

## Rising Fifth Graders

Titles may be available on audiobook or in large print. Many also come in Spanish.

### Fiction



**The Penderwicks** by Jeanne Birdsall

Adventures await the Penderwick sisters when they go on summer vacation.

**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** or **Superfudge** (or other *Fudge* books) by Judy Blume

If you think your family is a little crazy, spend some time with the Hatchers!

**The Crow-Girl** by Bodil Bredsdorff

A girl and her grandmother live alone by the sea. When the grandmother dies, the girl struggles to find a new life.

**Dear Mr. Henshaw** by Beverly Cleary

Leigh's life begins to change when his favorite author, Mr. Henshaw, answers his letter.

**A Week in the Woods** by Andrew Clements

Mark and his teacher, Mr. Maxwell, don't get along. Will this be a problem on the fifth grade camping trip?

**Mr. Chickee's Funny Money** or **Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission** by Christopher Paul Curtis

If the quadrillion dollar bill was real it would have a picture of a U.S. President on it— not a picture of soul singer James Brown. But if it is a fake, why is Federal Agent Fondoo so hot to get his hands on it?

**Because of Winn-Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo

Opal explores her new town, making friends with some strange people and a big, ugly dog she names Winn-Dixie.

**The Birchbark House** or **Game of Silence** by Louise Erdrich

Life is full of joy and tragedy for Omakaya and her Ojibwa community.

**A Room with a Zoo** by Jules Feiffer

Julie really wants a dog, but her parents won't let her get one. So instead she gets a kitten. Then a hamster, a fish, a turtle, a rabbit...

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

One summer day, 10 year old Brendan has a chance encounter with the white grandfather he has never met and his mother refuses to talk about it.

**Coraline** by Neil Gaiman

One day Coraline steps through a mysterious door into another house that seems to be like her house. There she meets her "other" parents and Coraline soon realizes that she wants to go home.

**Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story** by Mary Downing Hahn

Molly and Michael don't like their new stepsister Heather. She lies and misbehaves, but they are the

ones who get in trouble with their parents. When they move to a new house, Heather discovers the ghost of a girl who died long ago.

**Bunnicula** (or other books in the series) by Deborah and James Howe

Life is good for Harold and his pal Chester—until a new pet moves into their house. If Bunnicula the rabbit is not really a vampire, why is he behaving so strangely? What's a dog to do?

**Shiloh** (or other *Shiloh* books) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Marty loves the dog that he finds in the woods near his house. It doesn't seem right that he has to return it to an abusive owner.

**Midnight for Charlie Bone** (or other *Children of the Red King* books) by Jenny Nimmo

Charlie was an ordinary ten-year old until the day he overheard the thoughts of people in photographs. Now he attends Bloor's Academy where all of the students are endowed with magical talents.

**Sienna's Scrapbook: Our African American Heritage Trip** by Toni Trent Parker

In North Carolina, Sienna and her family see a false-bottom wagon that was used to secretly move slaves on the Underground Railroad. History is more interesting than Sienna ever thought it could be.

**Safe at Home** or **Slam Dunk** by Sharon Robinson

After Jumper's father dies, he moves to New York City where his mother makes him go to baseball camp. Jumper's game is basketball.

**Knights of the Kitchen Table** (or other *Time Warp Trio* books) by Jon Scieszka

"Halt vile knaves. Prepare to die." Joe, Fred and Sam are sitting at the kitchen table looking at the birthday present that Uncle Joe sent. The next thing they know they are facing the Black Knight.

**Robot Dreams** by Sara Varon

Dog finally has a best friend, a robot he made from a mail order kit. A great day at the beach ends in tragedy when they find out that salt water is not good for robots. Graphics tell this story without words.

## Nonfiction

**The People Could Fly: The Picture Book** by Virginia Hamilton J 398.2

"They say the people could fly." So begins a timeless story from the days of slavery that is still powerful today.

**The Bug Scientists** by Donna M. Jackson J 595.7

Bugs that help solve crimes? Ants that have pets? Maybe bugs are more interesting than you thought!

**The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours** by Jane Goodall J 599.885

If you never cared about chimpanzees before, you will after you read this book. The photographs will astound you.

**Squirt! The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read About Blood** (or other *Mysterious You* books)

by Trudee Romanek J 612.1

Your body is a most amazing machine!

**Draw 50 Animals** (or other *Draw 50* books) by Lee J. Ames J 743

Bugs, birds, fish and mammals big and small—you can draw them all.

**A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems** J 811.008

Can a poem have a shape?

**From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems/Del Ombligo de la Luna y Otros Poemas de Verano** (or other seasonal poem books) by Francisco X. Alarcón J 811.54  
Summer is green grass, family vacations, hot sun and rain showers.

**Science Verse** by Jon Scieszka J 811.54

They're wild, they're silly and sometimes hilarious—can they be poems about science?

**African Beginnings** by James Haskins J 960

Once, the Sahara desert was a green and fertile land. Many cultures prospered on the continent. Explore African Beginnings.

**George vs. George: The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides** by Rosalyn Schanzer J 973.3

Some think that King George was a "Royal Brute." Others say that George Washington was a traitor. "There are two sides to every story."

**Capital** by Lynn Curlee J 975.3

We live so close to the U.S. Capitol, the White House and the Lincoln Memorial that sometimes we forget how special they are.

**When Marian Sang** by Pam Muñoz Ryan J Bio Anderson

Marian Anderson wanted to sing. She wanted to sing opera on big, grand stages all over the world. The prejudice of her time could keep her from realizing her dream.

**A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson** by Michelle Y. Green J Bio Johnson  
Mamie Johnson had a dream to become a professional baseball pitcher. Can a girl do that?

*Prepared by M. Katz and D. Nelson, 2009*