

Dear Rising 5th Grader,

I am so excited to be welcoming you in September. I know you have learned a lot and look forward to watching you grow in academics and faith in the coming year.

To further prepare you for 5th grade, I encourage you to read one chapter book this summer and complete one of the activities listed. Return the assignment the first week of school in September. The back of this sheet has summer reading suggestions and a variety of activities to choose from.

As you read, take notes in the margins (if it is your own book) or in a notebook. What details stand out to you? What connections do you make? Think about how the characters change from the beginning to the end of the story. Start reading early to give yourself plenty of time to enjoy the book and complete the assignment.

The new school year will provide many opportunities for you to develop your strengths. I look forward to helping you succeed in fifth grade!

Love,
Your 5th Grade Teacher



Book Suggestions: Choose from the list, or read your own choice.

- **The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate
- **It Doesn't Take a Genius** by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich
- **Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis
- **Spy Ring** by Sarah Beth Durst
- **The Sherlock Society (Series)** by James Ponti
- **Minerva Keen's Detective Club** by James Patterson
- **The Frame-Up** by Wendy McLeod Macknight
- **The Worst Class Trip Ever** by Dave Barry
- **Front Desk** by Kelly Yang
- **Always, Clementine** by Carlie Sorosiak
- **Fuzzy Mud** by Louis Sachar
- **The Blackbird Girls** by Anne Blankman
- **Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed
- **The Watsons Go to Birmingham** by Christopher Paul Curtis
- **The Green Ember** by S.D. Smith
- **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg
- **The Magician's Elephant** by Kate DiCamillo
- **Loser** by Jerry Spinelli
- **Olive's Ocean** by Kevin Henkes
- **Cosmic** by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- **A Long Way From Chicago** by Richard Peck
- **Wildfire: A Novel** by Rodman Philbrick

After-Reading Activities: Choose one

1. **Reading Journal** – Write a paragraph about what happened in the book and draw a picture of your favorite part. Then, write about this part and why it is your favorite.
2. **Character Traits** – Choose a character from the book and write 3 traits that describe them. Give examples from the book of how the traits fit the character.
3. **Postcard Summary** – Draw a postcard about the story's setting or main event and write a short note "to a friend or teacher" describing the book.
4. **Book Review** – Write a summary of the story and then rate the book out of 5 stars. Explain your rating. Would you recommend the book to a friend? Why or why not?
5. **Story Map** – Identify characters, setting, problem, events, and solution.
6. **One-Pager** – Include the title, author, illustration, favorite quote, and summary.
7. **Book Jacket** – Redesign the front cover of the book. Including the title and author. On the back, write a short summary of the book.
8. **Create a Comic Strip** – Retell a key scene or the whole story in comic strip form using 6–8 panels with dialogue and captions.
9. **Write a Letter to the Author** – Share what you liked about the book, ask a question, or suggest an idea for a sequel.
10. **Make a Playlist** – Choose 3–5 songs that match the mood, characters, or events of the book and explain why.
11. **Create a Character Interview** – Write 5–7 questions you'd ask the main character, and answer them in the character's voice.
12. **Build a Diorama** – Use a shoebox to create a 3D scene from the book (a favorite moment, the setting, etc.).
13. **Character Trading Card** – Design a trading card for one character with their name, picture, strengths, weaknesses, and favorite quote.
14. **Timeline of Events** – Make a timeline showing at least 5 major events in the book in the order they happened.
15. **Write a Sequel Chapter** – Imagine what happens next and write a new chapter that could follow the book's ending.