Dear Parents of Rising Fifth Graders,

After reflection and research into best practices in literacy education, this year’s required summer reading for rising fifth graders will have a different “look.” This summer, rising fifth-grade students must read at least one book from a curated list that covers various themes and genres. Of course, students are welcome to read as many books from the list as they would like.

When students return to school in August, each will be involved with literature circles and classroom discussions on both the specific book they have read and the broader theme explored in the book. The books included on the summer reading list were chosen to serve as a springboard for inquiry and student-led research during the 2019-2020 school year.

All books are readily available from Amazon and other book suppliers. Please assist your child in selecting and purchasing at least one of the books. Your child should return to school on August 7, 2019 having read at least one of the books. Students will need a personal copy for further classroom reference and use in the first few weeks of school.

This required assignment is separate from the optional Summer Reading Challenge which is included in your child’s report card packet. Students may elect to use this required reading to meet squares of the challenge board when appropriate to do so.

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade Team
Rising fifth-grade students must read at least one book from this curated list. Of course, students are welcome to read as many books from the list as they would like.

1. *Flush* by Newbery Author Carl Haaisen (Realistic Fiction): Noah and his dad must prove that the owner of the *Coral Queen* casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor—which has made taking a dip at the local beach like swimming in a toilet.

2. *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly (Realistic Fiction): Iris is a tech genius. As the only deaf person in her school, people often treat her differently. She learns about Blue 55, a whale who cannot speak to other whales and immediately feels connected to him.

3. *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown (Science Fiction): Roz, a robot with artificial intelligence, is stranded on an isolated island and makes the animals on the island part of her family.


5. *Zane and the Hurricane: A Tale of Katrina* by Newbery Author Rodman Philbrick (Historical Fiction): This harrowing and inspiring tale of a 12-year-old New Hampshire boy and his beloved dog who get caught up in the disaster. Zane encounters many dangers, from the floodwaters to gun-toting vigilantes to the local drug lord, but also finds love, kindness, and friendship in the most unexpected places.

6. *Blizzard of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917* by Sally M. Walker (Nonfiction): On December 6, 1917 two ships collided, resulting in a huge blast that flattened two towns. The next day a blizzard hits the area. This book is a well-researched account of a deadly disaster that happened more than 100 years ago.

7. *Hoot* by Carl Haaisen (Realistic Fiction): Winner of the Newbery Honor Award, this adventure involves new kids, bullies, pancakes, alligators, and an endangered owl species.

8. *Long Walk to Water* by Newbery Author Linda Sue Park (Fiction): This novel includes two storylines about hardships in Sudan. The true story of Salva Dut, a member of the Dinka tribe in 1985, and the fictional story of Nya, a young girl that was a part of the Nuer tribe in 2008, come together in a surprising and moving way.