

Recommended Reading List

5th Grade

Below you will find a list of books recommended for students' enjoyment. They are a blend of all genres and are meant to supplement their love to read, and are not meant as a challenge. However, they all highlight meaningful and relatable topics to students.

Fantasy/Percy Jackson/Harry Potter Alternatives

- Cooper, Susan. "The Dark is Rising." New York : Margaret K. McElderberry, 2002.*
 - Discovering that he is the last defense against a rising evil, Will and his siblings call upon their hidden strengths to fight the darkness.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Pierce, Tamara. "Alanna: The First Adventure." New York : Random House, 1997.
 - Alanna dresses as a boy and switches places with her brother so that she can become a knight.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Lin, Grace. "Where the Mountain Meets the Moon." New York : Little, Brown, 2009.*
 - In order to bring prosperity back to her village, Minli sets out on a mission with a flightless dragon.
 - [KCLS](#)

Mystery

- Milford, Kate. "Greenglass House." New York : Clarion Books, 2014.*
 - Milo is stuck in his family's remote inn during winter break with six strangers who all seem to know a big secret about the history of the inn.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Fitzgerald, Laura Marx. "Under the Egg." New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014.*
 - Theodora uses her grandfather's dying words to discover a secret he had kept before setting that secret right.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Stead, Rebecca. "Liar & Spy." New York : Wendy Lamb Books, 2012.*
 - Georges's life is changing in big ways, and in the middle of it all his new neighbor convinces him that another neighbor of theirs is up to no good.
 - [KCLS](#)

Realistic Fiction

- Gemeinhart, Dan. "The Honest Truth." New York : Scholastic, 2015.*
 - Sick enough that he doesn't think he will get another chance, Mark decides he wants to hike Mount Rainier by himself. There is only 200 miles between him and his goal.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Graff, Lisa. "Absolutely Almost." New York : Philomel Books, 2014.

- Albie is not the best at anything, but feels the pressure to be the best at everything. He and a new nanny help find a healthy balance.
- [KCLS](#)
- Benjamin, Ali. "The Thing About Jellyfish." New York : Little, Brown, 2015.*
 - A moving book about a seventh grader who copes with her best friend's drowning by researching jellyfish (the animal she feels is responsible for it). Interwoven are lessons about grief, growing up, and the scientific method.
 - [KCLS](#)

Action/Adventure

- Grabenstein, Chris. "Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library." New York : Random House, 2013.*
 - A twisty-turny tale of a group of kids that are locked up in the new town library and have to solve a puzzle in order to escape.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Pennypacker, Sara. "Pax." New York : Balzer + Bray, 2016.*
 - A boy is forced to give up his pet fox before moving in with his grandfather while his father is deployed. However, he decides to go on an adventure to get his pet back.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Lawrence, Iain. "The Skeleton Tree." New York : Delacorte Press, 2016.*
 - Two boys are stranded in the Alaska wilderness, and they dislike each other instantly. Will they overcome their differences in enough time to survive?
 - [KCLS](#)

Horror/Scary

- Opiel, Kenneth. "The Nest." New York : Simon & Schuster, 2015.*
 - A genuine creepy novel about an older brother who would do anything to protect his little brother from the wasps.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Auxier, Jonathan. "The Night Gardener." New York : Amulet Books, 2014.*
 - Twin orphans are forced to work in a crumbling manor house in England. Quickly, the siblings have to band together to help discover the creepy secrets lurking before they are destroyed by them.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Avi. "Seer of Shadows." New York : HarperCollins, 2008.*
 - A photographer's apprentice has the uncanny ability to steal souls through photographs. One of the souls is looking for vengeance.
 - [KCLS](#)

Graphic Novels

- Thompson, Craig. "Space Dumplins." New York : Graphix, 2015.*
 - A funny, colorful adventure where Violet literally travels to the ends of the universe to save her missing father and everyone else.
 - [KCLS](#)

- Jamieson, Victoria. "All's Faire in Middle School." New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017.
 - Homeschooler Imogene is going to a public school for the first time and has to learn to navigate friendships, bullying, and her new workload.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Hatke, Ben. "Mighty Jack." New York : First Second, 2016.*
 - Jack has to spend the summer watching his little sister. This summer turns out to be a lot different as he trades the family car for a box of magical seeds.
 - [KCLS](#)

Science Fiction

- Card, Orson Scott. "Ender's Game." New York : Tor, 1994.
 - Ender has to attend a school where he is taught to play a game that ends up being critical in Earth's survival against an alien race.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Brown, Peter. "Wild Robot." New York : Little, Brown, 2016.*
 - A robot is left alone to fend for himself on an island in the middle of nowhere.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Stead, Rebecca. "When You Reach Me." New York : Wendy Lamb Books, 2009.*
 - An award winning book about a child who is helping her mother prepare for a game show, dealing with the fact that out of the blue her best friend has stopped speaking to her, and now she has these weird letters that defy both time and space.
 - [KCLS](#)

Non-fiction

- Sheinkin, Steve. "Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights." New York : Roaring Books, 2014.
 - A challenging read that illustrates an important, and mostly forgotten, event before the Civil Rights movement.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Murphy, Jim. "Breakthrough! How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever." Boston : Clarion Books, 2015.*
 - Focusing on how different people in the medical field received credit for the groundbreaking operation to save babies with congenital heart defects.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Munroe, Randall. "The Thing Explainer." Boston : Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.
 - Using only the 50 most popular words in the English language Munroe explains complicated scientific objects and concepts. Comes with detailed pictures. Do not let the hook fool you. This is a wonderful book to help explain topics that might otherwise fly right over students' heads.
 - [KCLS](#)