

Great Books for Fifth Graders

The following is a list of suggested books for Fifth Grade readers. Many of these authors will have additional titles appropriate for this age level. Call number can be found in parenthesis ()

Fiction

[The Strange Case of Origami Yoda](#) by Tom Angleberger

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future (J ANG)

[Circus Mirandus](#) by Cassie Beasley

When he realizes that his grandfather's stories of an enchanted circus are true, Micah Tuttle sets out to find the mysterious Circus Mirandus--and to use its magic to save his grandfather's life (J BEA)

[El Deafo](#) by Cece Bell

In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid (J GRAPHIC BEL)

[Bud, Not Buddy](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids (J CUR)



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[Flora and Ulysses](#) by Kate DiCamillo

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived (J DIC)

[The Tale of Despereaux](#) by Kate DiCamillo

This story tells of the adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin (J DIC)

[Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#) by Chris Grabenstein

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape (J GRA)

[Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure](#) by Dan Gutman

With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that homerun in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs (J GUT)

[From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler](#) by E.L. Konigsburg

A twelve year old girl and her brother run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and uncover a mystery involving a famous statue (J KON)

[Inside Out and Back Again](#) by Thannah Lai

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama (J LAI)



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[Ella Enchanted](#) by Gail Carson Levine

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her (J LEV)

[Midnight for Charlie Bone](#) by Jenny Nimmo

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking (J NIM)

[Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life](#) by James Patterson

When Rafe Khatchadorian enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct (J PAT)

[Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Patterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm (J PAT)

[Hatchet](#) by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce (J PAU)

[Maze of Bones](#) by Rick Riordan

What would happen if you discovered that your family was one of the most powerful in human history? What if you were told that the source of the family's power was hidden around the world, in the form of 39 clues? What if you were given a choice - take a million dollars and walk



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away...or get the first clue? If you're Amy and Dan Cahill, you take the clue - and begin a very dangerous race (J 39 Clues)

[Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#) by J.K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches (J ROW)

[Esperanza Rising](#) by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression (J RYA)

[Holes](#) by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself (J SAC)

[Smile](#) by Raina Telgemeier

Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with family, friends, boys and dental drama (J GRAPHIC SMILE)