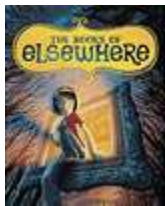


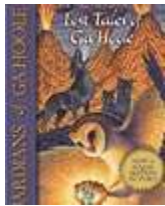
Summer Reading List for Fifth Graders



Raider's Ransom by Emily Diamand. It's the 23rd century and much of what used to be Great Britain is under water: Scotland has stretched its arms to gobble up more territory, and England is now just Ten Counties barely scraping by. When Lilly's fishing village is invaded by Raiders and the Prime Minister's daughter is kidnapped, the entire citizenry is suspected of treason. Armed with her wits, a barely floating sailboat, a mysterious jewel to trade as ransom, and a magical seacat, Lilly sets off on a brave journey to free the little girl. Suspenseful, intriguing, and teeming with pirates, technology, and danger, this book reads almost like historical fiction, even though it takes place in an unexpected future. Great characters, high seas adventure, and a racing plot will keep even reluctant readers interested. (The Chicken House, \$12.23)



The Shadows of Elsewhere by Jacqueline West. When Olive and her parents move into a mysterious old mansion, it doesn't take long for her to realize that something isn't right. Maybe it's the talking cat, maybe it's the moving paintings ... but Olive knows that she needs to solve the mystery of the old house, before it's too late. Full of magic and mystery, this spine-tingling tale features a spunky heroine and first-rate story-telling. The best part? It's the first in a series called *The Books of Elsewhere*, so stay tuned for more installments of magic and mystery! (Dial, \$11.55)



The Lost Tales of Ga' Hoole by Kathryn Lasky. Want more Ga'Hoole? This collection of stories that follows the popular 15-book series, *The Guardians of Ga'Hoole*, is just the ticket. The fantasy-filled anthology chronicles the forgotten beginnings--giving followers a final glimpse into the enchanted owl kingdom. Filled with bad guys, heroism, and a lovable main character, it's mesmerizing from the very first page. But if your kid hasn't yet discovered the captivating world of Ga'Hoole, it's best to start with *The Capture*. And with a 3D film, *Legend of the Guardians*, hitting theaters in September, it's set to be all the rage this summer. (Scholastic, \$6.99)



Simon Bloom: The Octopus Effect by Michael Reisman. Simon Bloom and his friends, Owen and Alysha, are not your normal, everyday seventh graders. Because normal, everyday seventh graders don't usually play games with the laws of physics. In *Simon Bloom: The Octopus Effect*, the second installment of this sci-fi series, we find Simon and his friends at it again with their sworn enemy, Sirabetta, who is now more determined than ever to take over all of the Teacher's Editions of Physics--a powerful collection of knowledge about the physical world. Simon, as the Keeper of the Teacher's Editions, along with the help of his friends, must travel to the realm of the Order of Biology and use the Octopus Effect to stop her. This hilarious and enthralling sequel to *Simon Bloom: The Gravity Keeper* will take you to the edge of reason and the edge of your seat. (Dutton, \$12.23)



Is It Night or Day? by Fern Schumer Chapman. It's 1937, and life is harrowing for Jews in Germany. Desperate to get their daughter out, Edith's parents send her to live with a set of American relatives she's never met. But Chicago couldn't be more different than her small German village. Bullied at school and worked to the bone by her aunt, she waits anxiously for her parents to arrive. There is no fairytale

ending here—far from it—but this spare, well-written historical novel teems with universal themes to which all tweens can relate. Sometimes heartbreaking, always eloquent, this is a fascinating look at one girl's narrow escape from Nazi Germany as part of the real-life One Thousand Children Project. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$12.23)



Charlie Bone and the Red Knight by Jenny Nimmo. Unabashedly Harry Potter-like, but still a thrilling and bewitching read all on its own, the Charlie Bone series is a page-turning adventure. With his dear friend Billy, trapped 900 years in the past, and his parents hopelessly off on vacation, Charlie must find a way to put a stop to the evil Bloor family once and for all. There is a will hidden deep within the magical Bloor's Academy that names Billy the rightful inheritor of the Academy, but the Bloor family, determined to take over the Academy, will stop at nothing in destroying the will. The series should definitely be read as a whole in order to experience the full breadth of what Nimmo's storytelling has to offer. (Orchard Books, \$9.35)



The Fizzy Whiz Kid by Maiya Williams. As a sixth grader who changes schools every other year, Mitch Mathis has come up with a few rules for surviving a new school: don't wear pants that are too short, don't wear brand-new white sneakers, don't hang out with the class egghead, and, most importantly, DON'T STAND OUT. Mitch and his parents have just moved to Hollywood, California, and it's week one at Cecil B. DeMille Elementary. Already things aren't looking good: he wasn't named after a famous actor, he got a wedgie on the very first day, and his dad came to career day *dressed as a cockroach*. Mitch knows something has to change...and fast. Can an open casting call save him from being dubbed the class weirdo for the rest of the year? Snappy dialogue, quirky characters, and lighthearted humor make this sweet story about fitting in a fun and refreshing summer read. (Amulet Books, \$9.38)

