

**SUMMER READING LIST: STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 5
STEERE FARM and W.L. CALLAHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
JUNE 2009**

ALL students are required to read at least two books. One from the appropriate list below and the other must be from the attached Rhode Island Children's Book Award 2009 - 2010 list.

MOST CHALLENGING (Reading Levels 5.5 ~ 5.9)*

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.

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.

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry

Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

Queen Sophie Hartley by Stephanie Greene

A suggestion from her mother leads Sophie to befriend the new girl at school and an elderly, grouchy woman, and helps her overcome the feeling that she is not good at anything.

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.

Jim Ugly by Sid Fleischman

The adventures of twelve-year-old Jake and Jim Ugly, his father's part-mongrel, part-wolf dog, as they travel through the Old West trying to find out what really happened to Jake's actor father.

Toad Rage by Morris Gleitzman

Determined to understand why humans hate cane toads and to improve relations between the species, Limpy embarks on a dangerous trek from his swamp to the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

The Princess Test by Gail Carson Levine

In this humorous retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," Lorelei must pass many difficult tests in order to prove that she is a true princess and win the hand of Prince Nicholas.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

MORE CHALLENGING (Reading Levels 5.0 ~ 5.4)*

Phineas L. McGuire Erupts! The First Experiment 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.

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.

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.

Bear Dancer : the Story of a Ute Girl by Thelma Hatch Wyss

Based upon the life of a real girl, the author tells the story of Elk Girl, a member of the Ute tribe, who is captured by the Cheyenne during the 1860s, sold to an Arapaho warrior, rescued by a white soldier, and finally returned to her home.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Ice Drift by Theodore Taylor

Two Inuit brothers must fend for themselves while stranded on an ice floe that is adrift in the Greenland Strait.

Freddy in Peril by Dietlof Reiche (Translated by John Brownjohn)

A cat, two guinea pigs, and a colony of brave sewer rats band together in order to save Freddy, a golden hamster, from an evil scientist who's discovered that Freddy can read and write, and plans to hamster-nap him in order to dissect his brain.

LESS CHALLENGING (Reading Levels 4.5 ~ 4.9)*

Summer Reading is Killing Me! by Jon Scieszka

At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books.

Cuckoo Feathers by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When two pigeons that Sarah wants as pets move from her Chicago apartment's window ledge to the building next door, Sarah tries to figure out how to get them to come back.

Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery by Deborah Howe

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Chocolate Fever by Robert Kimmel Smith

From eating too much chocolate, Henry breaks out in brown bumps that help him foil some hijackers and teach him a valuable lesson about self-indulgence.

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.

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.

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

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.

The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

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ALL incoming fifth grade students are required to read at least one book from this Rhode Island Children's Book 2009 – 2010 list.

Along Came Spider by James Preller

Fifth-grader Spider Stevens--nicknamed for his climbing ability--wrestles with his loyalty to his best friend versus friendship with the popular crowd.

Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It by Sudee T. Frazier

Brendan Buckley, a biracial ten-year-old, applies his scientific problem-solving ability and newfound interest in rocks and minerals to connect with his white grandfather, the president of Puyallup Rock Club, and to learn why he and Brendan's mother are estranged.

Dexter the Tough by Margaret Peterson Haddix

A sympathetic teacher and her writing assignment help fourth-grader Dexter deal with being the new kid in school after he punches a kid on the first day.

Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff

When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.

Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Tales of Growing Up Scieska by Jon Scieszka

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

The Leanin' Dog by K.A. Nuzmum

Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean, mourning the death of her mother, finds an injured dog on her porch, which allows both Dessa and the dog to heal together with a friendship that shapes both of their lives.

The Magic Half by Annie Barrows

Eleven-year-old Miri Gill feels left out in her family, which has two sets of twins and her, until she travels back in time to 1935 and discovers Molly, her own lost twin, and brings her back to the present day.

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

The Seer of Shadows by Avi

Photographer Horace Carpetine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengeance on those who killed her.

Shooting the Moon by Frances O'Roark Dowell

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

Someone Named Eva by Joan M. Wolf

From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

Swindle by Gordon Korman

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.