

**Date:** June 2026

**Subject:** Summer ELA Project – Letter and List of Books

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we look ahead to summer break, I'm excited to share our **Summer English Language Arts (ELA) Project** for rising 5th graders. This project is designed to keep students engaged in reading and writing, help prevent the "summer slide," and prepare them for a successful start to the upcoming school year.

**Purpose of the Project:** The goal of the summer ELA project is to encourage students to:

- Continue developing their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills
- Explore literature that interests them
- Practice thoughtful written expression through engaging choice board assignments

**Project Overview:** Students are expected to complete the following over the summer:

1. **Read one (1) book of their choice** (grade-appropriate; see the recommended reading list attached).
2. **Complete 5 activities located on the "Choice Board."**

**Due Date:** The completed project is due in the first week of school and will count toward the first quarter's ELA grade.

**Parent Support:** Please help your child stay on track by:

- Assisting them in selecting a book that is interesting and appropriate for their reading level
- Setting aside time for reading each week
- Discussing the book with them to deepen comprehension and enthusiasm

I appreciate your support in promoting literacy and a love for reading. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me over the summer at [rdipasquale@dwcaonline.org](mailto:rdipasquale@dwcaonline.org)

Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Warm regards,

Mrs. DiPasquale

# Rising 5th Graders Summer Reading List

- [A Wrinkle in Time](#) by **Madeleine L'Engle**: A science fiction adventure about a girl who travels through space and time.
- [Holes](#) by **Louis Sachar**: A suspenseful and intriguing story about a boy who is wrongly accused of stealing and sent to a juvenile detention camp.
- [Bridge to Terabithia](#) by **Katherine Paterson**: A classic story about friendship and imagination, featuring two children who create a magical world in the woods.
- [Maniac Magee](#) by **Jerry Spinelli**: A heartwarming story about a boy who wanders from town to town, helping others and experiencing new adventures.
- [The Phantom Tollbooth](#) by **Norton Juster**: A classic adventure story about a boy who travels through a magical tollbooth and learns the importance of learning.
- [Island of the Blue Dolphins](#) by **Scott O'Dell**: A survival story about a young girl who is stranded on an island for 18 years.
- [Number the Stars](#) by **Lois Lowry**: A historical fiction novel about a girl in Denmark who helps her Jewish friend escape the Nazis during World War II.
- [The Giver](#) by **Lois Lowry**: A dystopian novel about a boy who becomes the Recipient of Memory in a society where emotions and individuality are suppressed.
- [Hatchet](#) by **Gary Paulsen**: A survival story about a boy who is stranded in the Canadian wilderness after a plane crash.
- [Frindle](#) by **Andrew Clements**: A story about a boy who creates a new word and starts a rebellion at school.
- [The One and Only Bob](#) by **Katherine Applegate**: A sequel to the One and Only Ivan, following the adventures of Bob the dog as he searches for his long-lost sister after a hurricane hits, with help from his friends Ivan the gorilla and Ruby the elephant.