



**Do you want to star in a commercial about your favorite summer reading book?**

Ask about our exciting Video Booktalk Afterschool Activity!

See Mrs. Phethean or Amy Kaplan (B.M.P.L.) for details.

Go to [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/) to see the videos!

*Prepared by the Todd 5th Grade Teachers.*

## Welcome to Fifth Grade!

Attached you will find a list of selections for your summer reading. The list is quite comprehensive, so you will have no difficulty finding a book that appeals to every reading preference and ability level. Some may already be too easy, while others may be best saved for a later time. Please take your time to make an appropriate, enjoyable choice. Keep this list as a resource to help you choose books throughout the school year!

As an incoming fifth grader you are required to:

1. Read at least two books from the attached list
2. Pick books from two different genres
3. Share your readings with a parent
4. Be prepared to discuss orally with your teacher/classmates on the first day of school the following topics:
  - The best thing that happened in the book is...
  - What I like best/least about this plot is...
  - What I liked best/least about one character is...
  - Would you recommend the book to a friend?

Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy your books!

We look forward to seeing you in September!

The Fifth Grade Team

**Please note that this reading list is organized into the following GENRES:**

Adventure	Humorous Fiction
Biography	Mystery
Fantasy/Science Fiction	Realistic Fiction
Historical Fiction	



## Entering 5th Grade

### Todd Fifth Grade Summer Reading List 2019

**Note: Any book from a series listed here is acceptable.**

#### Genre: Adventure



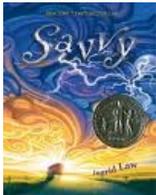
*Hero* by Mike Lupica 289 pages.

Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the president's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him. Now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.



*The Mysterious Benedict Society* [*Mysterious Benedict Society* series] by Trenton Lee Stewart 485 pages.

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.



*Savvy* by Ingrid Law 352 pages.

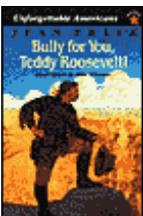
For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each possess a savvy—a supernatural power they acquire at 14. On the eve of Mib's big day, she finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up.



*Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo 164 pages.

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.

#### Genre: Biography

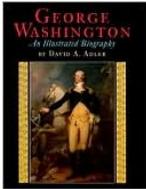


*Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt!* by Jean Fritz 127 pages.

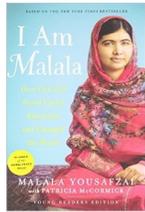
Follows the life of the dynamic twenty-sixth president, discussing his conservation work, hunting expeditions, family life, and political career.



Genre: Biography, cont.

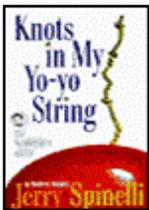


*George Washington* by David A. Adler 288 pages.  
Tells the life story of the first American president, George Washington, focusing largely on the Revolutionary War, and includes a chronology, a table of Revolutionary battles, biographies of Washington's generals and cabinet, illustrations, and maps.

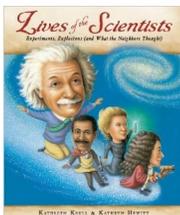


*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World [Young Readers Edition]* by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick 239 pages.

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**  
The autobiography of a girl who refused to keep quiet. When the Taliban took over, she spoke up and almost paid the ultimate price.



*Knots in My Yo-Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid* by Jerry Spinelli 160 pages.  
This Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

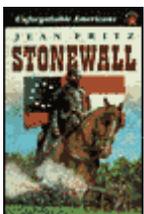


*Lives of Scientists: Experiments, Explosions (and What the Neighbors Thought)* by Kathleen Krull 96 pages.

This collective biography of history's most noteworthy scientists includes many interesting lesser known facts about the way they lived.



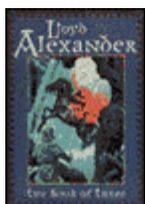
*Sparky* by Beverly Gherman 128 pages.  
A biography of Peanuts creator Charles Schulz, illustrated with photographs and selections from the comic strip.



