



Fifth Grade Bibliography

compiled by: D. Hall & C. Sheehan 9/05

ADVENTURE

Allende, Isabel

City of Beasts

J Fic Allende

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.

George, Jean Craighead

My Side Of The Mountain

J Fic George

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Kehret, Peg

Volcano Disaster

J Fic Kehret

When an "Instant Commuter" transports him to Mount Saint Helens during its eruption, twelve-year-old Warren cannot get himself back to his own home in his own time.

Korman, Gordon

Dive – Book One: The Discovery

J Fic Korman

Four kids are on a marine expedition for the summer, diving to explore an underwater habitat that's just been altered by a seismic event. What they find, though, is much more than fish - it's sunken treasure. Can they salvage it without anyone else getting to it first? Will the prospect of wealth set them against one another? And what about those sharksDIVE is another action-packed trilogy from Gordon Korman.

Morpurgo, Michael

Kensuke's Kingdom

J Fic Morpurgo

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht, he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive--until he finds he is not alone.

Paulsen, Gary

Hatchet

J Fic Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen year old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Strasser, Todd

Gator Prey

J Fic Strasser

After a plane crash in the swampy Everglades, two spunky teenagers help their parents survive alligators, mosquitoes, quicksand, and worse.

ANIMALS

Burnford, Sheila

The Incredible Journey

J Fic Burnford

A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.

DiCamillo, Kate

The Tale of Despereaux

J Fic DiCamillo

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Hunter, Erin

Into The Wild

J Fic Hunter

For generations, four clans of wild cats have shared the forest. When their warrior code is threatened by mysterious deaths, a house cat named Rusty may turn out to be the bravest warrior of all.

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- Morgan, Clay **The Boy Who Spoke Dog** J Fic Morgan
After being marooned on an island near New Zealand, Jack, an orphaned cabin boy from San Francisco, becomes allied with a group of dogs who protect the local sheep from wild dogs.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds **Shiloh** J Fic Naylor
When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.
- Oppel, Kenneth **Silverwing** J Fic Oppel
When a newborn bat named Shade but sometimes called "Runt" becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys.
- Philbrick, W.R. **Fire Pony** J Fic Philbrick
Eleven-year-old Roy lets himself find a loving family and a new home on the horse ranch that he and his older half-brother happen to come upon.
- Reiche, Dietlof **I, Freddy...** J Fic Reiche
Freddy, a remarkably intelligent golden hamster, learns how to read and how to write on a computer and escapes captivity to become an independent and civilized creature.

FANTASY

- Babbitt, Tuck **Tuck Everlasting** J Fic Babbitt
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing old.
- Carman, Patrick **The Dark Hills Divide** J Fic Carman
When she finds the key to a secret passageway leading out of the walled city of Bridewell, twelve-year-old Alexa realizes her lifelong wish to explore the mysterious forests and mountains that lie beyond the wall.
- Colfer, Eoin **Artemis Fowl** J Fic Colfer
When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.
- Coville, Bruce **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher** J Fic Coville
Small for his age but artistically talented, twelve-year-old Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon's egg.
- Croggon, Alison **The Naming: The First Book of Pellinor** J Fic Croggon
A manuscript from the lost civilization of Edil-Amarandah chronicles the experiences of sixteen-year-old Maerad, an orphan gifted in the magic and power of the Bards, as she escapes from slavery and begins to learn how to use her Gift to stave off the evil Darkness that threatens to consume her world.