The Mousehunter by Alex Milway. Mice may not be too popular in *our* world, but in Emiline's world, people don't run from them screaming: they collect them! Mousehunters roam to the far reaches of the earth, seeking out the most unique breeds - from the fearsome Sharpclaw to the rope weaving Rigger mouse. Twelve-year-old Emiline dreams of becoming a famous mousehunter, and one day, fate intervenes when she's given the chance to join the crew of Captain Devlin Drewshank and hunt down the infamous pirate Mousebeard. What follows is a high sea adventure full of mythical sea creatures, double-crossing pirates, mysterious islands, and of course, incredibly interesting mice. (Little Brown Young Readers, 2009, \$15.99)



Ranger's Apprentice Book One: The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan. Choosing Day is the most important day in the life of a castle ward-- the day when Baron Arald gives each of the ward orphans the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to apply to be apprenticed to a master craftsperson. When Will gets chosen to become a Ranger, he's horrified. Mysterious, magical, and somewhat scary, Rangers (particularly his new master, Halt) have always made him nervous. But there's a lot more to being a Ranger than stalking around in the shadows, and soon Will learns that the kingdom's safety rests in their hands. Your child will thrill to the unfolding of this heart-poundingly great adventure. And the best news? There are half a dozen sensational followups in the series, once she's gobbled this one up. *Book 6: The Siege of the Macindaw*, a race of a read, full of humor,

friendship, and nail-biting tension, will be released this August. We dare even the most reluctant fifth grade reader to resist this series! (Puffin, 2006, \$7.99)



The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly. It's the summer of 1899, and 11-year-old Calpurnia Tate does not want to be knitting, cooking, and preparing to be a respectable lady. She'd much rather be a naturalist, exploring the streams and fields of her Texas home with her eccentric grandfather. The only girl in a family of six brothers, Calpurnia has her work cut out for her, as she must contend with piano lessons, a bevy of brothers wooing her best friend, and the societal norms that dictate what girls can and can't do, all the while trying to get a new species recognized by the National Geographic Society. This delightful and rich debut novel blends historical fiction with a curious, clear-eyed, and extremely funny female protagonist. A straight up great read. (Henry Holt and Co., 2009, \$16.99)



Toby Alone by Timothee de Fombelle. Toby is only one and a half millimeters tall, but he has some big problems. Toby's father, a famous scientist, has discovered an inconvenient truth about the oak tree they inhabit--the tree's lifegiving sap is running out due in part to over-development. Now Toby is on the run from the builders who control things, with a mission to save his parent's lives and that of the tree itself. For kids just wanting to enjoy a swashbuckling, albeit dark, adventure--it's all in there, just add imagination. For kids ready and willing for allegory--this tale presents a thoughtful look at the exploitation of natural resources. Originally published in France in 2006 and already translated into 22 languages, this is one huge adventure. (Candlewick Press, 2008, \$11.42)



39 Clues: Beyond the Grave by Jude Watson. Siblings Dan and Amy Cahill are on a mission to find clues to unlock the secret of their family's incredible history, and make them the most powerful people in the world. The only catch? They're competing with a very large, and very dangerous, extended family. In this fourth installment of the acclaimed *39 Clues* series, Dan and Amy, betrayed by their cousins and abandoned by their uncle, jet off to Egypt on the trail of another clue. On arriving, they get a message from their dead grandmother. Should they trust the message, or disregard it? Like previous books in the series, this one features a healthy portion of history, and a fascinating multimedia component that includes collectible cards and an online world where your child can get in on the clue chasing. (Scholastic, 2009, \$7.79)



The Black Book of Secrets by F.E. Higgins. Ludlow Fitch escapes his rotten life in the big city, by flinging himself onto the back of a carriage heading for the remote countryside. He arrives in the village of Pagus Parvus, and gets hired as the assistant to a mysterious pawnbroker-- a man who pays people for their deepest darkest secrets. Ludlow's job is to write the villagers' secrets down in an ancient leatherbound book. But when the town's richest man decides the pawnbroker must be stopped, both Ludlow and his mentor are in grave danger. Fifth graders will love this suspenseful tale, but parents, breathe easy-- while it's full of danger and anticipation, its bark is worse than its bite. There's nothing here to give your child nightmares...just enough danger to keep him under the covers with a flashlight, turning pages like mad! (Feiwel and Friends, 2007, \$14.95)