

Richard Peck

The Mystery of Rascal Pratt

Robbie Scott

The Cay

Theodore Taylor

Horror

Goosebumps Series

Various Authors

Haunted Campers

Allan Zullo

Humor

Frindle

Andrew Clements

The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of 5th Grade Kenneth Derby

The Canning Season

Polly Horvath

The Pepins and Their Problems

Polly Horvath

Picklemania

Jerry Spinelli

Mystery

Chasing Vermeer

Blue Balliet

Chasing Redbird

Sharon Creech

The Day the 5th Grade Disappeared

Terri Fields

The Homework Machine

Dan Gutman

Airborn

Kenneth Oppel

Sport

Heat

Mike Lupica

[He has written a lot of sport related books that are worth reading]

Slam Dunk!

Sharon Robinson

Suitcase

Mildred Pitts Walter