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- Farmer, Nancy ***The Sea of Trolls*** J Fic Farmer
After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.
- Funke, Cornelia ***Dragon Rider*** J Fic Funke
After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.
- Hoffman, Alice ***Aquamarine*** J Fic Hoffman
A love-struck mermaid named Aquamarine supplies adventure and insights to two twelve-year-old girls, life-long friends who are spending their last summer together before one of them moves away.
- Juster, Norton ***The Phantom Tollbooth*** J Fic Juster
A fantasy about a boy's adventurous trip to end the feud between numbers and words.
- Levine, Gail Carson ***Ella Enchanted*** J Fic Levine
In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.
- McCutchen, H.L. ***Lightland*** J Fic McCutchen
Twelve-year-old Lottie and her best friend Lewis, who speaks only to her, find themselves in a world called LightLand, where they confront the dreaded NightKing, a dangerous being who experiments with the energies of memory.
- Nimmo, Jenny ***Midnight For Charlie Bone*** J Fic Nimmo
Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking.
- Nix, Garth ***Mister Monday*** J Fic Nix
Seven days. Seven keys. Seven virtues. Seven sins. One mysterious house is the doorway to a very mysterious world -- where one boy is about to venture and unlock a number of fantastical secrets.
- Osterweil, Adam ***The Amulet of Komondor*** J Fic Osterweil
When Joe and Katie become actual characters in a fantasy game, they must battle everyone from a dragon to the FBI to unite five pieces of an amulet, scattered across Earth and the fantasy world of Komondor, that will restore everything to normal.

HISTORICAL FICTION

- Boling, Katharine ***January 1905*** J Fic Boling
In a 1905 mill town, eleven-year-old twin sisters, Pauline, who goes to work with the rest of the family, and Arlene, whose crippled foot keeps her home doing the cooking, cleaning, and washing, are convinced that the other sister has an easier life until a series of incidents helps them see each other in a new light.

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- Choldenko, Gennifer ***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** J Fic Choldenko
A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul ***The Watsons Go To Birmingham 1963*** J Fic Curtis
The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.
- Cushman, Karen ***The Midwife's Apprentice*** J Fic Cushman
In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.
- Fleischman, Paul ***The Borning Room*** J Fic Fleischman
Lying at the end of her life in the room where she was born in 1851, Georgina remembers what it was like to grow up on the Ohio frontier.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly ***Nory Ryan's Song*** J Fic Giff
When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.
- Hesse, Karen ***Out of the Dust*** J Fic Hesse
In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
- Hickman, Janet ***Susannah*** J Fic Hickman
After her mother's death, fourteen-year-old Susannah is taken by her father to live in a Shaker community in Ohio, but she does not find the same sense of peace there that he does.
- Kadohata, Cynthia ***Kira-Kira*** J Fic Kadohata
Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.
- Lowry, Lois ***Number The Stars*** J Fic Lowry
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.
- Park, Linda Sue ***A Single Shard*** J Fic Park
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

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MYSTERY

Babbitt, Natalie ***The Eyes of The Amaryllis*** J Fic Babbitt
 When eleven-year-old Jenny goes to stay with her widowed grandmother who lives by the seaside, she learns a great deal about the nature of love and the ways of the sea.

Balliett, Blue ***Chasing Vermeer*** J Fic Balliett
 When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Hahn, Mary Downing ***The Old Willis Place*** J Fic Hahn
 Tired of the rules that have bound them ever since "the bad thing happened," twelve-year-old Diana ignores her brother's warnings and befriends the daughter of the new caretaker, setting in motion events that lead to the release of the spirit of an evil, crazy woman who once ruled the old Willis place.

Raskin, Ellen ***The Westing Game*** J Fic Raskin
 The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

REALISTIC FICTION

Avi ***Blue Heron*** J Fic Avi
 While spending the month of August on the Massachusetts shore with her father, stepmother, and their new baby, almost thirteen-year-old Maggie finds beauty in and draws strength from a great blue heron, even as the family around her unravels.

Clinton, Cathryn ***A Stone In My Hand*** J Fic Clinton
 Eleven-year-old Malaak and her family are touched by the violence in Gaza between Jews and Palestinians when first her father disappears and then her older brother is drawn to the Islamic Jihad.

Codell, Esme Raji ***Sing A Song of Tuna Fish*** J Fic Codell
 Hilarious, quirky, and poignant, this unusual memoir recounts episodes from the transformative fifth-grade year of an acclaimed author.

Couloumbus, Audrey ***Getting Near To Baby*** J Fic Couloumbis
 Although thirteen-year-old Willa Jo and her Aunt Patty seem to be constantly at odds, staying with her and Uncle Hob helps Willa Jo and her younger sister come to terms with the death of their family's baby.

