

# Summer Reading Assignment and Book Suggestions

Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Brookside School



## **Fifth Grade Summer Assignment**

**June 2014**

**Dear Upcoming Fifth Graders,**

**Wow! Summer vacation is just around the corner. In fourth grade, you have practiced the habits and skills of good readers. To help you prepare for fifth grade, it is important that you continue to read this summer so you can advance in your journey towards academic success and becoming strong independent readers. Vacation is the perfect time for visiting with family and friends, travelling, relaxing, and curling up with a good book.**

**There are a few things I am going to ask you to do this summer. Although I am sure that you will read many books, your first job is to select two books that wish to read (not ones that you may have already read) and be able to discuss with your peers. I have attached a list of suggested titles in case you need some assistance in finding stories that catch your interest. Please choose books that appeal to you. There is no sense wasting precious reading time on a book that you do not like! My next request is for you to read and enjoy these books. Enjoy being the operative word because I would like you to be prepared to talk about these books during our first reading class together. One way you can get ready to do this is by tracking your thinking or jotting notes. Please see the attached sheet for an idea to help you complete this part of the assignment.**

**I look forward to seeing you in September. Enjoy your summer and happy reading!**

**Miss Goldsmith**



**Directions:** Select two books to use for this assignment, preferably new books (ones that you have not already read). These should be books that you enjoy. It is perfectly acceptable to abandon a book that isn't your cup of tea (idiom - we will spend time interpreting figurative language next year)! Select books that you will love, and want to share with your classmates. Your goal is to get other kids interested so they will want to read your book too!

Suggestions on how to prepare:

- 1) Write down the complete title, author's name and a brief summary on a sheet of paper or a large index card. Remember, a summary should include important details about the setting, the main character, the main problem, and solution or resolution.
- 2) Think about the theme (message) of the story. What is the point the author is trying to make? It may be useful to think about how the character changed, and the lesson the character may have learned. You can write this on the back of the index card or the bottom of your paper so you remember.
- 3) (OPTIONAL) Track your thinking on post-it's, an index card, or in a notebook, similar to the way you would prepare for a book club conversation. (These notes are to help you talk about your book, and remember the juicy parts or interesting stuff).

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas, as well as getting to know you as a reader.

### **Book Suggestions**

*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

*Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliet

*The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall

*Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea

*The Report Card* by Andrew Clements (\*Any Andrew Clements\*)

*Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

*Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo

*Jack on the Tracks: Four Seasons of Fifth Grade* by Jack Gantos (\*Any books in the Jack Henry series\*)

*The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke

*The Ruins of Gorlan* (Any in the Ranger's Apprentice series) by John Flanagan

\*Any Baseball Card Adventures\* by Dan Gutman

*Ida B.* by K. Hannigan

*From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L.Konigsburg

*The Hypnotist* by Gordon Korman (\*Any Gordon Korman series books\*)

*Wolves of the Beyond* (Any in the series) by Kathryn Lasky

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulson (\*Any books in the Brian series\*)

*Wonder* by PJ Palacio

*Flip-Flop Girl* by Katherine Paterson

*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson

*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (\*Any books on Percy Jackson series\*)

*Deltora Quest* and *Deltora Shadows* (\*Any book in series) by Emily Rodda

*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speere

*Liar and Spy* by Rebecca Stead

\*Any "I Survived"\* books by Lauren Tarshis