

# Books Every Fifth Grader Should Know

## Daniel Boone Regional Library

[www.dbrl.org](http://www.dbrl.org)

### Callaway County Public Library

710 Court St., Fulton  
(573) 642-7261  
TTY (573) 642-0662

### Columbia Public Library

100 West Broadway, Columbia  
(573) 443-3161  
TTY (573) 443-6027

### Southern Boone County Public Library

117 E. Broadway, Ashland  
(573) 657-7378

### Bookmobile & Outreach Services

1-800-324-4806  
[outreach@dbrl.org](mailto:outreach@dbrl.org)

Alexander, Lloyd. **The Book of Three** (J or YA ALE)

Taran, the Assistant Pig Keeper in the mythical kingdom of Prydain, sets out with the warrior Gwydion to save his country from evil.

Babbitt, Natalie. **Tuck Everlasting** (J BAB)

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a 10-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents you from ever growing any older.

Bawden, Nina. **Granny the Pag** (J BAW)

Originally abandoned by her actor parents who later attempt to gain custody, Cat wages a spirited campaign to decide her own fate and remain with her grandmother.

Brink, Carol. **Caddie Woodlawn** (J BRI)

The adventures of an 11-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-19th century.

Burnford, Sheila. **The Incredible Journey** (J BUR)

A young Labrador retriever, an old bull terrier and a Siamese cat undertake a 250-mile trek through the Canadian wilderness in order to return to their home.

Christopher, John. **The White Mountains** (J CHR)

Three boys strive for freedom in a future society run by enormous metal robots called Tripods, who capture mature human beings and make them docile, obedient servants.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn-Dixie** (J DIC)

When 10-year-old India Opal Buloni moved to Florida with her preacher father, she didn't expect that she'd adopt Winn-Dixie, a dog she names after the supermarket where they met. Opal is lonely at first, but with such an unusually friendly dog at her side, she makes some unusual friends and finds she has a lot to be thankful for.

Fitzhugh, Louise. **Harriet the Spy** (J FIT)

Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge.

Giff, Patricia. **Lily's Crossing** (J GIF)

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Hesse, Karen. **Out of the Dust** (J HES)

In a series of poems, 15-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.

Juster, Norton. **The Phantom Tollbooth** (J JUS)

Journeying through the land beyond the tollbooth, Milo learns the importance of words and numbers and also discovers how to cure his boredom.

Levine, Gail. **Ella Enchanted** (J LEV)

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order that she's given.

Lewis, C. S. **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** (J LEW)

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia where they assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Lowry, Lois. **Number the Stars** (J LOW)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, 10-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

McGraw, Eloise. **The Moorchild** (J MACG)

Feeling that she is neither fully human nor "Folk," a changeling learns her true identity and attempts to find the human child whose place she had been given.

Napoli, Donna. **The Prince of the Pond** (J NAP)

Having been turned into a frog by a hag, a frog-prince makes the best of his new life as he mates, has children, and instills a new kind of thinking into his frog family.

Paterson, Katherine. **Bridge to Terabithia** (J PAT)

The life of a 10-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death while trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet** (J or YA PAU)

After a plane crash, 13-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning how to survive his parents' divorce.

Peck, Robert. **Soup** (J PEC)

The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town.

Raskin, Ellen. **The Westing Game** (J RAS)

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes** (YA SAC)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure and a new sense of himself.

Sebestyen, Ouida. **Words by Heart** (YA SEB)

In 1910, a young black girl struggles to fulfill her papa's dream of a better future for their family in the southwestern town where they are the only blacks.

Vail, Rachel. **Daring to Be Abigail** (J VAI)

During her summer at Camp Nashaquitsa, 11-year-old Abby tries to reinvent herself, while worrying about her mother, missing her dead father, and getting to know her equally self-conscious bunkmates.

Voigt, Cynthia. **Bad Girls** (J VOI)

After meeting on the first day in Mrs. Chemsky's fifth grade class, Margalo and Mikey help each other in and out of trouble, trying to maintain a friendship while each asserts her independence.

Yumoto, Kazumi. **Friends** (J YUM)

Curious about death, three sixth grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends.