



## 5th Grade Summer Reading!



Please choose one book to read this summer. You may choose any book from the attached suggested reading list. There is no required assignment to complete. **JUST READ!!!** We will have teacher-led discussion groups for each book when the school year begins. For the discussion, please be ready to discuss the main characters, the setting and the plot.

**\* Represents the book's reading level.**

- Books with a link included are offered through <https://archive.org/> for free online reading
- Books may be available at your Town Library
- Books may be purchased through amazon, Barnes + Noble, or other retail stores.

**\*Optional for anyone interested**

The Dudley Library is offering a free program to log reading time over the summer. The READsquared App can be used to log reading hours, and a certificate of completion can be earned from the Library. Go to: [Readsquare](https://www.readsquare.com/)

### El Deafo

**By Cece Bell**

**Genre:** Graphic Novel

**Reading Level:** \*Lexile 420

<https://archive.org/details/eldeafo0000bell>

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! 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.

The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear—sometimes things she shouldn't—but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for.

### The Crossover

**By:** Kwame Alexander

**Genre:** Fiction Novel

**Reading Level:** \* \*Lexile 750

<https://archive.org/details/isbn-9780544077777/page/n247/mode/2up> (Sign up for waiting list)

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. 'Cuz tonight I'm delivering," raps twelve-year-old Josh Bell. Thanks to their dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood—he's got mad beats, too, which help him find his rhythm when it's all on the line.

As their winning season unfolds, things begin to change. When Jordan meets a girl, the twins' bond unravels. Told in dynamic verse, this fast and furious middle grade novel that started it all absolutely bounces with rhythm and bursts with heart.

### Esperanza Rising

**By:** Pam Muñoz Ryan

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Reading Level:** \* \*Lexile: 750L

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

### Brown Girl Dreaming

**By:** Jacqueline Woodson

**Genre:** Memoir /Poetry

**Reading Level:** \* \* \*Lexile 990L

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child.

### Walk Two Moons

**By** Susan Creech

**Genre:** Fictional Novel

**Reading Level:** \* \*Lexile 770

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle, proud of her country roots and the "Indian-ness in her blood," travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. Along the way, she tells of the story of Phoebe Winterbottom, who received mysterious messages, who met a "potential lunatic," and whose mother disappeared. Beneath Phoebe's story is Salamanca's own story and that of her mother, who left one April morning for Idaho, promising to return before the tulips bloomed. Sal's mother has not, however, returned, and the trip to Idaho takes on a growing urgency as Salamanca hopes to get to Idaho in time for her mother's birthday and bring her back, despite her father's warning that she is fishing in the air. This richly layered Newbery Medal-winning novel is in turn funny, mysterious, and touching.

### No Fixed Address

**By:** Susin Nielsen

**Genre:** Fiction

**Reading Level:** \*Lexile 620L

Twelve-and-three-quarter-year-old Felix Knutsson has a knack for trivia. His favorite game show is *Who What Where When*; he even named his gerbil after the host. Felix's mom, Astrid, is loving but can't seem to hold on to a job. So when they get evicted from their latest shabby apartment, they have to move into a van. Astrid swears him to secrecy; he can't tell anyone about their living arrangement, not even Dylan and Winnie, his best friends at his new school. If he does, she warns him, he'll be taken away from her and put in foster care.

As their circumstances go from bad to worse, Felix gets a chance to audition for a junior edition of *Who What Where When*, and he's determined to earn a spot on the show. Winning the cash prize could make everything okay again. But things don't turn out the way he expects. . . .

Susin Nielsen deftly combines humor, heartbreak, and hope in this moving story about people who slip through the cracks in society, and about the power of friendship and community to make all the difference.

### One Crazy Summer

By: Rita Williams-Garcia

Genre: Historical/Realistic Fiction

Reading Level: \*\*Lexile 750L

[https://archive.org/details/onecrazysummer000will\\_m5fi](https://archive.org/details/onecrazysummer000will_m5fi)

Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer. This moving, funny novel won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction and the Coretta Scott King Award and was a National Book Award Finalist. Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern's story continues in *P.S. Be Eleven* and *Gone Crazy in Alabama*. Readers who enjoy Christopher Paul Curtis's *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* and Jacqueline Woodson's *Brown Girl Dreaming* will find much to love in *One Crazy Summer*.

### Inside Out and Back Again

By: Thanhha Lai

Genre: Historical Fiction

Reading Level: \*\*Lexile 800L

Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America. This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four starred reviews, including one from *Kirkus* which proclaimed it "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny." An author's note explains how and why Thanhha Lai translated her personal experiences into Hà's story. This paperback edition also includes an interview with the author, an activity you can do with your family, tips on writing poetry, and discussion questions.

### Helio Universe

By: Erin Entrada Kelly

Genre: Fiction

Reading Level: \*\*Lexile 690

In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kind hearted and feels out of place in his loud and boisterous family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister Gen is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just act normal so that he can concentrate on basketball. They aren't friends -- at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find the missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.

### Front Desk

By: Kelly Yang

Genre: Fiction

Reading Level: \*\*Lexile 640

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

### Restart

By: Gordon Korman

Genre: Fiction

Reading Level: \*\*Lexile 730

Grade Level: 5-7

A boy who's been a bully and hanging out with the wrong friends gets a new start after a memory-loss-inducing accident. But can someone really change who he is, or will the old him merely come back over time?