

May 11, 2017

Dear Parents of Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Graders:

Summer is about to begin! I know the students are in need of some much deserved rest. However, please make sure that your child also finds the time to do some reading over the summer to help him/her stay in practice. Silent reading, as well as oral reading, would be good to practice. So please have your student read some portions of the books to you to stay in practice.

**There will be only one book title that will be required for the students to read, which is *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. Please make sure that the entire book has been read by the time school begins again. In addition, please allow your 5<sup>th</sup> grader to choose at least 2 to 3 other books of his/her choice to read.** Please make sure each book chosen is at his/her reading level (for example, no Dr. Seuss books allowed). The students can use the choices on the reading list as a guide (see attached list), or they may choose books that are not on the list, also. Please encourage your student to write down the words he/she reads that are unfamiliar and look up the definition of each word based on the context of how it's used in the sentence. Keeping a word journal over the summer would be a great way to help the students learn new vocabulary. They can either handwrite it or type it on the computer, whichever they prefer. If they turn it in to me at the beginning of school, they can begin the year with some extra credit!

Feel free to email me with any questions you may have concerning the summer reading ([jeanpoynter@chaparralstaracademy.com](mailto:jeanpoynter@chaparralstaracademy.com)). Have a wonderful summer! See you in August!

Thank you,

Jean Poynter, M.S. Ed.  
4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ELA  
Chaparral Star Academy

## Fifth Grade Summer Reading List

### **Required Book - *Number the Stars***

**by Lois Lowry**

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think about life before the war. But it's now 1943, and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching in their town. When the Nazis begin "relocating" the Jews of Denmark, Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. And as Annemarie helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis and embarks on a dangerous mission, she learns how to be brave and courageous -- to save her best friend's life.

### **Other books to consider reading over the summer:**

#### ***Chasing Redbird***

**by Sharon Creech**

Zinnia Taylor lives in Bybanks, Kentucky, with too many brothers and sisters -- a mess of "tadpoles" and "pumpkins" is what her uncle Nate calls them. When Zinny discovers a mysterious, overgrown trail that begins on her family's farm, she's determined to clear it, from start to finish.

#### ***Frindle***

**by Andrew Clements, Brian Selznick (illus.)**

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

#### ***From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler***

**by E. L. Konigsburg**

The enchanting story of the unappreciated Claudia Kincaid, "boring straight-A Claudia" (oldest child and only girl and almost too old for half-fare tickets), who runs away with her little brother Jamie to live in the Metropolitan Museum, FILES is a sentimental favorite with a remarkable heroine.

#### ***In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson***

**by Bette Bao Lord, Marc Simont (illus.)**

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends.

#### ***Island of the Blue Dolphins***

**by Scott O'Dell**

In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind.

#### ***Matilda***

**by Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake (illus.)**

Matilda Wormwood started reading books at the age of four, but her crooked father and bingo-playing mother regard book reading as a waste of time -- and much prefer watching TV. In fact, they take no notice of their genius daughter at all! Only Miss Honey, Matilda's lovely and gentle teacher, recognizes her special gifts.

### ***Mick Harte Was Here***

**by Barbara Park**

How could someone like Mick die? He was the kid who freaked out his mom by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, the kid who did a wild dance in front of the whole school -- and the kid who, if only he had worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive today. But now Phoebe Harte's 12-year-old brother is gone, and Phoebe's world has turned upside down. With her trademark candor and compassion, beloved middle-grade writer Barbara Park tells how Phoebe copes with her painful loss in this story filled with sadness, humor -- and hope.

### ***My Daniel***

**by Pam Conrad**

Wandering through the Natural History Museum with her grandchildren, Julia Creath feels the presence of her dead brother, Daniel. She remembers a time when fossil fever hit everyone, old and young -- a time when people would even kill for those old bones under the ground.

### ***Shiloh***

**by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

Eleven-year-old Marty Preston loves to spend time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Sometimes he takes his .22 rifle to see what he can shoot, like some cans lined up on a rail fence. Other times he goes up early in the morning just to sit and watch the fox and deer. But one summer Sunday, Marty comes across something different on the road just past the old Shiloh schoolhouses -- a young beagle -- and the trouble begins.

### ***The View from Saturday***

**by E. L. Konigsburg**

It was a surprise to a lot of people when Mrs. Olinski's team won the sixth-grade Academic Bowl contest at Epiphany Middle School. It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen?

### ***Wait Till Helen Comes, A Ghost Story***

**by Mary Downing Hahn**

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

### ***Walk Two Moons***

**by Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle, proud of her country roots and the "Indian-ness in her blood," travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. Along the way, she tells of the story of Phoebe Winterbottom, who received mysterious messages, who met a "potential lunatic," and whose mother disappeared.

### ***The Warm Place***

**by Nancy Farmer**

When Ruva, a young giraffe, is captured and sent to a zoo in San Francisco, she calls upon two rats, a street-smart chameleon, a runaway boy, and all the magical powers of the animal world to return to "the warm place" that is home.

***The Black Cauldron***

**by Lloyd Alexander**

Peace reigns in Caer Dallben, where Taran works as an assistant pig-keeper, but evil threatens the rest of Prydain. The diabolical Arawn's army grows every day, and his terrible warriors never die.

***Gulliver's Travels***

**by Jonathan Swift**

When Gulliver first goes off to sea, he has no idea of the amazing worlds he will visit – or incredible adventures that await him there.

***Little House in the Big Woods***

**by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

Wolves and panthers and bears roamed the deep Wisconsin woods in the late 1870's. In those same woods, Laura Ingalls lived with her Pa and Ma in a snug little house made of logs.

***Treasure Island (abridged children's edition)***

**by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Ever wonder where our images of pirates with peg-legs, parrots, and colorful catch phrases like "Shiver me timbers!" comes from? They all come from the classic adventure story of a boy named Jim, who sets off in search of treasure, never far enough ahead of the dangers that await him.

***Little Women***

**by Louisa May Alcott**

When their father goes off to war, the March sisters find that they must band together to help their mother survive many hardships.

***Robinson Crusoe (abridged children's edition)***

**by Daniel Defoe**

Robinson Crusoe always wanted to live an exciting life at sea. But nothing could have prepared him for the challenges he faces after being shipwrecked on a deserted, untamed island!

\*required reading