

Dear Parents,

Summertime is a wonderful time for our students for fun with family and friends, free time, late nights, and vacations. It is a time to relax and really enjoy life, and a time to let the mind explore new opportunities. In addition, all IDS fifth grade students have their required summer reading. 😊

The summer reading program encourages students to actively read during the months that they are away from school. Upcoming fifth grade students are required to read at least **THREE NOVELS** during the summer.

1. The **FIRST NOVEL** has a Civil War focus to help build prior knowledge for our initial unit of study for the beginning of the academic year. Each child will **SELECT ONE** of the following titles to meet the initial required reading expectation:

The Root Cellar by Janet Lunn

The Perilous Road by William O. Steele (award winner)

Shades of Gray by Carolyn Reeder

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

2. The **SECOND NOVEL** will be a novel of your child's choice taken from the attached list of historical titles some of which are award winners and classics organized according to various time periods.
3. The **THIRD NOVEL** should be one that appears on the attached 2010-2011 Sunshine State book list.

## SUMMER REQUIRED TASKS to COMPLETE

1. For each novel, your child will complete an attached "Reading Comprehension/Fiction Elements Form (2 pages)." A total of **THREE** completed responses are to be **completed** and **returned** on the first day of school. This form compels the students to look deeply into the text, requiring them to show their understanding of the basic elements of literature as well as to respond personally to the work.
2. The attached reading response forms are also evaluated as noted below:  
**Look of Literacy**  
An overall look of quality and effort including:  
Proper spelling  
Complete sentences where noted on the forms  
**Evaluation Checklist**  
Properly identified story elements  
Provided supporting details from the story
3. If your child chooses to read more than the three required novels, please attach a signed note to the forms that lists all other novels read. All assignments and notes are due the first day of school.

If you would like to examine the titles before purchasing the books or checking them out of the library, please visit sites like [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesnoble.com](http://www.barnesnoble.com). These sites offer summaries and reviews of all the books on this list.

Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to read. We wish you a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,  
The Fifth Grade Team

## Suggested Summer Reading List for Fifth Grade

The books listed below have been enjoyed by students in the past both during the summer and in the midst of the school year. These selections help students make connections to curriculum. Please spend some time perusing the titles and help your child make a wise decision in choosing his/her free choice book.

### Any book related to the 1800-1860 time period

Examples include:

**Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Women's Rights** written by Pamela Levin

This biography of Susan B. Anthony chronicles her life and achievements.

**A Gathering of Days** written by Joan W. Blos

Find out what life was like in New Hampshire in the 1830's from this fictional journal of thirteen-year-old Catherine Hall.

**A Lantern in Her Hand** written by Bess Streeter Aldrich

Abbie Deal gives up the chance of marrying a fancy doctor and studying singing, and moves from Iowa to Nebraska Territory with her pioneer husband, Will. Together with other settlers, they struggle to plant trees and make farms and build Cedartown out of virgin prairie. This book makes you feel how the Midwest was tamed.

**Underground Man** written by Milton Meltzer

Joshua Bowen was a farmer's boy from Vermont who risked his life as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, guiding escaped slaves out of the South. The author based this novel on the life of Calvin Fairbank, a real abolitionist.

**On to Oregon!** Written by Honore Morrow

Halfway along the Oregon Trail in 1843, 13-year-old John Sager and his six brothers and sisters (the youngest a tiny baby) find themselves alone in the world when both their parents die. This is the incredible true story of how John got all of them to the Willamette Valley alive - barely.

**Journey to Nowhere** written by Mary Jane Auch

In 1815, while traveling by covered wagon to settle in the wilderness of western New York, eleven-year-old Mem experiences a flood and separation from her family.

**Young Frederick Douglass: The Slave Who Learned to Read** written by Ling Girard

Details the early years of the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

**Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt** written by Deborah Hopkinson

This book tells the story of a young African girl who sews a map pattern into a quilt to help guide enslaved people to freedom.

### Any book related to the 1860-1865 time period

Examples include:

**The Red Badge of Courage** written by Stephen Crane

Stephen Crane died aged 28, but not before producing (in 1895) the most famous book ever written about the Civil War. The story of Henry Fleming, a raw young recruit in the Union army, and the horrors he sees and endures, is as immediate, harrowing and moving as if the author had actually been there. This great book is short and easy to read.

**Rifles for Waitie** written by Harold Keith (award winner)

When the author of this book was a young man he interviewed several Oklahoma veterans of the Civil War's western campaigns; years later he wrote this exciting, realistic story of Kansas farm boy Jefferson Davis Bussey, who despite his name joins the Union army. Sent to spy on Cherokee Indian troops fighting for the South under Chief Stand Watie, Jeff is caught and has to pretend to be a Confederate soldier.

**A Boy Becomes A Man At Wounded Knee** written by Ted Wood and Wanbli Numpa Afraid of HawkOglala Lakota boy describes the ride taken with his father and grandfather to observe the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy at Wounded Knee.

**Any book related to the 1865-1896 time period**

Examples include:

**Ten Mile Day** written by Mary Ann Fraser

This is a picture book - with clear writing too - about how the workers of the Central Pacific Railroad managed to lay 10 miles of transcontinental track in one day when one of the railroad owners bet that it couldn't be done.