DiCamillo, Kate ***Because of Winn Dixie*** J Fic DiCamillo
 Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Fenner, Carol ***Yolanda's Genius*** J Fic Fenner
 After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader Yolonda, big and strong for her age, determines to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius.

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- Gantos, Jack **Joey Pigza Swallowed The Key** J Fic Gantos
 To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.
- Hannigan, Katherine **Ida B:--and her plans to maximize fun...** J Fic Hannigan
 In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
- Klise, Kate **Deliver Us From Normal** J Fic Klise
 With a mother who buys Christmas cards in August and a younger brother who describes the Trinity as a toasted marshmallow on a graham cracker, life for eleven-year-old Charles Harrisong is anything but normal in Normal, Illinois.
- Konigsburg, E.L. **The View From Saturday** J Fic Konigsburg
 Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.
- Mass, Wendy **A Mango-Shaped Space** J Fic Mass
 Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.
- Park, Barbara **Mick Harte Was Here** J Fic Park
 Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident.
- Paterson, Katherine **The Great Gilly Hopkins** J Fic Paterson
 An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.
- Rylant, Cynthia **Missing May** J Fic Rylant
 After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.
- Sachar, Louis **Holes** J Fic Sachar
 As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.
- Spinelli, Jerry **Loser** J Fic Spinelli
 Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

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SCIENCE FICTION

- Clements, Andrew **Things Not Seen** J Fic Clements
When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.
- Daley, Michael J. **Space Station Rat** J Fic Daley
A lavender rat that has escaped from a laboratory, and a lonely boy whose parents are scientists, meet on an orbiting space station, communicate by email, and ultimately find themselves in need of each other's help and friendship.
- Farmer, Nancy **The Ear, The Eye and The Arm** J Fic Farmer
In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson **Among The Hidden** J Fic Haddix
In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.
- L'Engle, Madeline **A Wrinkle In Time** J Fic L'Engle
Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.
- Lowry, Lois **The Giver** J Fic Lowry
Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.
- Vande Velde, Vivian **Heir Apparent** J Fic Vande Velde
While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.
- Walsh, Jill Paton **The Green Book** J Fic Walsh
As their small stock of essential supplies dwindle, a group of refugees from earth struggle to make their strange new planet provide life's necessities.
- Yep, Laurence **Sweetwater** J Fic Yep
A boy and his people, colonists on the planet Harmony, try to save their way of life.

SPORTS

- Carter, Alden R. **Bull Catcher** J Fic Carter
Pete and Jeff continue their friendship and love of baseball as they progress from ninth grade through high school in their small Wisconsin town.

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- Creech, Sharon **Heartbeat** J Fic Creech
 Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.
- Feinstein, John **Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery** J Fic Feinstein
 After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.
- Gutman, Dan **The Million Dollar Kick** J Fic Gutman
 Thirteen-year-old Whisper, who hates sports, is torn when she gets a chance to win a million dollars by kicking a goal against a local soccer hero.
- Lupica, Mike **Travel Team** J Fic Lupica
 After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.
- Marsden, Carolyn **Moon Runner** J Fic Marsden
 When Mina discovers that she can run faster than her athlete friend, Ruth, she thinks she must choose between running and friendship.
- Park, Barbara **Skinnybones** J Fic Park
 Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world.
- Peck, Robert Newton **Extra Innings** J Fic Peck
 After a tragic airplane crash that claims the lives of most of his family, sixteen-year-old Tate goes to live with his wealthy great-grandfather and his adopted black great-aunt Vidalia and he finds unexpected solace in the stories of her childhood spent traveling with a Depression-era Negro baseball team.
- Ritter, John H, **The Boy Who Saved Baseball** J Fic Ritter
 The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.
- Strasser, Todd **Close Call** J Fic Strasser
 A group of fifth and sixth graders find a way to deal with personal differences, family problems, and some rock-throwing high school boys so that they can play the game they love.
- Wolff, Virginia Euwer **Bat 6** J Fic Wolff
 In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.