



## Fifth Grade Reading List

### \* Non-fiction book

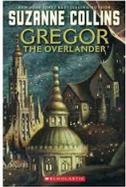


**Rules by Cynthia Lord (3.9 reading level)** Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?



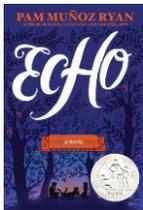
### **Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4.4 reading level)**

There's nothing eleven-year-old Marty Preston enjoys more than spending time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. One day, Marty sees a young beagle on the road, and he feels sure the dog is being abused by his owner. When the dog runs away to Marty's house, Marty's parents say he must bring him back. That's when Marty decides he'll do anything to save a dog named Shiloh. (If you enjoy this book, try *Shiloh Season* and *Saving Shiloh*.)

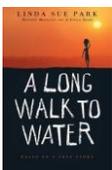


### **Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins (4.8 reading level)**

When eleven-year-old Greg follows his little sister through a grate in the laundry room of their New York apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland beneath the city. There, humans live uneasily beside giant spiders, bats, cockroaches, and rats - but the fragile peace is about to fall apart. Gregor just wants to find a way home, but a strange prophecy foretells a role for him in the Underland's uncertain future, and may just help him solve the biggest mystery of his life.



**Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan (4.9 reading level)** Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives, binding them by an invisible thread of destiny. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. How their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo will resound in your heart long after the last note has been struck.

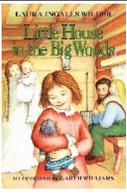


**A Long Walk To Water A Novel: Based on a True Story by Linda Sue Park (5.0 reading level)** \* The long walk is actually two -- two journeys that converge in Park's spare text, a novelization of how her friend Salva Dut, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, escaped his war-ravaged country and returned years later to help revitalize it by founding a company called Water for Sudan, Inc.

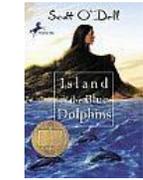


### **Flush by Carl Hiaasen (5.0 reading level)**

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of the floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.



**Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder (5.3 reading level) \*** Little House in the Big Woods, the first book in the Little House series, takes place in 1871 and introduces us to four-year-old Laura, who lives in a log cabin on the edge of the Big Woods of Wisconsin. She shares the cabin with her Pa, her Ma, her sisters Mary and Carrie, and their lovable dog, Jack.



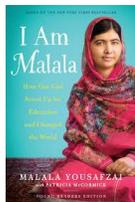
**Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell (5.4 reading level)**

Karana is a 12-year-old Native American who refuses to abandon her 6-year-old brother when her island, Ghalas-at (off the Southern California coast) is evacuated. Shortly thereafter, he tragically dies after being attacked by wild dogs, and Karana begins her solitary wait for a ship to come for her. She waits 18 years. Karana survives by foraging, fishing in the ocean, defending herself from wild dogs and elephant seals, and hiding from the Aleut tribe. Told from her point of view, details of her day-to-day life are shared, watch the days turn into years, and wait for the ship to carry her off her lonely island.



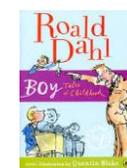
**The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick (5.6 reading level)**

Twelve year old orphan, Homer, runs away from Pine Swamp, Maine to find his brother who has been sold into the Union Army. With laugh-aloud humor, Homer outwits and outruns a colorful assortment of Civil War-era thieves, scallywags, and spies as he makes his way south, following clues that lead him to Gettysburg. Even through a hail of gunfire, Homer never loses heart. Will he find his brother, or will it be too late?



**I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World Young Readers Edition by Malala Yousafzai (5.9 reading level) \***

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes, so she fought for her right to be educated. On October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause. Malala has become an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee. This is her story.



**Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl (6.0 reading level) \***

Roald Dahl's tales of his own childhood are completely fascinating and fiendishly funny. Did you know Roald Dahl nearly lost his nose in a car accident? Or that he was once a chocolate candy tester for Cadbury's? Sure to captivate and delight you, the boyhood antics of this master storyteller are not to be missed!



**The Secret Garden (Unabridged) by Frances Hodgson Burnett (6.3 reading level)** *When "Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen..."* So begins the famous opening of one of the world's best-loved children's stories. This is the tale of a lonely little girl, orphaned and sent to a Yorkshire mansion at the edge of a vast lonely moor. At first, she is frightened by this gloomy place, but with the help of the local boy Dickon, who earns the trust of the moor's wild animals with his honesty and love, the invalid Colin, a spoiled, unhappy boy terrified of life, and a mysterious, abandoned garden, Mary is eventually overcome by the mystery of life itself.



**The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket (6.4 reading level)** The Baudelaire children are three wealthy kids who have their lives changed forever when their parents are killed in a house fire. From there, things don't get much better for Violet, an inventive 14 year-old, her younger book-obsessed brother, Klaus, and their younger sister, Sunny, who likes to chew things. The three young orphans are sent to live with a distant relative, Count Olaf, a despicably dirty person who makes the children cook and clean for him.