**Death of the Iron Horse** written by Paul Goble

Many stories have been made up about trains wrecked by Indians, but it actually happened only once, in 1867, when a group of Cheyennes derailed a Union Pacific freight train in Nebraska. This little book, with its beautiful drawings, tells the story.

**Thunder Rolling in the Mountains** written by Scott O'Dell and Elizabeth Hall

Sound of Running Feet was the real daughter of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, and in this marvelous but sad novel she tells the story of the tribe's attempted flight to Canada, their eventual capture by U.S. cavalry, and their forced migration to reservations.

**Any book related to the 1854-1917 time period**

Examples include:

**On the Way Home** written by Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane

This is Laura Ingalls Wilder's own story, made from a diary into a book by her daughter, who was seen in 1894 when the pioneer family left drought-stricken South Dakota for a new farm and a new life in Missouri.

**Beautiful Land: A Story of the Oklahoma Land Rush** written by Nancy Antle

After a two-year wait during which her mother died, twelve-year-old Annie Mae and her family join thousands of hopeful settlers as they race to claim land in the newly-opened Oklahoma Territory.

**The Bite of the Gold Bug: A Story of the Alaskan Gold Rush** written by Barthe DeClements

While mining for gold in 1898, Bucky and his father must overcome danger in the Alaskan wilderness as well as human treachery.

**Earthquake! A Story of Old San Francisco** written by Kathleen V. Kudlinski

In 1906, after the devastating earthquake hits San Francisco, twelve-year-old Phillip struggles to save the horses in his family's livery stable.

**Preacher's Boy** written by Katherine Paterson

In 1899, ten-year-old Robbie, son of a preacher in a small Vermont town, gets himself into all kinds of trouble when he decides to give up being Christian in order to make the most of his life before the end of the world.

**Jip: His Story** written by Katherine Paterson (award winner)

While living on a Vermont poor farm during 1855 and 1856, Jip learns his identity and that of his mother and comes to understand how he arrived at this place.

◆ **Listening for Lions** written by Gloria Whelan

◆ In 1919, in British East Africa, 13-year old Rachel loses her missionary parents during an influenza epidemic. Instead of her neighbors, the Pritchards, helping her, they involve her in a scheme to pass her off as their daughter and send her to visit their father who has disinherited them. Upon arriving in England, Rachel and the seriously ill grandfather develop a surprisingly strong, affectionate friendship. Rachel continues the scheme, believing that one more shock will kill the old gentleman. Rachel continues to grapple with her dishonesty, grief for her parents and homesickness for Africa.

◆ **Worth** written by A. LaFaye (award winner)

◆ After Nathaniel's leg is crushed in an accident, his father brings home an orphan boy, John Worth, to help work the fields. Worth has come to Nebraska from New York City on the Orphan Train, which brings homeless children west to find new lives. Nathaniel feels increasingly jealous of the boy who has taken over not only his work but the attention of his father, who has barely spoken to him since his injury. In school for the first time he is far behind even his youngest classmates, and he feels as useless there as he does at home. Meanwhile, Worth is still grieving for his family and his old life. As the farm chores prevent him from going to school, he also resents losing his dream of an education and a good job. And for all the work he does, he knows he will never inherit the farm that he's helping to save. But a battle between ranchers and farmers -- and a book of Greek mythology that Nathaniel reads aloud each evening - forges a connection between the two boys, who begin to discover that maybe there is enough room on the farm, and in the family, for both of them.

◆ **Any book related to the 1918-1945 time period**

◆ Examples include:

◆ **Journey to America: Silver Days** written by Sonia Levitin

◆ In 1938 Lisa Platt's father left Berlin for America in the middle of the night. Lisa, her sisters, and her mother have to wait until he has made enough money to send for them. But life for Jews in Hitler's Germany becomes more and more scary; finally the Platts escape to Switzerland where they wait and wait, with no money and not enough to eat, for a letter to arrive from America. It wasn't easy even when they got here.

◆ **Close To Home: A Story of the Polio Epidemic** written by Lydia Weaver

◆ In the summer of 1952, Betsy sees her vacation fun overshadowed by the spreading polio epidemic, while her mother and other scientists work frantically to develop a vaccine for the crippling disease.

◆ **Out of the Dust** written by Karen Hesse (award winner)

◆ 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 Depression.

◆ **A Long Way To Go** written by Zibby Oneal

◆ Eight-year-old Lila deals with the womens' suffrage movement that rages during World War I

◆ **Lyddie** written by Katherine Paterson

◆ Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

◆ **Keep Smiling Through** written by Ann Rinaldi

◆ A ten-year-old girl living in middle class America during World War II learns the painful lesson that doing what's right is not always an easy thing to do.

◆ **Fire In The Sky** written by Candice F. Ransom

◆ More than losing at marbles, worrying about his relatives and the Nazis in Germany, or hearing his favorite radio hero Jack Armstrong, nine-year-old Stenny Green is focused on

getting to see the Hindenburg when it lands near their home in Lakehurst, New Jersey, in 1937.

