



Dear Families,

Did you know that many students lose a month or more reading proficiency over the summer? Thankfully, keeping kids engaged with books can stop the summer slide and keep them growing academically.

This summer your child can read books and complete different activities based on their grade level. If students fulfill their summer reading requirements for their grade level, they will earn a casual day when they return to school in the fall. The student with the highest AR points for each grade level will be recognized during Chapel this fall and will also receive an additional casual day.

AR quizzes can not be taken over the summer. However, students may take tests when they return during the first week of school. These points will not count towards their first nine week goal. However, they will count towards the year end total for the 2023-2024 school year.

Attached is your child's grade level optional Summer Reading Challenge. I hope you have a blessed summer and enjoy reading at least 20 minutes each day. I look forward to hearing about what books you read!

Jacquelyn Conover
Plant St. Principal

Fifth Grade Summer Reading Book List

Choose 1 book from this list to read. Then complete the attached assignment.

Amelia Six by Kristin L Gray

Eleven-year-old Amelia (Millie) doesn't realize just how much adventure awaits her when she's given the opportunity of a lifetime: to spend the night in Amelia Earhart's childhood home with five other girls. Once at Amelia's house in Atchison, Kansas, Millie stumbles upon a display of Amelia's famous flight goggles. But her luck changes quickly when the goggles disappear, and Millie was the last to see them. It's up to the Amelia Six to find the culprit and return the goggles to their rightful place.

(Book Level 4.2; Points 7)

Charlie & Frog by Karen Kane

Charlie heads into the village where an old woman gives him a desperate message in sign language, then suddenly disappears. All Francine (aka Frog) wants is to be the world's greatest detective. Frog, who is Deaf, would jump at the chance to tackle a real-life case. Together, Charlie and Frog set out to decipher a series of clues and uncover the truth behind the missing woman's mysterious message.

(Book Level 4.1; Points 6)

The Disaster Days by Rebecca Behrens

Hannah loves living on a tiny island. It's a little disconnected from the outside world, but she's always felt completely safe there. Which is why when she's asked one day to babysit after school, she thinks it's no big deal. Then the shaking begins. The terrifying earthquake only lasts four minutes but it changes everything, damaging the house, knocking out the power, and making cell service nonexistent. Hannah and the youngsters are stranded and alone with Hannah in charge, as things go from bad to dangerous.

(Book Level 5.3; Points 10)

A Field Guide to Getting Lost by Joy McCullough

Sutton is having robot problems. She must have gotten something wrong in the coding. Luis spends his days writing thrilling stories about brave kids, but there's only so much inspiration you can find when you're stuck inside all day—allergic and afraid. Sutton and Luis couldn't be more different from each other. Except now that their parents are dating, these two have to find some common ground. Will they be able to navigate their way through life?

(Book Level 5; Points 5)

Following Baxter by Barbara Kerley

Jordie has been waiting forever for someone to move in next door, so she is thrilled when Professor Reece arrives: she has a laboratory in her basement and an extraordinary dog named Baxter—who seems to understand everything Jordie says. She begins walking Baxter and helping Professor Reece in the lab. But being a lab assistant ends up being more than Jordie bargained for and leads her to an unexpected secret. When Professor Reece goes missing, it is up to Jordie to use her smarts and Baxter's magical powers to find her. Will they be able to save Professor Reece before it's too late?

(Book Level 4.9; Points 7)

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

What does a girl say to the father she's never met and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. With bakery confections on one part of her mind, and her father on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies.

(Book Level 4.4; Points 8)

Roll With It by Jamie Sumner

Ellie's a girl who tells it like it is. That surprises some people, who see a kid in a wheelchair and think she's going to be all sunshine and cuddles. The thing is, Ellie has big dreams: one day she's going to be a professional baker. But when Ellie and her mom move so they can help take care of her grandpa, Ellie has to start all over again in a new town at a new school. Except she's not just the new kid—she's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town.

