

Grade 5 Suggested Reading

Appelt, Kathi. ***The Underneath***. Atheneum, 2008. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. Newbery Honor 2009. National Book Award Finalist 2008.

Avi. ***Never Mind! : A Twin Novel***. HarperCollins, 2004. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

Choldenko, Gennifer. ***Al Capone Shines My Shoes***. Dial, 2009. Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. *Sequel*

Codell, Esme Raji. ***Sahara Special***. Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

Delano, Marfe Ferguson. ***Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher***. National Geographic, 2008. Annie Sullivan grew up in extreme poverty with her own eye problems. Her first and only job was teaching Helen Keller how to "see" despite the fact that she was blind, deaf, and mute.

Feldman, Jody. ***The Gollywopper Games***. Greenwillow, 2008. When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywopper Games, Gil Goodson wants to be the lucky winner; this could be the perfect opportunity for his family to move away from Orchard Heights. Can he solve the puzzles and complete the stunts? This may remind you of a modern day *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!*

Florian, Douglas. ***Omnibeasts***. Harcourt, 2004. In this treasure chest of wit and charm, the author weaves information into each poem, combining fun and fact. This collection of poems and art is selected from the author's whimsical, pun-filled previous books.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Just Ella***. Simon & Schuster, 1999. Fifteen-year old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.

Halls, Kelly Milner. ***Tales of the Cryptids***. Darby Creek, 2006. Be the judge: are the many mysterious and legendary animals, including Bigfoot and assorted sea serpents, real based on the descriptions, photographs and drawings?

Kerley, Barbara. ***Walt Whitman: Words for America***. Scholastic, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.

Lasky, Kathryn. ***The Man Who Made Time Travel***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. The need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea led to the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.

Leal, Ann. ***Also Known as Harper***. Holt, 2009. Harper Lee Morgan's family is struggling, but she holds close to her passion for writing poetry and this provides her with an opportunity to express her feelings, even as she must skip school to take care of her younger brother Hemingway.

Lin, Grace. ***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***. Little, Brown, 2009. A magical story of a young girl who wishes for fortune and happiness for her village and leaves her family to find the mysterious Old Man of the Moon. Newbery Honor 2010.

Lowry, Lois. ***The Willoughbys***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. The four Willoughby children devise a plan to become orphans, unaware that their despicable parents are trying to lose them. The humorous glossary and annotated reading list of classic children's literature are not to be missed.

Lutes, Jason. ***Houdini: The Handcuff King***. Hyperion, 2007. In bold graphics, author and artist formulate a living picture of this amazing escape artist and show how time and morals shaped him and his art.

Mass, Wendy. ***11 Birthdays***. Scholastic, 2009. Best friends since their mothers met at the hospital when they were born, Amanda and Leo always celebrate their birthdays together. However, now that they are turning 11, they are no longer speaking to each other and everything is not as normal as it may appear. This is one birthday that does not seem to end!

Olson, Tod. ***How to Get Rich on a Texas Cattle Drive : in which I tell the honest truth about rampaging rustlers, stampeding steers, and other fateful hazards on the wild Chisholm Trail***. National Geographic, 2010. This "true" account follows the adventures of a fifteen-year-old cowhand on the famous Chisholm Trail through Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, as he battles stampedes, rustlers, angry Comanche braves, territorial Kansas farmers, and half a continent's worth of dust.

St. John, Lauren. ***The White Giraffe***. Dial, 2006. After losing her parents in a tragic fire, eleven-year-old Martine must live with a grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa, where she learns about a mystical white giraffe.

Stead, Rebecca. ***When You Reach Me***. Wendy Lamb, 2009. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980's television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy laws of time and space. Newbery Honor book.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. ***The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey***. Little, Brown, 2008. Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict. *Series*

Stone, Jeff. ***Eagle***. Random House, 2008. After attacking and killing his former grandmaster, sixteen-year-old Ying realizes he has been betrayed in addition to being wanted for treason, and consequently is forced to turn to Hok, his old temple sister, for help. *Series*

Walker, Alice. ***Langston Hughes, American Poet***. HarperCollins, 2002. An illustrated biography of the Harlem poet whose works gave voice to the joy and pain of the black experience in America.

Weston, Robert Paul. ***Zorgamazoo***. Razorbill, 2008. Imaginative and adventurous Katrina eludes her maniacal guardian to help Morty, a member of a vanishing breed of zorgles, with his quest to uncover the fate of the fabled zorgles of Zorgamazoo as well as of other creatures that seem to have disappeared from the Earth.

Wiles, Deborah. ***Each Little Bird that Sings***. Harcourt, 2005. Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so, the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events triggered by the sudden death of her beloved great uncle Edisto.

Zimmer, Tracie Vaughan. **42 Miles**. Clarion, 2008. JoEllen is called “Joey” with her father on weekends in the country and “Ellen” with her mother in the city. The forty-two miles that separate her two homes and her two lives becomes a shorter distance as JoEllen discovers who she is in the world. Linked free-verse poems and illustrations depict the challenges a young girl faces as she grows up and tries to determine who she really wants to be and how she can remain true to herself.

(These book suggestions have been adopted from HAISLN Organization.

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