**The Truth About Sparrows** written by Marian Hale

Twelve-year-old Sadie promises that she will always be Wilma's best friend when their families leave drought-stricken Missouri in 1933, but once in Texas, Sadie learns that she must try to make a new home and new friends, too.

### **Books with a Multicultural Perspective**

**Chu Ju's House** written by Gloria Whelan

In order to save her baby sister, fourteen-year-old Chu Ju leaves her rural home in modern China and earns food and shelter by working on a sampan, tending silk worms, and planting rice seedlings while wondering if she will ever see her family again.

**Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog** written by Pamela S. Turner

Relates the true story of a dog who accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continue to wait for him there every day for many years.

**A Song for Ba** written by Paul Yee

Wei Lim, having learned how to sing the female roles his grandfather once performed as a member of a Chinese opera troupe, is able to help his father Ba, also an opera singer, when dwindling audiences force Ba to give up his role as the general and play the part of a woman.

**Nothing Here But Stones** written by Nancy Oswald

In 1882, ten-year-old Emma and her family, along with other Russian Jewish immigrants, arrive in Cotopaxi, Colorado, where they face inhospitable conditions as they attempt to start an agricultural colony, and lonely Emma is comforted by the horse whose life she saved.

**Any book from the 2010-2011 Sunshine State Young Reader's List  
(see attached lists)**

Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program  
Master List of Titles 2010 - 2011

**Grades 3-5**

- Avi.. *The Seer of Shadows*. HarperCollins, ©2008.
- Beatty, Andrea. *Cicada Summer*. Amulet Books, ©2008.
- Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece*. Henry Holt and Co., ©2008.
- Delaney, M. C. *Obi, Gerbil on the Loose*. Dutton Juvenile, ©2008.
- DiTerlizzi, Tony. *Kenny & the Dragon*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, ©2008.
- Feldman, Jodi. *The Gollywopper Games*. HarperCollins, ©2008.]
- Forester, Victoria. *The Girl Who Could Fly*. Feiwel & Friends, ©2008.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly, *Eleven*. Wendy Lamb Books, ©2008.
- Henkes, Kevin. *Bird Lake Moon*. Greenwillow Books, ©2008.
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Piper Reed, Navy Brat*. Henry Holt and Co., ©2007.
- Lupica, Mike. *Safe at Home*. Philomel, ©2008.
- Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays*. Scholastic Press, ©2009.]
- Napoli, Donna Jo. *Mogo, the Third Warthog*. Hyperion Books, ©2007.
- Wolf, Joan. *Someone Named Eva*. Laurel Leaf, ©2009.
- Yep, Laurence. *The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906*. HarperCollins ©2008.

Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program  
Master List of Titles 2010-2011

**Grades 6-8**

- Avi.. **The Seer of Shadows.** HarperCollins, ©2008.
- Bartolett, Susan Campbell. **The Boy Who Dared.** Scholastic ©2008.
- Bloor, Edward. **Taken.** Knopf Books for Young Readers ©2007.
- Cooney, Caroline B. **Diamonds in the Shadow.**
- Green, Tim. **Football Hero.** HarperCollins ©2008.
- Herlong, M. L.. **The Great Wide Sea.** Viking Juvenile ©2008.
- Hill, Kirkpatrick. **Do Not Pass Go.** Margaret K. McElderry ©2007.
- Paulsen, Gary. **Lawn Boy.** Wendy Lamb Books ©2007.
- Porter, Tracey. **Billy Creekmore: a Novel!** HarperCollins ©2007
- Schmid, Susan Maupin. **Lost Time.** Philomel ©2008
- Shafer, Audrey. **The Mailbox.**
- Sherman, Delia. **Changeling.** Viking Juvenile ©2006
- Smith, Roland .I., Q: **Independence Hall.** Gale ©2009
- Soto, Gary. **Mercy on These Teenage Chimps.** Perfection Learning ©2008
- Spinelli, Jerry. **Smiles to Go.** HarperCollins ©2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading & Thinking

Writing about the basic elements of a story can help you remember and understand it.  
Use this organizer with any of the fiction pieces in *Storyworks*  
to help you achieve a better understanding of it.

\_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE**

\_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHOR**

## **CHARACTER**

The main character's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Some words to describe the main character are (provide at least three) \_\_\_\_\_

Some examples that show what the main character is like are \_\_\_\_\_

Another character's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

His/her relationship to the main character is \_\_\_\_\_.

Some words to describe this character are \_\_\_\_\_

Some examples that show what this character is like are \_\_\_\_\_

Another character's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

His/her relationship to the main character is \_\_\_\_\_.

Some words to describe this character are \_\_\_\_\_

Some examples that show what this character is like are \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading & Thinking page 2

**SETTING**

The location of this story is \_\_\_\_\_.

The time period of this story is \_\_\_\_\_.

The atmosphere, or feeling that the setting creates, is (i.e., rich, poor, strange, comfortable, scary, friendly, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_.

**PLOT**

These are the main events that happen in the story at the

Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

End: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The main conflict of the story is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The climax, or point at which the conflict comes to a peak, is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The conflict is resolved when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_