

# LRSD Recommended Reading List: *Fifth Grade*

Fifth grade is an important year as reading becomes the basis for almost everything! Reading outside school will include homework and required reading, but it is important to have plenty of enjoyable and self-selected reading as well. This list provides a few options for some fun reading that will keep your fifth grader engaged and learning, but this is not a required reading list. Many of these authors have written a number of books – if you find one you like, try more by that author.



**Out of My Mind** by Sharon M. Draper  
*Melody has cerebral palsy and cannot walk or talk. But she has a photographic memory and is really very smart! This book shows a young girl with a brilliant mind, brave spirit, and amazing strength.*

**Time Warp Trio** by Jon Scieszka  
*This series is about Joe, an ordinary boy, from Brooklyn, NY, and his two friends, Fred and Sam. Joe received a book for his birthday that warps time and space! Read all of this series as the three friends go on many adventures. (Series)*

**Al Capone Does My Shirts: A Tale from Alcatraz** by Gennifer Choldenko  
*Set in 1935, Moose Flanagan and his family move to Alcatraz Island. This book and the two sequels tell the unique and historically-based story of life on the island, the various inmates, and living with a sister who is very different from other kids. Check out all of the Alcatraz Series if you like the first one! (Series)*

**Rules** by Cynthia Lord  
*Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a “normal” life, which seems impossible with a brother with autism and a family focused on his disability. But eventually, she starts to ask, “What is normal?” Find out what Catherine learns. (Great author)*

**Glory Be** by Augusta Scattergood  
*Set in Mississippi in 1964, Glory's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday should be extra special. But when the local swimming pool is closed all of a sudden, Glory learns about the reality of segregation.*

**Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy** by Karen Foxlee  
*Ophelia, an unlikely heroine, doesn't believe anything that is not scientific – or can't be proven. That is, until she visits a museum where her father is working and finds a magical young boy, fights a Snow Queen, and ultimately saves the world.*

**Serafina's Promise** by Ann E. Burg  
*A young girl in Haiti, Serafina has a dream to go to school and become a doctor. But in her family's poor, rural village outside Port-au-Prince, there are many challenges. Will she go to school? What will happen? This book is written in verse form (poem) but remarkable all the way through.*

**Mick Harte Was Here** by Barbara Park  
*Mick Harte is gone and his sister, Phoebe's world is turned upside down. How could Mick die? This book is filled with honesty, sadness, and hope. It will be a book you remember for a long time – and always remember to wear your bike helmet.*

**Sidekicks** by Dan Santat  
*This graphic novel (written in comic-book style) has superhero Captain Amazing needing a new companion, or sidekick, to save Metro City from the criminals. Each of his pets wants to audition, but who will be his new sidekick? If you like comic books, this is a great book to try.*

**No Talking!** by Andrew Clements  
*Who can talk less – the boys or the girls? Find out as the fifth grade class has a contest and see what happens when they don't talk in class! (This author has many excellent books!)*

**Esperanza Rising** by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
*Esperanza lived on a wonderful ranch in Mexico until her father died and her family moved to California to work in the farm workers camp. This story tells how Esperanza, which means “hope,” worked to keep her family together. Be sure to read the notes at the end – this is based on the author's grandma.*

**Love that Dog: A Novel** (and the companion book, **Hate that Cat: A Novel**) by Sharon Creech  
*Jack does not think boys write poetry. But his teacher helps him tell his own stories in a poetic way. Jack is a smart and funny kid. Find out why he loves the dog and if he really hates that cat. (Awesome author)*

**Dear Mr. Henshaw** by Beverly Cleary; Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky  
*This award-winning, classic book is the story of a boy, Leigh Botts, who writes to his favorite author, Mr. Henshaw. As they write, Leigh works through some problems including a new school, missing his dog, a lunch thief, and his parent's recent divorce. This book never gets old! (Great author!)*

**Fifth Grade students spend most of their time reading what they MUST read. Keep reading fun, engaging, and motivating by allowing their reading outside school to be books and topics they choose.**

- ✓ Continue having a reading time each day for everyone in the family. This is an important habit.
- ✓ Have a couple of interesting books available and take a break from one when its not as interesting. And, remember, you don't have to finish every book you start!
- ✓ Try many different types of reading – online, comic books, series books. The most important thing is spending time reading.
- ✓ Talk about the books together.



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