

## Adventure

Cooney, Caroline  
FLIGHT #116 IS DOWN

Four teens are brought together by their involvement in an airliner crash and the desperate rescue efforts that follow.

Fields, T. S.  
DANGER IN THE DESERT  
Kidnapped and left in the desert with no food or water, Scott and Robbie must use the contents of their mother's car for survival.

Hobbs, Will  
WILD MAN ISLAND

A teen stranded on a remote Alaskan island faces starvation, food poisoning, cold, wild animals and a mysterious “Wild Man.”

Jacques, Brian  
CASTAWAYS OF THE FLYING  
DUTCHMAN\*

Adventure awaits a mute boy and his dog who are given the gifts of speech and eternal youth.

Mikaelson, Ben  
SPARROW HAWK RED  
Ricky hopes to avenge his mother’s murder by stealing a plane from drug smugglers in Mexico.

Napoli, Donna Jo  
NORTH  
Smothered by his overprotective mother, and inspired by Arctic explorer Matthew Hensen, Alvin runs away to the North Pole—in January.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds  
FEAR PLACE  
Alone on a camping trip with the brother he hates, Doug must face his fears when his brother leaves and doesn’t return.

Paulsen, Gary  
HATCHET \*  
Following a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, Brian must learn to survive with only a hatchet and his own wits.

Sachar, Louis  
HOLES\*  
Sentenced to a brutal detention camp for a crime he didn't commit, Stanley finds buried treasure and his first real friend.

Strickland, Brad  
MUTINY \*  
14-year-old Davy is an apprentice to the ship’s surgeon when a planned mutiny goes awry.

Wallace, Bill  
EYE OF THE GREAT BEAR  
Because he is easily startled, Bailey fears he is a coward until he has a face to face encounter with a grizzly bear.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mystery & Suspense

Bruchac, Joseph  
WHISPER IN THE DARK  
Maddie becomes convinced that she is being stalked by a madman from Narragansett Indian folklore.

Broach, Elise  
SHAKESPEARE’S SECRET  
Hero, the new kid in school, discovers that a priceless diamond is hidden in her family's new house.

**\*This book has one or more sequels or is part of a series.**

Holmes, Barbara Ware  
FOLLOWING FAKE MAN  
Homer’s father died when he was three and his mother won’t talk about him, but Homer finds some clues while on a trip to Maine.

Hoobler, Dorothy  
IN DARKNESS, DEATH \*  
In 18th century Japan, young Seikei becomes involved with a ninja as he helps his foster father investigate the murder of a samurai.

Kehret, Peg  
ABDUCTION  
When Bonnie’s little brother is kidnapped by the father he has never met, she becomes involved in the major search effort to find him.

Lawrence, Caroline  
THIEVES OF OSTIA \*  
Flavia and her friends put themselves in real danger while investigating who has been beheading dogs in their ancient Roman town.

Raskin, Ellen  
THE WESTING GAME  
A millionaire’s death brings together an odd group of heirs who must solve the puzzle of his will before they can claim their inheritance.

Roberts, Willo Davis  
REBEL  
When 14-year-old Rebel and her friend Moses witness a crime, she insists they solve it themselves rather than call the police.

Stanley, Diane  
THE MYSTERIOUS MATTER OF I. M. FINE  
Franny realizes that the author of the popular horror series “Chillers” has a disturbing and dangerous power over the readers of her books.

Van Draanen, Wendelin  
SAMMY KEYES AND THE HOTEL  
THIEF \*  
13-year-old Sammy solves crimes while she survives seventh grade.

Wright, Betty Ren  
THE DOLLHOUSE MURDERS  
A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light and dolls that have moved from where they were left provide clues about long ago murders.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fantasy and Science Fiction

Codell, Esme  
DIARY OF A FAIRY GODMOTHER  
Hunky Dory, witch in training, is at the top of her class in charm school, but she would rather grant wishes than cast spells.

Collins, Suzanne  
GREGOR THE OVERLANDER \*  
Gregor becomes a reluctant hero in the world of giant cockroaches and rats that exists below his apartment building.

DuPrau, Jeanne  
CITY OF EMBER \*  
200 years after it was built as the last refuge for the human race, the underground city of Ember is running out of electricity.

