

Hottest New Reads for 2009

THE MISSING MANATEE by Cynthia DeFelice BL 4.9

11-year-old Skeet Waters was excited about spring vacation in his Florida home, but his hopes are soon dashed by the fact that his parents are splitting up. After hearing this news, Skeet finds a dead manatee. When he returns from getting help. The manatee is missing. Now he has to solve the crime.

Phineas L MacGuire ERUPTS: THE FIRST EXPERIMENT by Frances Dowell BL 5.0

Phineas L MacGuire, AKA "Mac," is a budding scientist who is upset because his best friend moved away, leaving him without a science fair partner.

THE THINGS ABOUT GEORGIE by Lisa Graff BL 4.3

Georgie has a height issue. As a dwarf, nine-year-old Gerogie will not get much taller than his current 42 inches. Besides that Georgie has other worries. His mother is expecting a baby and he knows that the brother/sister will soon outgrow him.

THE HOMEWORK MACHINE by Dan Gutman BL 4.8

Four very different students are bound together by a secret - Brenton has created a homework machine. Readers will enjoy this dramatic and thought-provoking story that packs a strong message about honesty and friendship.

DEXTER THE TOUGH by Margaret Peterson Haddix BL 4.2

Dexter's introduction to his new school and fourth-grade class is not a good one. He slips in the hall on the newly waxed floor and the other students laugh at him. He then goes into the restroom and punches classmate Robin.

THE GHOST'S GRAVE by Peg Kehret BL 5.0

Twelve-year-old Josh is stuck in Carbon City, Washington with his eccentric great-aunt while mom and stepdad go to India for the summer. Josh eventually meets the ghost of the coal miner who died in 1903 in a mining accident. This fast-paced, spooky, but humorous adventure will delight many readers.

ROXIE AND THE HOOLIGANS by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor BL 5.3

Poor nine-year-old Roxie is the target of the class bullies known as Helvetia's Hooligans. They have chosen her to be the Victim of the Year because her ears stick out.

CLEMENTINE by Sara Pennypacker BL 4.5

Clementine is an outrageous, but ingenuous, third-grader who is constantly in trouble. Her parents often remind her to "Think about the consequences" before she acts.

THE STUPENDOUS DODGEBALL FIASCO by Janice Repka BL 4.7

Leaving his parents and the circus behind, Philip Stanislaw goes to live with his aunt and uncle in Hardingtown, the Unofficial Dodgeball Capital of the World. Much to his surprise, Philip learns that every gym class has a sadistic version of the game. He has to then stand up against bullies and work to improve his school's morale.

THE FOLK KEEPER by Franny Billingsley BL 5.3

Corinna is a folk keeper --- in charge of keeping the wild Folk who live beneath the human world under control. Even though she has a good sense of what she is, Corinna can't quite figure out WHO she is. Come along as she discovers where she --- and her unusual powers --- came from.

OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA by Jennifer L. Holm BL 4.8

Spunky 12-year-old May Amelia and her family are building a life in the wildness of Washington State in 1859. She's a tomboy, brave and right-at-home in the great outdoors. But since she has six older brothers, what Amelia wants most is a baby sister. Find out if she gets one, and how her family deals with the elements as well as the expanding West in this exciting novel.

SUN AND SPOON by Kevin Henkes BL NA

When 10-year-old Spoon's grandmother dies, he searches for a special memento of her.

BIRD LAKE MOON by Kevin Henkes BL NA

Spencer thought the house might be haunted. Mitch knew it wasn't. And he knew why. The whole time Spencer and Mitch hung out together at the Bird Lake that summer, there were secrets keeping them apart. And maybe a secret knowledge keeping them together, too --- together like members of the same tribe. Like friends.

DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT THE WAR by David A. Adler BL NA

13-year-old Tommy Duncan just wants to root for the Brooklyn Dodgers and listen to the radio. But it's 1940 and the world is changing. All his friend Beth wants to do is talk about the war in Europe. That's an ocean away, though, and Tommy has more immediate concerns --- like Beth looking pretty and his mother's declining health. The stories of a Jewish friend at school, however, begin to make the war more real to him.

SMILES TO GO by Jerry Spinelli BL NA

What is stargazer, skateboarder, chess champ, pepperoni pizza eater, older brother, sister hater, best friend, first kisser, science geek, control freak Will Tupence so afraid of in this great big universe?

A BEAR NAMED TROUBLE by Marion Dane Bauer BL 5.0

In Anchorage, Alaska, two lonely youngsters make a connection. One is a brown bear injured just after his mother sends him out on his own and the other a human whose father is a new keeper at the Alaska Zoo.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE by Kate DiCamillo BL 4.4

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. He travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

PRINCESS ACADEMY by Shannon Hale BL 6.0

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

HEAT by Mike Lupica BL 5.3

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.

DRUMS, GIRLS AND DANGEROUS PIE by Jordan Sonnenblick BL 5.9

The life of eighth-grader Steven Alper, already complicated by his friendship with two girls and a prodigious talent for drumming, is turned upside down when his five-year-old brother Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia.

Fifth Grade Suggested Authors
For Summer Reading:

Carl Hiaasen	Patrick Jennings
Natalie Babbitt	Henry Winkler
Eoin Colfer	P. B. Kerr
Paula Danziger	Kate DiCamillo
Cynthia DeFelice	Eve Bunting
Laura Dower	Cornelia Funke
Patricia Reilly Giff	Lois Lowry
DJ McHale	Jerry Spinelli
Phyllis Reynold Naylor	Lemony Snicket
Christopher Paolini	J. K. Rowling
Louis Sachar	George Selden

Note: You may choose to read books from the authors listed above and/or from the list of books provided.