

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS -- APPROVED READING LIST (revised 2003)

GRADE 5

*The following supplemental titles are eligible for use in class instruction at this grade level. Please note that, in order to promote differentiated instruction in the classroom, there are titles included both below grade level and above grade level. If you find the lower grade level lists. Please **DO NOT** utilize any of these titles for instruction at a higher grade level.*

TITLE	AUTHOR	BRIEF SUMMARY <i>(Summaries from Book Source catalogue)</i>	POTENTIAL PROBLEMS	READING LEVEL	INTEREST LEVEL	FICTION NONFICTION
Amos Fortune, Free Man	Yates, Elizabeth	The life of the eighteenth century African prince who, after being captured by slave traders, was brought to Massachusetts where he was a slave until he was able to buy his freedom at the age of sixty.		5	4-8	Fiction
And Now Miguel	Krumgold, Joseph	Miguel finds himself at the awkward age between boyhood and manhood.		5	3-7	Fiction
Because Of Winn-Dixie	DiCamillo, Kate	Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie.		4	3-9	Fiction
Black Diamond: The Story Of The Negro Baseball Leagues	McKissack, Patricia	Traces the history of the Negro leagues that evolved due to segregation in professional baseball up to the 1950's.		5	4-7	Nonfiction
Bluish	Hamilton, Virginia	Ten-year-old Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia is making her pale and causing her to use a wheelchair.		5	4-9	Fiction
The Borrowers	Norton, Mary	The tiny family which has lived under the hall grandfather clock for two hundred years is forced to emigrate.		5	3-6	Nonfiction
Bridge To Terabithia	Paterson, Katherine	Jess Aarons gains the strength to cope with unexpected tragedy by going to a secret kingdom in the woods invented by Leslie Burke, a newcomer to his rural Virginia community.	Death	7	4-8	Fiction

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Bud, Not Buddy	Curtis, Christopher Paul	Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father, the renowned bandleader H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.		5	4-8	Fiction
The Cabin Faced West	Fritz, Jean	A girl's adventures as she moves from Gettysburg to western Pennsylvania.		5	4-6	Fiction
Circle Of Gold	Boyd, Candy Dawson	Mattie is determined to get her mother a beautiful gold pin for Mother's Day, even though she has not saved enough money and has just lost her job.		3	4-7	Fiction
Dear Mr. Henshaw	Cleary, Beverly	Letters between a student and his favorite author.	Divorce	4	4-8	Fiction
Dear Mrs. Parks	Parks, Rosa	Presents correspondence between Rosa Parks and various children in which the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement" answers questions and encourages young people to reach their highest potential.		4	4-7	Nonfiction
Dogsong (Digest Edition)	Paulsen, Gary	A fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy who feels assailed by the modernity of his life takes 1,400-mile journey by dog sled across ice, tundra, and mountains seeking his own "song" of himself.		5.9	5-9	Fiction
The Double Life Of Pochahontas	Fritz, Jean	A biography of the famous American Indian princess emphasizing her life-long adulation of John Smith and the roles she played in two very different cultures.		5.6	4-7	Nonfiction

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Faithful Elephants	Tsuchiya, Yukio	Recounts how three elephants in a Tokyo zoo were put to death because of the war focusing on the pain shared by the elephants and the keepers who must starve them.		5	4-9	Fiction
Friedrich	Richter, Hans Peter	A young German boy recounts the fate of his best friend, a Jew, during the Nazi regime.		4.5	4-8	Fiction
From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Konigsburg, E.L.	Two runaway children make their home in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.		4.8	4-7	Fiction
George Washington's Socks	Woodruff, Elvira	In the midst of a backyard campout, ten-year-old Matt and four other children find themselves transported back to the time of George Washington and the American Revolution.		5	4-9	Fiction
Greek Myths	Rearick, John	Plays based upon classic Greek myths. Includes historical information on Ancient Greece and writing activities.		5	4-8	Fiction
The Indian In The Cupboard	Banks, Lynne Reid	When Omri's plastic Indian (put in an unusual cupboard overnight) comes to life, Omri has a new friend who can teach him about another culture and another time.		6.1	4-7	Fiction
In The Year Of The Boar And Jackie Robinson	Lord, Bette	In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.		5	4-6	Fiction

