

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices

### ***Boston Jane: Wilderness Days***

**by Jennifer L. Holm**

Abandoned on the frontier by her faithless fiancé, Jane Peck prepares to head home, only to learn that Philadelphia life she once knew is no more. But can a proper young lady find happiness as the only woman in a primitive pioneer settlement? Armed with only a finishing-school education and her natural determination, Jane must endure life with her flea-bitten landlord, a perilous manhunt and the traps and hazards of a blossoming romance. Will Jane survive the challenges of the wild, uncharted frontiers of friendship, love and the Washington Territory?

### ***Bud, Not Buddy***

**by Christopher Paul Curtis**

Its 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but he's on a mission. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: posters of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression! Bud's got an idea that those posters will lead to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him.

### ***Chasing Redbird***

**by Sharon Creech**

Zinnia Taylor lives in Bybanks, Kentucky, with too many brothers and sisters -- a mess of "tadpoles" and "pumpkins" is what her uncle Nate calls them. When Zinny discovers a mysterious, overgrown trail that begins on her family's farm, she's determined to clear it, from start to finish. For she's finally found a place of her own, a place where she can go, away from her family, to hear herself think. But what Zinny didn't realize is that the mysteries of the trail are intertwined with her own unanswered questions and family secrets, and that the trail -- and her passion to uncover it -- is leading her on a journey home. CHASING REDBIRD is a powerful, beautifully crafted story about a young girl discovering that life is a tangle of mysteries, surprises, and everyday occurrences -- a journey that often needs unravelling and that sometimes must be traveled alone.

### ***Chocolate Covered Ants***

**by Stephanie Manes**

This humorous story about two young brothers and an ant colony shows 9 – to – 12-year-old readers how sibling rivalry can sometimes go a bit too far. When Adam gets an ant colony for his birthday, he decides to become an expert on the insect. He reads about ants at the library and impatiently waits for his new “pets” to arrive. But older brother Max is determined to get the best of his brother and tells him that some people actually eat chocolate-covered ants. Adam doesn't believe Max, and the two brothers make a bet.

***Dear Mr. Henshaw***

**by Beverly Cleary, Paul O. Zelinsky (illus.)**

When fourth grader Leigh Botts asks Mr. Henshaw to write to him personally, he gets more than he bargained for. Mr. Henshaw's letters are full of questions, and Leigh is getting tired of answering them. But as he continues his correspondence with his favorite author, he not only gets plenty of tips on writing, but he also finds a wise and thoughtful friend to whom he can tell his troubles.

***From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***

**by E. L. Konigsburg**

The enchanting story of the unappreciated Claudia Kincaid, "boring straight-A Claudia" (oldest child and only girl and almost too old for half-fare tickets), who runs away with her little brother Jamie to live in the Metropolitan Museum, FILES is a sentimental favorite with a remarkable heroine. Crammed with fascinating details -- strategies for hiding in a museum, techniques for bathing in a fountain, the smell of a 16th-century bed (musty), and tantalizing peeks at the Met and its treasures -- it's a grand adventure. More important, FILES is the story of Claudia's quest to define herself. In the fulfillment of that quest, her own resourcefulness is bolstered by a statue that may or may not be by Michelangelo; a brother who proves to be a fabulous ally; and the wise, prickly Mrs. Frankweiler herself.

***In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson***

**by Bette Bao Lord, Marc Simont (illus.)**

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle -- baseball -- happens. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie Robinson is proving that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America. And for Shirley as well, on the ball field and off, America becomes the land of opportunity.

***Rules***

**By Cynthia Lord**

Although she often feels crowded out by the needs of her autistic brother, Catherine shows uncommon sensitivity toward him. As she copes with the difficulties he presents, Catherine expands her own world in ways that she could never have predicted.

***Series of Unfortunate Events***

**By Lemony Snicketts**

Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire are three intelligent young children who receive terrible news that their parents have died in a fire and have left them an enormous fortune not to be used until the eldest child is of age. When they are sent to live with Count Olaf, a greedy distant relative, they soon learn he is trying to steal their fortune for himself.

## ***Shiloh***

**by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

Eleven-year-old Marty Preston loves to spend time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Sometimes he takes his .22 rifle to see what he can shoot, like some cans lined up on a rail fence. Other times he goes up early in the morning just to sit and watch the fox and deer. But one summer Sunday, Marty comes across something different on the road just past the old Shiloh schoolhouses -- a young beagle -- and the trouble begins. What do you do when a dog you suspect is being mistreated runs away and comes to you? When it is someone else's dog? When the man who owns him has a gun? This is Marty's problem, and he finds it is one he has to face alone. When his solution gets too big for him to handle, things become more frightening still. Finally, Marty puts his courage on the line and discovers in the process that it is not always easy to separate right from wrong. Sometimes, however, you'll do almost anything to save a dog you love.

## ***The Indian in the Cupboard***

**by Lynne Reid Banks**

When Omri's big brother has no birthday present for him, he gives Omri an old wooden medicine cabinet he's found. The cabinet doesn't seem like much of a present to nine-year-old Omri, until he deposits inside it another present he receives for his birthday: a miniature plastic Indian. His mother comes up with a key for the cabinet, and the real magic begins. When Omri turns the key once, the Indian, named Little Bear comes alive; but turn the key a second time and it's an ordinary plastic Indian again

## ***11 Birthdays***

**By Wendy Mass**

It's Amanda's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday and she is super excited – after all, 11 is so different from 10. But from the start, everything goes wrong. The worst part of it all is that she and her best friend, Leo, with whom she's shared every birthday, are on the outs and this will be the first birthday that haven't shared together.

When Amanda turns in for the night, glad to have her birthday behind her, she wakes up happy for a new day. Or is it? Her birthday seems to be repeating itself. What is going on?! And how can she fix it? Only time, friendship and a little luck will tell...