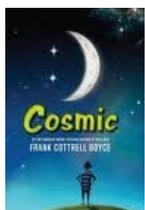
*Stonewall* by Jean Fritz 160 pages.  
A biography of the brilliant southern general who gained the nickname Stonewall by his stand at Bull Run during the Civil War.



Genre: Fantasy/Science Fiction



*The Book of Three* [*Chronicles of Prydain* series] by Lloyd Alexander 124 pages. Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil.



*Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce 320 pages. Twelve- year-old Liam, who looks like he is thirty and is tired of being treated like he is older than he actually is, decides he is going to pose as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space. But when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right.



*Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine 238 pages. 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.



*Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling 435 pages.

**Watch the 5 video booktalks! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)** Harry Potter is a wizard who attends the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and discovers it is up to him to save the world, which leads to many exciting adventures with his friends Ron and Hermoine.



*The Magician's Nephew* [*The Chronicles of Narnia* series] by C.S. Lewis 202 pages.

Diggory and Polly try to return the wicked witch Jadis to her own world, but the magic gets mixed up and they all land in Narnia— a mystical world where Aslan has gifted animals with human speech.



*The Heroes of Olympus* series by Rick Riordan 553 pages.

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)** Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself.

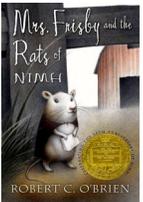


Genre: Fantasy/Science Fiction cont.



*Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism* [Molly Moon series] by Georgia Byng 371 pages.

Author Georgia Byng mesmerizes audiences with an entrancing tale about a down-and-out orphan who hypnotizes her way to big-time adventures.



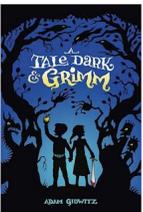
*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert O'Brien 233 pages.

Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.



*Rapunzel's Revenge* by Shannon Hale 144 pages.

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment. She is able to escape and, with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch. [graphic novel]



*A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz 256 pages.

**Watch the 2 video booktalks! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)** Follow Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales.



*The Unwanteds* [Unwanteds series] by Lisa McMann 400 pages.

In a society that purges thirteen-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.



*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin 288 pages.

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.



**Genre: Historical Fiction**



*Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry 95 pages.  
Relates how Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.



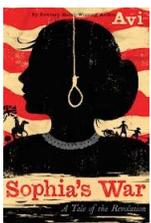
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick 533 pages.  
When 12-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his bigger secret are jeopardized.



*Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool 351 pages.  
Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.



*Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson 158 pages.  
The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.



*Sophia's War* by Avi 302 pages.  
In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.



*Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer Holm 208 pages.  
In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.



**Genre: Historical Fiction cont.**



*Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman 90 pages.  
A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

**Genre: Humorous Fiction**



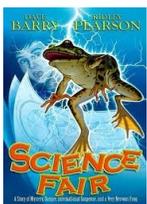
*A Crooked Kind of Perfect* by Linda Urban 214 pages.  
Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.



*Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat* by Lynne Jonell 346 pages.  
Hilarious, inventive, and rodent-friendly, this fantastic first novel by acclaimed picture book author Jonell features a lonely girl, a cantankerous talking rat, and a nanny who is doing very, "very" bad things. Includes a fun flip-book feature.



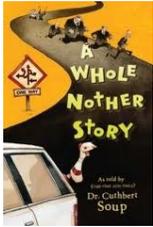
*The Pushcart War* by Jean Merrill 222 pages.  
The outbreak of a war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers brings the mounting problems of traffic to the attention of both the city of New York and the world.



*Science Fair* by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson 394 pages.  
The president of Kprshstkan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the United States government, but when Toby Harbinger, an ordinary student, makes up his mind finally to win the fair, the terrorists' plans go awry.



