

BOOKLIST FOR THE FIFTH GRADE

Avi. [*Something Upstairs.*](#) (FIC Av511sou)

When he moves from Los Angeles to Providence, Rhode Island, Kenny discovers that his new house is haunted by the spirit of a black slave boy who asks Kenny to return with him to the early nineteenth century and prevent his murder by slave traders.

Banks, Lynne Reid. [*The Indian in the Cupboard.*](#) (series) (FIC B2262in)

Young Omri receives an old family wooden medicine cupboard as a birthday gift. Given to him by his mother in order to house his toy soldiers, Omri discovers that the cupboard has a strange power after placing a toy Indian inside--it comes alive.

Billingsley, Franny. [*The Folk Keeper.*](#) (FIC B4963fo)

Corinna is a Folk Keeper. Her job is to keep the mysterious Folk who live beneath the ground at bay. But Corinna has a secret that even she doesn't fully comprehend, until she agrees to serve as Folk Keeper at Marblehaugh Park, a wealthy family's seaside manor. There her hidden powers burst into full force, and Corinna's life changes forever.

Boston, L.M. [*The Children of Green Knowe.*](#) (FIC B6575ch)

Tolly comes to live with his great-grandmother at the ancient house of Green Knowe and becomes friends with three children who lived there in the seventeenth century.

Cleary, Beverly. [*Dear Mr. Henshaw.*](#) (FIC C583de)

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Conly, Jane Leslie. [*Racso and the Rats of NIMH.*](#) (sequel to Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien) (Fic C7619r)

Racso, a brash and boastful little rodent, is making his way to Thorn Valley, determined to learn how to read and write and become a hero. His bragging and lies get him off to a bad start, but a crisis gives him the opportunity to prove his mettle.

Cooper, Susan. [*King of Shadows.*](#) (FIC C7878ki)

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Cushman, Karen. [*The Ballad of Lucy Whipple.*](#) (FIC C9595ba)

In 1849, twelve-year-old California Morning Whipple, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.

Cushman, Karen. [*The Midwife's Apprentice.*](#) (FIC C9595mi)

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.

Dahl, Roald. [*Danny the Champion of the World.*](#) (FIC D1375d)

Danny's life seems perfect: his home is a gypsy caravan, he's the youngest car mechanic around, and his best friend is his dad, who never runs out of wonderful stories to tell. And when Danny discovers his father's secret, he's off on the adventure of a lifetime.

Dahl, Roald. [*James and the Giant Peach.*](#) (FIC D137Ja)

A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach.

Danziger, Paula. [*P.S. Longer Letter Later.*](#) (FIC D2387ps)

Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state.

Danziger, Paula. [*Snail Mail No More.*](#) (FIC D2387sn)

Now that they live in different cities, thirteen-year-old Tara and Elizabeth use email to "talk" about everything that is occurring in their lives and to try to maintain their closeness as they face big changes.

DeClements, Barthe. [*Nothing's Fair in the Fifth Grade.*](#) (FIC D3579no)

Initially repelled by an overweight new student who has serious home problems, the fifth-grade class finally learns to accept her.

Dicamillo, Kate. [*Because of Winn-Dixie.*](#) (FIC D5473be)

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.

Fletcher, Ralph. [*Flying Solo.*](#) (FIC F6378fL)

Rachel, having chosen to be mute following the sudden death of a classmate, shares responsibility with the other sixth-graders who decide not to report that the substitute teacher failed to show up.

Gantos, Jack. [*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key.*](#) (FIC G1585jo)

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, hyperactive Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts feeling wired.

Gantos, Jack. [*Joey Pigza Loses Control.*](#) (FIC G1585jLC)

Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

Garfield, Leon. [*Smith.*](#) (FIC G1806s)

Moments after he steals a document from a man's pocket, an illiterate young pickpocket in eighteenth-century London witnesses the man's murder by two men who want the document.

Garfield, Leon. [*Black Jack.*](#) (FIC G1806b)

A young apprentice in eighteenth-century London begins a strange adventure when he inadvertently becomes involved with a wanted criminal and a girl who is reputedly mad.

Gutman, Dan. [*The Million Dollar Shot.*](#) (FIC G9853mi)

Eleven-year-old Eddie gets a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the National Basketball Association finals.

Hahn, Mary Downing. [*Wait Till Helen Comes: a Ghost Story.*](#) (Fic H1246w)

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Hesse, Karen. [*The Music of Dolphins.*](#) (FIC H463mu)

After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins, and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.

Henkes, Kevin. [*Words of Stone.*](#) (FIC H3891wo)

Blaze Werla is having a typical summer. He lives in the country with his father and grandmother. He spends his days alone, wandering around the hill beside his home.

Then the message appears on the side of the hill. And Blaze's summer suddenly takes a turn toward the mysterious.

Howe, Deborah. [*Bunnicula, a Rabbit's Tale of Mystery.*](#) (series) (FIC H8383bu)

This book is written by Harold. His fulltime occupation is dog. He lives with Mr. and Mrs. Monroe and their sons Toby and Pete. Also sharing the home are a cat named Chester and a rabbit named Bunnicula. It is because of Bunnicula that Harold turned to writing. Someone had to tell the full story of what happened in the Monroe household after the vampire rabbit arrived.

Ibbotson, Eva. [*Which Witch?*](#) (series) (FIC Ib25wh)

Arriman the Awful, the Wizard of the North, needs a wife, and, naturally, the only woman a wizard can marry is a witch. But which witch will Arriman choose? Warty, wicked, or just plain rude-witches galore enter his spell-casting competition. Poor Belladonna doesn't have a chance. Her spells conjure up pink begonias or ice-cream sundaes, not a single viper or toad. But with the help of a mysterious orphan and a worm named Rover, Belladonna just might do something really sinister.