Hale, Shannon  
THE PRINCESS ACADEMY  
A remote mining town learns that the next princess will be one of their citizens, so the girls must learn some new skills.

## Fantasy and Science Fiction

Hoover, H. M.

ORVIS

A runaway girl, an abandoned boy and an obsolete robot attempt to cross The Empty to reach a new life.

L'Engle, Madeleine

A WRINKLE IN TIME \*

Meg's scientist father has mysteriously disappeared and Meg, her friend and her brother must travel to other worlds to find him.

Levine, Gail Carson

ELLA ENCHANTED

Why did Cinderella obey her nasty step sisters? Because a misguided fairy gave her the "gift" of unwavering obedience.

O'Brien, Robert C.

MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH \*

Only the brilliant and mysterious rats of NIMH can help the widowed field mouse Mrs. Frisby achieve the seemingly impossible.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley

THE UNSEEN

Xandra copes with her family problems by imagining magical worlds until the day she discovers the ability to enter a separate reality.

Waugh, Sylvia

EARTHBORN \*

The biggest problem Nesta has faced is a bully, until the day her parents reveal that they are aliens and they must return to their home planet.

**\*This book has one or more sequels or is part of a series.**

## Historical Fiction

Avi

CRISPIN: THE CROSS OF LEAD

In 1377 England, mysteries surround Crispin, a serf from a rural village who never knows his own name until his mother dies.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

BUD, NOT BUDDY

During the Great Depression, 10-year-old orphan Bud hops a freight train in search of the jazz musician he thinks is his father.

Cushman, Karen

THE BALLAD OF LUCY WHIPPLE

Stuck with her family in a muddy California tent town during the gold rush, Lucy schemes to get back to civilized Massachusetts.

Erdrich, Louise

THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE \*

Experience a year in the life of Omakayas, a member of the Ojibwa tribe living on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Fleischman, Sid

THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA

Bandits, war, intrigue and adventure await a boy named Shipwreck in 1846 San Diego.

Jocelyn, Marthe

MABLE RILEY: A RELIABLE RECORD OF HUMDRUM, PERIL AND ROMANCE

In 1901 Canada, 14-year-old Mable sees wider worlds beyond her family and the farm.

Lowry, Lois

NUMBER THE STARS

In Nazi-occupied Denmark, Annemarie and her family risk everything to help smuggle Jewish families to safety.

## Historical Fiction

Mah, Adeline Yen

CHINESE CINDERELLA AND THE SECRET DRAGON SOCIETY

Kung fu trained friends help the Allied soldiers fight the Japanese occupiers of Shanghai.

McCaughrean, Geraldine

STOP THE TRAIN!

Cissy's family has helped build a town out of the wilderness in the Oklahoma territory, but to survive they must remain on the railroad line.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz

ESPERANZA RISING

Esperanza and her mother must flee their privileged life in Mexico for an uncertain future in Depression-era California.

Speare, Elizabeth George

SIGN OF THE BEAVER

When Matt is left alone in the wilderness, the Chief of the Beaver Tribe cares for him in return for teaching the Chief's grandson to read.

Taylor, Mildred

ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY \*

Cassie's family bravely faces poverty and prejudice in the South during the Depression.

Wood, Frances M.

DAUGHTER OF MADRUGADA

Cesa lives a privileged life on a California rancho until gold is discovered and English-speaking newcomers invade their land.

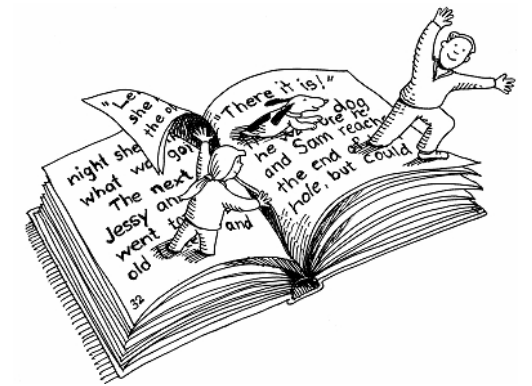
Stanislaus County Library

Children's Department

2006

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

# Great Reads for Grades 5-6



Adventure  
Mystery  
Fantasy  
Science Fiction  
Historical Fiction