**Genre: Humorous Fiction, cont.**



*A Whole Nother Story* by Chuthbert Soup 264 pages.  
Ethan Cheeseman and his children, ages eight, twelve, and fourteen, hope to settle in a nice small town, at least long enough to complete work on a time machine, but spies and government agents have been pursuing them for two years and are about to catch up.



*Ungifted* by Gordon Korman 280 pages.  
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

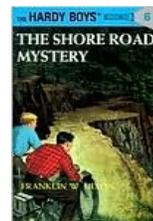
**Genre: Mystery**



*The Danger Box* by Blue Balliett 306 pages.  
In small-town Michigan, twelve-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box, and find family secrets and more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.



*Found* [The Missing series] by Margaret Peterson Haddix 314 pages.  
**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**  
When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel.



*Hardy Boys* series by Franklin W. Dixon 178 pages.  
Frank and Joe Hardy solve a different mystery in this classic book series.

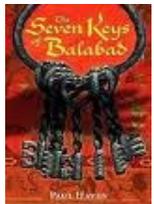


**Genre: Mystery, cont.**



*The Name of This Book Is Secret* [Secret series] by Pseudonymous Bosch 384 pages.

This is the story of a secret, and also a secret story. Cass and Max Ernest are two friendless 11-year-olds who come together to solve the mystery surrounding a dead magician and the clues he left behind. Along the way they must solve puzzles and word games and face incredible danger to answer their questions.



*The Seven Keys of Balabad* by Paul Haven 288 pages.

Oliver Finch, who lives with his father in Balabad, tries to deal with his boredom when a five-hundred-year-old sacred carpet is stolen and one of his friends disappears, causing Oliver to hunt down members of the Brotherhood of Arachosia and reveal a secret that is centuries old.

**Genre: Realistic Fiction**



*Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan 384 pages.

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while also navigating friendships and trying to blend in at school.



*Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days* by Stephen Manes 76 pages.

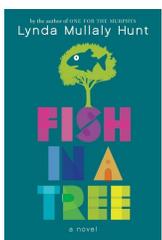
Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library which promises to make him perfect in just three days.



*Everything for a Dog* by Ann Martin 211 pages.

**\*\* Sad story alert. \*\***

In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.



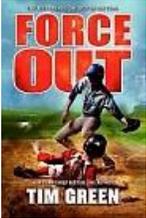
*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 276 pages.

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

Ally feels so afraid and incredibly dumb. She's hiding an important fact about herself from everyone — even her family. With the help of her new teacher she overcomes her fears and finds out how amazing she is.



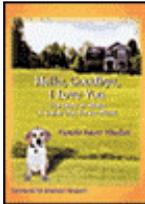
**Genre: Realistic Fiction, cont.**



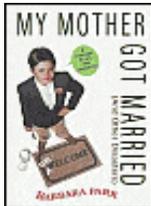
*Force Out* by Tim Green 282 pages  
When Joey has to compete with his best friend, Zach, for a single spot on an elite baseball team, he is forced to decide how far he is willing to go to win.



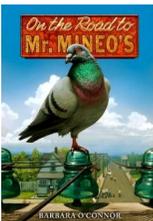
*Half a Chance* by Cynthia Lord 218 pages.  
Lucy spends the summer taking pictures to enter in a photography contest and making a new friend in the town that she just moved to with her mother and traveling photographer father.



*Hello, Goodbye, I Love You: The Story of Aloha a Guide Dog for the Blind* by Pamela Bauer Mueller 160 pages.  
This is the story of seventh-grader Diego, who raises a puppy to become a guide dog for the blind, and of Miss Kimberly Louise, a woman who loses her sight as the result of an automobile accident.



*My Mother Got Married: And Other Disasters* by Barbara Park 148 pages.  
Twelve-year-old Charles experiences many difficulties in adjusting to a new stepfather, stepsister, and stepbrother.



