

The love of reading good books is something we want to see in all of the students. This summer all rising fifth graders will choose one of the books from the given list. Please note that the Accelerated Reader Book Level is provided as a general gauge for difficulty level of the text (e.g. AR BL 5.2 would be grade 5 and 2 months). After reading one of the listed books, choose one of the activities to complete. Bring it in the first week of school to share with the class!

### **Contemporary/Realistic Fiction**

#### **1. Alexander, Kwame; *The Crossover* AR BL 4.3 Newbery Medal**

Twelve-year-old narrator Josh Bell uses the rhythms of a poetry jam to emulate the —moving & grooving/popping and rocking! of life on the basketball court with his twin brother J.B. The boys wrestle with the highs and lows of middle school life as their beloved dad's health declines.

#### **2. Anderson, John David; *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* AR BL 5.2**

Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is very sick and won't be able to finish the school year. Her students, Topher, Brand and Steve come up with a plan to tell her how much she means to them.

#### **3. Bell, Cece; *El Deafo* AR BL 2.7 Newbery Honor**

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid.

#### **4. Benjamin, Ali; *The Thing About Jellyfish* AR BL 5.0**

Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

#### **5. Draper, Sharon; *Out of My Mind* AR BL 4.3**

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time

## Historical Fiction

### **1. Avi, Crispin; *The Cross of Lead* AR BL 5.0 Newbery Medal**

Set in medieval England, a young boy on the run from his miserable past and accused of murder comes to discover not only his true identity, but his sense of self-worth. (Series)

### **2. Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker; *The War that Saved My Life* AR BL 4.1 Newbery Honor**

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

### **3. Curtis, Christopher Paul; *Elijah of Buxton* AR BL 5.4 Newbery Honor**

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada--a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859--uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. (Companion: *The Madman of Piney Woods*)

**4. Dinerstein, Eric; *What Elephants Know* AR BL 5.6**In the borderlands between Nepal and India during the 1970s, an orphan boy, Nandu, overcomes adversity to save his village and become a great elephant driver. Abandoned in the jungle as a baby and cared for by wild dogs known as dholes, Nandu is rescued by an elephant, Devi Kali, and the head of a royal elephant stable, Subba-sahib.

### **5. Draper, Sharon; *Stella by Starlight* AR BL 4.8**

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

## Suggested activities to complete:

1. Write a letter to the main character and the character's reply
2. Write a different ending for the book
3. Create a travel brochure for the setting of the story or scrapbook pages about key characters.
4. Prepare a television commercial about your book. Act out the commercial for your family and friends.
5. Write a ballad or song about the characters and events in your story. Set the words to the music of a popular song.
6. Design a poster or new book cover depicting the climax of the story.

7. Write an acrostic poem about the book using the letters in the title of the book or the name of a character or author.