(Book Level 4.6; Points 6)

Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson

Live each day as if it were your last. Ben's fortune cookie changes his life. He creates a bucket list of what he wants to do with his life. But with his new tasks and dreams come new fears, risks, and plenty of trouble—all which may interfere with things like building a 1000 piece model and eating an entire cake. Ben's new way of living life may just lead to new friendships and new apple pies to be baked.

(Book Level 4.3; Points 4)

Distress Signal by Mary E. Lambert

Lavender's class trip to a national park is not going well. First, she is stuck in a group with her ex best friend, a mean girl, and an odd boy. Then, disaster strikes. There is a flash flood. The four students are separated from their school and lost in the desert. They will need to put aside their differences if they want to survive.

(Book Level 4.9; Points 7)

J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard

J.D. learns that he has a natural talent for cutting hair after his mom gives him the worst haircut of his life. Soon he is making money running a barbershop from his bedroom. But when Henry Jr. (the owner of the only official barbershop in town) tries to shut him down, there is only one thing left to do. How do you solve who is the best barber in town? With the Great Barber Battle!

(Book Level 4.8; Points 2)

Julieta and the Diamond Enigma by Luisana Duarte Armendariz

Julieta is so excited to finally visit Paris. She arrives with her art-handler dad and immediately takes in the sights, but when they get to the Louvre, they walk in on a thief stealing a priceless cursed diamond. The thief gets away and—worse yet—Julieta's dad is the main suspect! Can Julieta catch the real diamond thief before it's too late?

(Book Level 4.7; Points 5)

Leonard (My Life as a Cat) by Carlie Sorosiak

When Olive rescues a cat from a flood, she learns that Leonard the cat is really Leonard the alien. Leonard was attempting to come to Earth as a human and learn human things (bowling, hosting a dinner party, how to hold an umbrella). But now, not only will he not get those experiences, if he doesn't make it from South Carolina to Yellowstone National Park soon, he will miss his ride home.

(Book Level 5.2; Points 7)

The Million Dollar Race by Matthew Ross Smith

Grant is fast. Real fast. So he is very excited when a sneaker company announces a world-wide competition to find the fastest kid. But it won't be easy. His strange parents never got him a birth certificate, so he may not be allowed to compete. Grant wants to win, but at what cost? He may have to invent his own country. He may have to knock his best friend out of the competition. What is Grant willing to sacrifice to be the fastest kid in the world?

(Book Level 4.3; Points 5)

Letter Exchange Book Project

The Project

Write a series of letters between you and a character from the book.



The Details

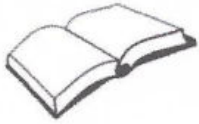
- You will need to write six letters altogether: three from you to the character in the book and three from the character back to you. Include a cover page with the title, author and an illustration.
- Each letter should be about a page long.
- In your letters, ask the character questions that have to do with the character's life and the story. Have the character answer the questions in his or her letters back to you. Write about things that you find interesting and things that you and the character have in common.
- Do something to distinguish the character's letters from yours. Some ideas include: Using different paper or stationary, changing your handwriting, or typing either your or the character's letters. You could also include illustrations. Be sure to write your character's letter's in his or her voice.

Tips for Success

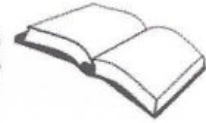
- ✓ In your first letter, make it clear why you are writing. Maybe you met the character at summer camp. Maybe you were matched in a school pen pal project. Use your imagination.
- ✓ Even though you will be asking questions, try not to make your letters sound like an interview. Make them friendly and chatty. It is fine to tell the character about your life, especially if you can relate something in your life to the character's life. For example, if your character has a little brother that drives him crazy, you could talk about your little sister.

Name _____ Due Date _____

Title of Book _____



Letter Exchange Book Project Rubric



Name _____ Book Title _____

Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project includes 6 letters of about a page each.• Cover page with title, author and illustration is also included.	
Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters are chatty and interesting to read.• Letters are written neatly in correct friendly letter format with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accuracy• Content of the letters are connected with characters and events in the book.• Character's letters are written in his or her voice.• Character's letters look and sound different from student's letters.	
Teacher Comments: <div>Total Score</div>	