

Summer Reading for Grade 5

Hello families! Below are the summer reading requirements for the 2026–2027 school year.

Each student will read *The One and Only Ivan* and complete a project of their choice from the three options listed below.

Then, they will choose a book from the list found on the last page of this packet and complete an assignment (directions also found on the last page).

Mandatory book: *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

Project Options (CHOOSE ONE!):

1. Comic Strip Summary

Goal: Retell the most important events of the story in comic-strip form.

Directions:

1. Use **8–12 comic panels** on a piece of construction paper.
2. Each panel should include:
 - A **drawing** that shows an important event from the story.
 - A **caption or speech bubble** (1–3 sentences) explaining what is happening.
3. Tell the story in **chronological order** (beginning, middle, and end).
4. Include the major characters:
 - Ivan
 - Ruby
 - Stella
 - Bob
 - Mack
5. Show the most important events!
6. Use color and neat illustrations.
7. Give your comic a **title** and include your name on the back.

2. Book in a Box

Goal: Demonstrate your understanding of the novel by creating a shoebox display that represents important characters, events, settings, and themes from the story.

Directions

1. Find a shoebox or similar-sized box.
2. Decorate the outside of the box with:
 - The title, *The One and Only Ivan*
 - The author's name, Katherine Applegate
 - Illustrations, pictures, symbols, or quotes related to the story
3. Write a **summary of the novel (1–2 paragraphs)** on the outside of the box. Your summary should include the main characters, major events, and how the story ends.
4. Fill the shoebox with **5 objects** that represent important parts of the story.
 - Objects may be real items, handmade models, drawings, or printed pictures.
5. On the outside of the box, create a section labeled **"Object Explanations."**
 - List each object.
 - Explain what it represents in the story.
 - Describe why you chose it and why it is important to understand the novel.
 - Write **2–3 sentences for each object.**
6. Include objects that represent:
 - Major characters
 - Important events
 - The setting
 - At least one theme of the novel

3. Diary Entries

Goal: Demonstrate your understanding of the novel by writing diary entries from the perspectives of different characters.

Directions

1. Write **3 diary entries**, each from the point of view of a **different character** from the novel.
 - Possible characters include Ivan, Ruby, Stella, Bob, Mack, or Julia.
2. Each diary entry should be a **well-developed paragraph (5–7 sentences)** and focus on an important event from the story.
3. Include a **date or title** for each entry.
4. Write in **first person** (using "I," "me," and "my") so that each entry sounds like it was written by that character.
5. Use details from the novel and describe the character's thoughts, feelings, and reactions to events.
6. Create a **cover page** that includes:
 - A title
 - An illustration representing the novel
 - Your name

Second Reading Option

Choose **one** of the following novels to read:

- *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo

Directions

After reading your chosen book, write **two well-developed paragraphs**.

Paragraph 1: Summary

- Write a summary of the book in **5–7 sentences**.
- Include the main character(s), setting, major events, and the overall outcome of the story.
- Do not include every detail—focus on the most important parts of the plot.

Paragraph 2: Recommendation

- Write a second well-developed paragraph of **5–7 sentences** explaining whether you would recommend this book to a friend.
- Explain **why or why not** using specific examples from the story.
- Consider the characters, plot, themes, and overall enjoyment of the book.

Requirements

- Use complete sentences and correct grammar.
- Include the book title and author in your response.
- Both paragraphs should be neatly written or typed.
- Each paragraph should contain **5–7 sentences**.

