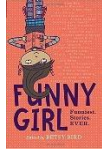


## Summer Reading Suggestions for Incoming Fifth Grade

<p><b><i>Going Down Home With Daddy</i> by Kelly Starling Lyons</b></p> <p>Lil' Alan anticipates a grand family reunion at Granny's house down home every summer, but he worries about how he'll contribute to the annual celebration of family history. This touching narrative explores the concept of family.</p>		<p><b><i>Just Like Jackie</i> by Lindsay Stoddard</b></p> <p>Alzheimer's impacts so many families now, and this title tackles the topic in a frank but hopeful way. Fifth-grader Robinson Hart has to learn to let others in when her grandfather, who has always cared for her, can no longer do so.</p>	
<p><b><i>A House That Once Was</i> by Julie Fogliano</b></p> <p>Two children discover an abandoned house that's anything but empty. This is a shining example of a book that can be enjoyed on multiple levels, and we love unpacking it with third-grade children. Plus, use it to inspire ideas about a child's own memorable items.</p>		<p><b><i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar</b></p> <p>Moving and funny with an edge, Louis Sachar's Newberry Medal-winning novel <i>Holes</i> revolves around Stanley Yelnats (his surname is Stanley spelled backwards), who has been sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention center, to dig holes. Soon after picking up the shovel, Stanley begins to suspect that they are doing more than just moving dirt.</p>	
<p><b><i>Wherever I Go</i> by Mary Wagley Copp</b></p> <p>Share this moving picture book to build a child's background knowledge about refugee camps and refugee experiences. (The author's note adds helpful context.) It's also a great choice to generate discussion about themes of courage and resilience.</p>		<p><b><i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Muñoz Ryan</b></p> <p>This is historical fiction at its finest. It's the story of Esperanza, a wealthy girl living in Mexico, who must go with her family to the United States during the Great Depression. Esperanza's life gets turned upside down, but she pushes through and learns that pleasant surprises can result from change.</p>	
<p><b><i>Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship</i> by Irene Latham &amp; Charles Waters</b></p> <p>When an unlikely pair works on a poetry project together, they think they have nothing in common. The effective back-and-forth format will get kids thinking.</p>		<p><b><i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick</b></p> <p>"I never had a brain until Freak came along and let me borrow his for a while." <i>Freak the Mighty</i> is the tale of the unlikely friendship between Max, a strong boy with a learning disability, and Freak, a brilliant, small boy with a heart condition. Together, they are Freak the Mighty: nine feet tall and ready to conquer the world.</p>	
<p><b><i>I'm Trying to Love Math</i> by Bethany Barton</b></p> <p>Bethany Barton uses her powers of persuasion to demonstrate the wide reach, usefulness, and coolness of math. Read this to quell any groans about the relevance of math in the real world.</p>		<p><b><i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> by Gennifer Choldenko</b></p> <p>Moose Flanagan isn't growing up where most kids grow up. He is a resident of The Rock, also known as Alcatraz, the infamous prison where his father works as an electrician. In an effort to help his sister, Natalie, who has autism, Moose gets help from an unlikely—and notorious—new friend.</p>	

**Funny Girl: Funniest. Stories. Ever.** edited by Betsy Bird

What do you get when 25 of today's funniest women children's book writers combine their stories together in one book? A hilarious collection that will make you laugh until you cry! Bonus: A portion of the proceeds from this book goes to support *WriteGirl*, a nonprofit whose mission is to empower girls by promoting creativity and self-expression.



**The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Fifth graders will enjoy Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic children's novel *The Secret Garden*. Mary Lennox is a spoiled orphan sent to live with her uncle at his mansion full of secrets. Generations young and old love this book that showcases the true meaning of the word *family*.



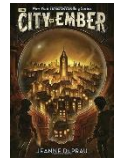
**Guys Read series by Jon Scieszka**

Looking for a book series to interest the boys in your class? Look no further than Jon Scieszka's *Guy's Read* series. Titles feature bite-sized tales that will captivate readers. Whether your boys are into sports, humor, or superheroes, they're sure to find a story to love.



**The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau**

The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the lamps that light the city are beginning to die out. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. This classic dystopian tale will light up your heart



**Pumpkin Falls Mysteries by Heather Vogel Frederick**

These stories follow the adventures of Truly Lovejoy, a young girl whose family has moved from Texas to a tiny town in New Hampshire to take over their family's century-old bookstore. Left largely to her own devices, Truly finds herself chasing down clues found in old books.



**A Hatchet Adventure Series by Gary Paulsen**

**The River** (book 2)  
Two years after Brian Robeson survived fifty-four days alone in the Canadian wilderness, the government wants him to head back so they can learn what he did to stay alive. This time Derek Holtzer, a government psychologist, will accompany him. But a freak storm leaves Derek unconscious. Brian's only hope is to transport Derek a hundred miles down the river to a trading post. He's survived with only a hatchet before—now can Brian build a raft and navigate an unknown river? For the first time it's not only Brian's survival that's at stake. . .



**The Book Scavenger series by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman**

These three mystery tales all begin with clues found on Book Scavenger, a geocaching-style game where participants hide books in public places and reveal the locations through encoded clues. Set in charming detail in and around San Francisco, Emily and James embark on three rollicking, heart-thumping adventures.



**A Hatchet Adventure Series by Gary Paulsen**

**Brian's Winter** (book 3)  
In the Newbery Honor-winning Hatchet, thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. As millions of readers know, he was rescued at the end of the summer. But what if that hadn't happened? What if Brian had been left to face his deadliest enemy—winter? Brian Paulsen raises the stakes for survival in this riveting and inspiring story as one boy confronts the ultimate adventure.



**The Land of Stories series by Chris Colfer**

Introduce kids to a series they won't be able to put down ... until all six installments are complete! When twins Alex and Conner Bailey fall into fairytale realm, their adventures begin.



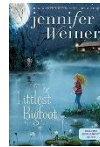
**The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis**

History unfolds in this book set during the Civil Rights Movement when the Watsons, a family from Flint, Michigan, takes a road trip to Alabama. Chock-full of family dynamics, adolescent angst, and humor, this book will encourage much discussion about what Birmingham was like in 1963.



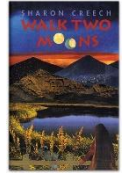
**The Littlest Bigfoot by Jennifer Weiner**

The fantastical story of a girl who finds friendship in the unlikely of companions—a young member of the Bigfoot clan.



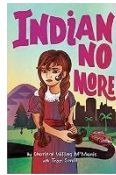
**Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech**

Two heartwarming, compelling stories are woven together in this delightful tale. As 13-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle takes a cross country trip with her grandparents, a story of love, loss, and the depth and complexity of human emotion is revealed.



**Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis**

When the U.S. government passes a law declassifying her family's tribe, Regina must grapple with tough questions about what that means for her identity—is she Indian, American, or both? This discussion-worthy novel, rooted in the author's own experiences, is ideal for advanced readers or as a compelling read aloud.



**Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli**

Leo's a normal kid in a normal town. When Stargirl shows up with her rat, her ukelele, and her crazy ideas, nobody knows quite what to make of her.