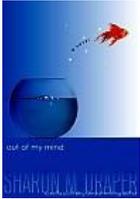
*On the Road to Mr. Mineo's* by Barbara O'Connor 181 pages.  
Sherman, a one-legged pigeon, sets everyone aflutter in a small southern town.



*One-Eyed Cat* by Paula Fox 216 pages.  
An eleven-year-old boy gains a new understanding of himself and his father after a trip to Florida with unusual people.



**Genre: Realistic Fiction, cont.**

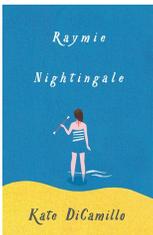


*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper 295 pages.  
A brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy faces people's misunderstandings of her abilities, and discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.



*Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin 226 pages.

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**  
The only thing Rose might love more than homonyms is her dog, and now her beloved dog is lost after a horrific storm.



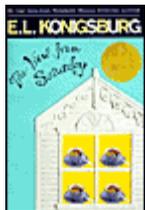
*Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo 272 pages.

Raymie plans to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, so her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and come home. Raymie's two new girlfriends have plans for the contest, too, but all the girls discover something much more important.



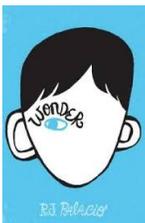
*Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 147 pages.

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.



*The View From Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg 163 pages.

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.



*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio 315 pages.

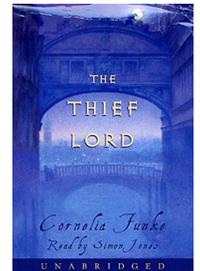
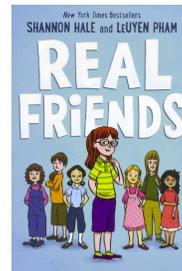
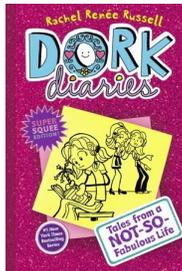
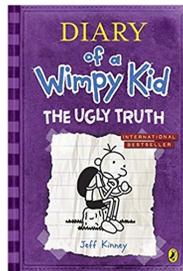
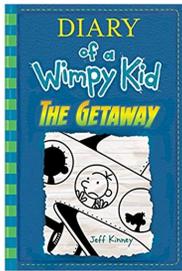
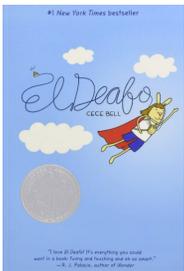
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

**\*\*This is the end of the official summer reading list.\*\***



**Peer Recommended Video Booktalk Titles**

*Please note that these titles below are NOT a part of the Todd School official summer reading list. However, students at Todd School enjoyed them and created video booktalks to recommend them to their peers.*



***El Deafo* by Cecile Bell**

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers. This is a memoir told in graphic format.

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid* [series] by Jeff Kinney**

**Watch the 2 video booktalks! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

Nothing ever seems to go quite right for Greg Heffley, the middle school aged protagonist in this humorous series told in both prose and pictures.

***Dork Diaries, Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous-Life* by Rachel Renée Russell**

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

Nikki writes in her diary about her daily struggles to be popular at her new elite private school.

***Real Friends* by Shannon Hale**

**Watch the three video booktalks! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

When her best friend Adrienne starts hanging out with the most popular girl in class, Shannon questions with whether she and Adrienne will stay friends, and if she is part of the clique in this graphic novel.

***Smile* by Raina Telgemeier**

**Watch the 2 video booktalks! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

From sixth grade through tenth, Rain copes with a variety of dental problems that affect her appearance and how she feels about herself in this graphic novel.

***The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke**

**Watch the video booktalk! Go to: [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/booktalks/)**

An adventurous and mysterious fast-paced book about a group of street children living in an abandoned movie theater in Venice, Italy.