Jimenez, Francisco. [*The Circuit; Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child.*](#) (FIC J5643ci)

These independent but intertwined stories follow a migrant family through their circuit, from picking cotton and strawberries to topping carrots - and back again - over a number of years. As it moves from

one labor camp to the next, the little family of four grows into ten. Impermanence and poverty define their lives. But with faith, hope, and back-breaking work, the family endures.

Juster, Norman. [*The Phantom Tollbooth*](#). (FIC J9826ph)

A bored, uninspired schoolboy takes an adventurous drive through a toy tollbooth and begins a magical journey into a world of numbers and letters. Along the way, he learns to appreciate life and the many exciting things it has to offer.

Kimmel, Eric. [*Sword of the Samurai*](#). (FIC K5712sw)

Seven short stories about samurai warriors, their way of life, courage, wit, and foolishness.

Lord, Bette. [*In The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*](#). (FIC L8842in)

In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Lowry, Lois. [*Number the Stars*](#). (FIC L95558nu)

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.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. [*The Pirate's Son*](#). (FIC M1278pi)

Left penniless in eighteenth century England, fourteen-year-old Nathan Gull and his mousy sister Maud accompany Tamo, the son of a notorious pirate, to his homeland of Madagascar where they are all changed by their encounter with Tamo's dangerous past.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. [*Shiloh*](#). (series) (FIC N2345sh)

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.

Nesbit, E. [*Five Children and It*](#). (series)

When four brothers and sisters discover a Psammead, or sand-fairy, in the gravel pit near the country house where they are staying, they have no way of knowing all the adventures its wish-granting will bring them.

O'Brien, Robert. [*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*](#). (FIC Ob677m)

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.

O'Dell, Scott. [*The Black Pearl*](#). (FIC Od27bl)

In a pearling seaport off the coast of 19th-century Spanish California, the young Ramon finds that the real and the mythical frequently cross paths.

Paterson, Katherine. [*Bridge to Terabithia*](#). (FIC P2734br)

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Paulsen, Gary. [*Hatchet*](#). (FIC P2853h)

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

Paulsen, Gary. [*Brian's Winter*](#). (FIC P2853br)

In *Hatchet*, 13-year-old Brian learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed with only a hatchet. He was rescued at the end of the summer. *Brian's Winter* begins where *Hatchet* might have ended--Brian is not rescued, but must rely on his survival skills to face his deadliest enemy--a northern winter.

Polacco, Patricia. [*Pink and Say*](#). (IBT P756p)

Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather.

Pullman, Philip. [*I Was a Rat.*](#) (FIC P9667I)

A little boy turns life in London upside down when he appears at the house of a lonely old couple and insists he was a rat transformed into a human boy by Cinderella's fairy godmother.

Raskin, Ellen. [*The Westing Game.*](#) (FIC R1839we)

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.

Snicket, Lemony. [*A Series of Unfortunate Events.*](#) (series) (FIC Sn315)

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events, is a wonderfully different and disastrous children's series starring three highly unlucky siblings -- the orphaned Baudelaire children -- 14-year-old Violet, 12-year-old Klaus, and their infant sister, Sunny.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. [*Cat Running.*](#) (FIC Sn929ca)

When eleven-year-old Cat Kinsey builds a secret hideout to escape her unhappy home life, she slowly gets to know a poor family who have come to California after losing their Texas home to the dust storms of the 1930s.

Soto, Gary. [*Boys at Work.*](#) (FIC So784bo)

When ten-year-old Rudy breaks an older boy's Discman at a baseball game, he and his friend Alex come up with a variety of ways to make money to pay for a new one.

Spinelli, Jerry. [*Wringer.*](#) (FIC Sp462wr)

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

Spinelli, Jerry. [*There's a Girl in My Hammerlock.*](#) (FIC Sp462th)

Maisie goes out for wrestling to get close to Eric, the boy of her dreams, but she soon finds out that she loves wrestling. Most of the boys hate having her on the team--one boy quits and some of the others write nasty letters to the newspaper. Still, Maisie sticks it out, and finally wins the respect of the team.

Steig, William. [*Abel's Island.*](#) (FIC St335a)

Accustomed to a life of leisure, gentlemanly Abel must be resourceful to survive after he finds himself stranded on a remote island.

Taylor, Mildred. [*Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry.*](#) (series)

Cassie Logan is raised by a family determined not to surrender their freedom or humanity because they are black.

Uchida, Yoshiko. [*A Jar of Dreams.*](#) (FIC Uc45j)

Growing up in California during the depression isn't easy for eleven-year-old Rinko. She desperately wants to fit in and be like everyone else, but instead she is ridiculed and made to feel different because she is Japanese. But when Aunt Waka comes to visit, and brings with her the old-fashioned wisdom of Japan, she teaches Rinko the importance of her Japanese heritage, and the value of her own strengths and dreams.

Uchida, Yoshiko. [*Journey to Topaz.*](#) (FIC Uc45j)

Like any 11-year-old, Yuki Sakane is looking forward to Christmas when her peaceful world is suddenly shattered by the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Uprooted from her home and shipped with thousands of West Coast Japanese Americans to a desert concentration camp called Topaz, Yuki and her family face new hardships daily.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. [*The Castle in the Attic.*](#) (Fic W7375ca)

A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest.

Wright, Betty Ren. [*Dollhouse Murders.*](#) (Fic W9306be-do)

With the help of her younger sister and a family of dolls, Amy solves an old and haunting mystery.

Yep, Laurence. [*Dragonwings.*](#) (FIC Y437d)

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.