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Joey Pigza Loses Control	Gantos, Jack	Joey, who is still taking medicine to keep him from getting too weird, goes to spend the summer with his hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.		5	5-10	Fiction
Jungle Dogs	Salisbury, Graham	While worrying about the wild dogs that supposedly lurk in the jungle along his paper route, Hawaiian sixth-grader Boy Regis also seeks to stop his older brother Damon from fighting all his battles for him.		4.6	4-9	
Leroy And The Old Man	Butterworth, William E.	Leroy is the only witness to a mugging. If he remains silent, he'll be safe. If he speaks out, perhaps the crimes will stop.		5	5-9	Fiction
Maniac Magee	Spinelli, Jerry	The classic story about a young boy who finds himself when he escapes an unbearable situation.		5	4-7	Fiction
Mr. Popper's Penguins	Atwater, Richard	The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.		6.6	4-7	Fiction
My Side Of The Mountain	George, Jean Craighead	A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his realization that he needs human companionship.		5.9	4-7	Fiction
Nightjohn	Paulsen, Gary	A young child learns the risks when a slave is taught to read.		5.5	5-9	Fiction

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Nothing's Fair In Fifth Grade	Declements, Barthe	Initially repelled by an overweight new student who has serious home problems, the fifth grade class finally learns to accept her.		3.5	4-7	Fiction
Oh Brother	Wilson, Johnneice Marshall	A warm, funny story about sibling rivalry in a black family.		4	4-7	Fiction
The Orphan Train Series	Warren, Andrea	Discusses the placement of over 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children in homes throughout the Midwest from 1854-1929 by recounting the story of one boy and his brothers.		6.4	4-7	Fiction
Out Of The Dust	Hesse, Karen	In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Great Depression.		5.6	5-9	Fiction
The Phantom Tollbooth	Juster, Norton	A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.		6.3	4-7	Fiction
Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe	Greene, Bette	Eleven-year-old Beth thinks that Philip Hall likes her, but their on-again, off-again relationship sometimes makes her wonder.		5.5	4-6	Fiction
The Pinballs	Byars, Betsy	Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and each other.		4.2	4-7	Fiction
Ruby Holler	Creech, Sharon	Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.		5	3-7	Fiction

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The Secret Of NIMH	O'Brien, Robert C.	Classic science fiction adventure.		4	4-6	Fiction
The Sign Of The Beaver	Speare, Elizabeth George	In the late eighteenth century, eleven-year-old Matt befriends an Indian boy of the Beaver Clan who helps him survive alone in the wilderness.		4	5-9	Fiction
Snow Treasure	McSwigan, Marie	An actual incident in which Norwegian children smuggled gold past the Nazis is the basis for this story of courage and patriotism.		5	4-6	Fiction
Sojourner Truth	Lutz, Norma Jean	Biography of the abolitionist, suffragist, and preacher.		5	4-10	Nonfiction
Souder	Armstrong, William H.	Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and with the help of the devoted dog Souder.		6.9	5-9	Fiction
Steal Away	Armstrong, Jennifer	In 1855, two thirteen-year-old girls (one white and one black) run away from a southern farm and make the difficult journey north to freedom living to recount their story forty-one years later to two similar young girls.		5	4-7	Fiction
Summer Of The Swans	Byars, Betsy	A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost.		5.2	5-9	Fiction
Through My Eyes	Bridges, Ruby	Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement as a six-year-old in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.		5	4-7	Nonfiction

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Trouble River	Byars, Betsy	When he builds his raft, a twelve-year-old boy never dreams that it will serve as the sole means of escape for him and his grandmother when hostile Indians threaten their prairie cabin.		5.7	4-7	Fiction
The Wanderer	Creech, Sharon	Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the <i>Wanderer</i> , a 45 foot sailboat.		5.2	3-7	Fiction
Windcatcher	Avi	While learning to sail during a visit to his grandmother's home, eleven-year-old Tony becomes excited about the rumors of sunken treasure.		5.3	4-7	Fiction
Year of the Panda	Schlein, Miriam	A Chinese boy cares for an orphaned baby panda with help from his family and then turns it over to the Panda Rescue Center where it is trained to live in the wild.		4	3-7	Fiction