

Grades 5 & 6 Summer Reading List 2026

Your summer reading has three parts. Please read carefully and make sure you complete each part.

- 1) First, everyone will have one required reading book, listed below. This book is different for 5th and 6th Grades.
- 2) Next, you will read one **choice book**. The options and descriptions are listed on the next page. Choose something that interests you!
- 3) Finally, you will answer the questions on the last page about your **choice book** from step two.

Required Reading:

5th Grade

All rising 5th Grade students will read *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen.

*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

6th Grade

All rising 6th Grade students will read *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

*If needed, I have a limited number of copies I can provide prior to the summer.

Choice Book List

Please choose **ONE** book from this list **that you have not read before**. You may choose either fiction or nonfiction.

Fantasy

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter* series)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (*Chronicles of Narnia* series)

Thriller/Action-Adventure

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz (*Alex Rider* series)

Realistic Fiction

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Science Fiction

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Classics (and some of Mr. Schettler's Favorites)

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Nonfiction

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson by
Katherine Johnson

Summer Reading Questions

On a separate sheet of paper (either handwritten or on a Google doc), please answer each of the following questions below for your **choice book** only (**do not** answer based on the required reading). Write at least 2-3 sentences per question to turn in. If you choose to type your answers, make sure you have the document printed out to turn in.

If you need help with the questions you may ask a parent or friend. You can email Erin Lekavich at elekavich@gastonday.org if you have further questions or need help selecting a book.

1. What is the central conflict in your book, and how is it resolved (if at all)?
2. How does the main character change from the beginning to the end of the story?
3. Describe a scene that had a strong impact on you. Why was it significant to the story or to you personally?
4. What theme or message do you think the author is trying to convey? Provide evidence from the book.
5. Identify a minor character who played an important role. What was their contribution to the story?
6. Explain the setting of your book and how it influenced the plot or characters.
7. Who (or what) was the antagonist of the story?
8. Choose a decision made by a character and explain whether you agree or disagree with it, and why.
9. How would the story change if it were told from a different character's perspective?
10. If you could ask the author one question about the book, what would it be and why?