

# Summer Reading Requirements/Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE FIVE 2024 – 2025

Although we recognize and hope that *many* books may be read over the summer, **students are required to read a minimum of four books** to fulfill the SJA Summer Reading Program, including the **Fifth Grade Required Read: *Room One* by Andrew Clements**. (*\*Please Note: If students choose to read graphic novels as part of this requirement, only one of the four required reads may be from this genre.*) Students need to list all book titles read, including the author’s name. Parents must sign this list. The list of books read must be submitted to your classroom teacher on the first day of classes in September. These books may be used as the basis for discussion and writing during the first weeks of school.

We encourage families to make reading a regular part of their summer schedule; in this current era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parents and children to bond and relax together, and boosts students’ attention span, comprehension, and language/vocabulary development – key tools for academic achievement and success.

Reading resources abound. The American Library Association provides a complete online list of Award Books at [www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia). Baltimore County Public Library ([www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info)), Harford County Public Library ([www.hcplonline.org](http://www.hcplonline.org)), and the York County Public Library ([www.yorklibraries.org](http://www.yorklibraries.org)) offer additional resources and programs for students. Their websites include suggested reading lists by age, information on youth reading programs and events, including this year’s Summer Reading Challenge, “Adventure Begins at Your Library,” and a large selection of e-books and audio books available for direct download. In addition, we encourage you to link to the Baltimore County or Harford County Public Libraries’ Research Databases to access NoveList K-8 Plus. This database is an excellent source for book recommendations based on age, fiction/non-fiction, interest, and genre.

We are asking that every Fifth Grade student have a current public library card for the upcoming school year. Library cards may be obtained in person or online from your local library branch. A public library card gives students access to the available resources detailed above, as well as to academic databases that may be used during the year for class assignments and/or projects.

## **REQUIRED READ**

**All students entering Fifth Grade must read: *Room One* by Andrew Clements**

## **SUGGESTED READING**

Listed below are selections from the 2024 – 2025 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominees in the Grades 4-5 Novel Category and Graphic Novel Category. *All selections are listed as suggestions only.*

### **2024 – 2025 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Novels**

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|---|---------------------|
| • <i>Dogtown</i>                                      | Katherine Applegate |
| • <i>Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key</i>    | Tracy Ocomy Crowder |
| • <i>Superteacher</i>                                 | Gordon Korman       |
| • <i>You Are Here: Connecting Flights</i>             | Ellen Oh (Editor)   |
| • <i>Minerva Keen's Detective Club</i>                | James Patterson     |
| • <i>The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby</i> | G.Z. Schmidt        |
| • <i>The Lost Library</i>                             | Rebecca Stead       |
| • <i>Finally Seen</i>                                 | Kelly Yang          |

### **2024 – 2025 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Graphic Novels**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| • <i>PAWS Gabby Gets It Together</i>  | Michele Assarasakorn |
| • <i>Squire &amp; Knight</i>  | Scott Chantler       |
| • <i>Saving Sunshine</i>  | Saadia Faruqi        |
| • <i>Killer Underwear Invasion! How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation &amp; Conspiracy Theories</i> | Elise Gravel         |
| • <i>Things in the Basement</i>   | Ben Hatke            |
| • <i>Prunella and the Cursed Skull Ring</i>   | Matthew Loux         |
| • <i>Batcat</i>   | Meggie Ramm          |

### **2024 Newbery Medal**

<i>The Eyes and the Impossible</i>	Dave Eggers
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## **FIFTH GRADE UNITS OF STUDY**

**Reading fiction and non-fiction titles related to the Fifth Grade curriculum, including historical fiction about the 1700's and 1800's, provides excellent enrichment and support for subjects studied during the year.**

Early People (Native Americans)  
The American Revolution  
The Civil War  
Government  
Geography and International Studies  
Endangered Animals  
The Scientific Method  
Cells and Microscopes  
Chemistry

Solar System and Space