

Welcome to the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge!

Future 5th grade students,

Summer is finally here! After nine months of hard work, you can relax with your family and enjoy all that a lazy summer afternoon has to offer. We would like to challenge you, though, to keep your brains sharp this summer. Students entering 5th grade are required to read a novel from the provided list in its entirety by the first day of school. The following summer reading list provides a wide range of literature. Please choose a book from this list that interests you.

I hope you have a restful and blessed summer vacation. Be safe, and we will see you in August.

Love,

Mrs. Jones

5th grade English

Entering Fifth Grade Required Summer Reading List

You are required to read only! Book reviews will be completed during the first week of school.

Choose ONE of the following:

Little Men (Louisa May Alcott) Set in the 1860's, *Little Men* focuses on boys in the Plumfield Estate School.

Twenty and Ten (Claire Huchet Bishop) Based on a true story...during the Nazi occupation of France, twenty ordinary French kids in a boarding school agree to hide ten Jewish children. Then German soldiers arrive...

The Wheel on the School (Miendart DeJong) Why do the storks no longer come to the little Dutch fishing village of Shora to nest? It was Lina, one of the six schoolchildren who first asked the question, and she set the others to wondering. And sometimes when you begin to wonder, you begin to make things happen!

Reb and the Redcoats (Constance Savery) The Revolutionary War is seen through the eyes of a British family to whom an American prisoner of war has been entrusted. Technically, the young prisoner is in Uncle Lawrence's custody, but the children soon forge a forbidden friendship.

Pollyanna (Eleanor Porter) When orphaned 11-year-old Pollyanna comes to live with austere and wealthy Aunt Polly, her philosophy of gladness brings happiness to her aunt and other members of the community. A happy read.

The Railway Children (Edith Nesbit) The comfortable lives of three well-mannered siblings are greatly altered when, one evening, two men arrive at the house and take their father away. With the family's fortunes considerably reduced in his absence, the children and their mother are forced to live in a simple country cottage near a railway station.

The Borrowers (Mary Norton) Under the kitchen floor is the world of the Clocks, who simply "borrow" from the "human beans" who live above them. It's a comfortable life, but boring if you're a kid. Only Pod is allowed to venture into the house above, because the danger of being seen by a human is too great. Borrowers who are seen by humans are never seen again!

Gentle Ben (Walt Morey) The Alaskan wilderness is a lonely place for Mark Andersen, especially after the death of his older brother, Jamie. But in time Mark finds someone else to love--Ben, an Alaskan brown bear so huge that no one else dares come near him.

Lassie Come Home (Eric Knight) Lassie is Joe's prize collie and constant companion. But when Joe's father loses his job, Lassie must be sold. Three times she escapes from her new owner, and three times she returns home to Joe, until finally she is taken to the remotest part of Scotland—too far a journey for any dog to make alone.

Gone Away Lake (Elizabeth Enright) Once upon a time the swamp was a splendid lake, and the fallen houses along its shore an elegant resort community. But though the lake is long gone and the resort faded away, the houses still hold a secret life: two people who have never left Gone Away...and who can tell the story of what happened there.

The Peterkin Papers (Lucretia Hale) The Peterkins sit out in the sun for hours and fail to go for a ride because they've forgotten to unhitch the horse, they play the piano from the porch through the parlor window because the movers left the keyboard turned that way, they decide to raise the ceiling to accommodate a too-tall Christmas tree, and so on... A humorous book.

The Sign of the Beaver (Elizabeth George Speare) A survival story set in the 1700s. Thirteen year-old Matt is more than a little apprehensive when his father leaves him alone to guard their new cabin in the wilderness. When a stranger steals his gun, Matt realizes he has no way to shoot game or to protect himself.

You may choose any **Marguerite Henry** book. Apart from *Brighty of the Grand Canyon*, which is about a donkey, these are wonderful stories of horses, some with boys, others with girls, some set in Europe, and some in our own country.

The Twenty-One Balloons (William Pene du Bois) Professor William Waterman Sherman decides to take a year off and spend it crossing the Pacific Ocean in a hot-air balloon. But when he is found after just three weeks floating in the Atlantic among the wreckage of twenty hot-air balloons, naturally, the world is eager to know what happened.

Dog Jack (Florence W. Birros) Jack, a stray mongrel dog, wanders into a Pittsburgh fire station and becomes the mascot of the 102nd regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers. Based on a true story.

Of Courage Undaunted (James Daugherty) An exciting true story of the Lewis and Clark Expeditions.

In the Year of the Boar & Jackie Robinson (Betto Bao Lord) A Chinese girl immigrates to New York in 1947 and assimilates into a strange culture of tough kids, stickball, and the Brooklyn Dodgers.