

STEERE FARM and W.L. CALLAHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
ENTERING GRADE 5
SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS
JUNE 2011

MOST CHALLENGING (Guided Reading, U-V)

Room One : a Mystery or Two by Andrew Clements

Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town's one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family. (U)

Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson by Barry Deneberg

Stealing Home is a moving and poignant account of a man who was determined to play baseball regardless of the color of his skin. This biography tells the story of Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play in baseball's major leagues in the United States.(V)

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.(V)

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. (U-V)

Beyond the Divide by Kathryn Lasky

Fourteen-year-old Meribah Simon decides to leave her restrictive Amish life to join her father on a journey to the California gold fields. The hardships and challenges that she endures teach her not only how to survive, but what it means to live.

Weasel by Cynthia DeFelice

Alone in the frontier wilderness in the winter of 1839 while his father is recovering from an injury, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as Weasel and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge. (U)

MORE CHALLENGING (Guided Reading-S,T)

Runt by Marion Dane Bauer

Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father King and the rest of the pack and to earn a new name. (T)

Erupts! by Frances O'Roark Dowell

Fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning. (T)

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock. (S)

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury. (S)

Abel's Island by William Steig

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home. (T)

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke

After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy. (T)

LESS CHALLENGING (Guided Reading R-S)

The Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop

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

Justin Morgan had a Horse by Marguerite Henry

An unusual workhorse raised in Vermont and known originally as "Little Bub" becomes the sire of a famous American breed and takes the name of his owner, Justin Morgan. (R)

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door. (R)

Hanne's Quest by Olivier Dunrea

On an island off the coast of Scotland, a young hen must prove herself pure, wise, and brave in a quest to help her beloved owner, Mem Pocket, from losing her family's farm. (R)

The Penderwicks : A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. (S)

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently. (S)

RI Children's Book Award 2012 Nominees

ALL incoming fifth grade students are required to read at least one book from this list.

Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

Is Origami Yoda real? Or is it just Dwight who is answering everyone's questions with his Origami Yoda? Tommy enlists the help of his classmates, gathering stories and sketches to find out the truth. Tommy needs to know if Origami Yoda is real because he needs to know if he can trust him with a very important question...

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason is a boy with autism. Kids at school think he is "weird" and usually avoid him. Jason finally finds friendship with a girl in his online writing group. Will a face-to-face meeting change their friendship?

Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer Holm

It's 1935, and 11-year-old Turtle moves to Key West to live with her Aunt Minnie. Her Mom is a live-in housekeeper, and her new employer doesn't want children around. Key West turns out to be fascinating, complete with a Diaper Gang, hidden pirates' treasures, and first cousins named Beans, Buddy, and Kermit.

Emily's Fortune by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Eight year old Emily sets off on a rip-roarin' ride as she travels by stagecoach in a Wild West adventure. She teams up with a boy named Jackson to outsmart her wicked uncle who wants her fortune.

Green by Laura Peyton Roberts

Lilybet Green's 13th birthday begins with a bang. Literally! An exploding present is the start of a colorful adventure. Kidnapped by a trio of leprechauns, Lily is next in line to be Keeper for the Clan of Green's gold – but only if she passes three tests that could change her life forever!

The Dancing Pancake by Eileen Spinelli

Can eating pancakes make tough times better? When her mom opens a restaurant Bindi gets a taste of a new life with new friends, new experiences and a new apartment.

What Happened on Fox Street by Tricia Springstubb

Mo Wren, Dad and "wild child" younger sister live on Fox Street. The long, hot summer is full of alarming letters, mysterious packages and difficult changes. Growing friendships and the hope of finding a real fox in her neighborhood inspire Mo to find the courage she needs.

Gator on the Loose by Sue Stauffacher

Carter's Urban Rescue is the place to call when you find a wild animal where it shouldn't be. Especially, when it's a baby alligator - loose at the city pool! Follow the fun and adventures of this delightful family who work together to get the job done.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

As they board a plane to visit their mother in California, Delphine and her sisters imagine themselves visiting Disneyland, and meeting movie stars. Instead they learn about the Black Panthers, and a mother who's a mystery to them.