

# Summer Reading for Fifth and Sixth Grade

Each category includes fiction and **non-fiction**

## **BOTANY**

**Planting the Trees of Kenya : the Story of Wangari Matthai**

**Tropical Rainforests by Seymour Simon**

**The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families by  
Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore**

*The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett*

*Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce (ok, this is a stretch)*

*James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl*

## **NORTH AMERICAN BOTANY**

**Plants on the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Dorothy Patent Hinshaw**

**Johnny Appleseed the Story of a Legend by Will Moses**

**Native Plant Stories by Joseph Bruchac**

**George Washington Carver by Tonya Bolden**

**If Trees Could Talk: Stories About Wisconsin Trees by R. Bruce Allison**

## **THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE**

We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Black Elk's Vision by S. D. Nelson

Buffalo Bird Girl: a Hidatsa Story by S. D. Nelson

One of the many biographies of Jackie Robinson

Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman by Pat McKissack

The Life and Death of Crazy Horse, Indian Chiefs or Sitting Bull by Russell Freedman

Heart and Soul: the Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson

Angel Island by Russell Freedman

Biographies of famous Black Americans by Judith and Dennis Fradin and James Haskins

Skywalkers: Mohawk Ironworkers Build the City by David Weitzman

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hammer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston  
Weatherford

"If You" series published by Scholastic (for readers that need easier titles)

Across American on an Emigrant Train by Jim Murphy

In the Days of the Vaquero by Russell Freedman

Biographies by Jean Fritz (such as Will You Sign Here, John Hancock)

How We Crossed the West : the Adventures of Lewis and Clark by Rosalyn Schanzer

Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Patricia Eubank

Dog of Discovery by Laurence Pringle

**American Tall Tales by Mary Pope Osborne and Michael McCurdy**

**The Voyageur's Paddle by Kathy-Jo Wargin**

**Pioneer Sampler by Barbara Greenwood**

**\*Any biography or book on American History by Russell Freedman (that take place before the Civil War / 1861)**

**Inside the Alamo by Jim Murphy**

Strawberry Girl by Lois Lenski

Esperanza Rising by Pam Nuno Ryan

Miracles on Maple Hill by Virginia Sorenson

Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder

"Birchbark House" series by Louise Erdrich

Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters by Patricia and Fred McKissack

**\*\*Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes**

Salsa Stories by Lulu Delacre

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine

"The Golden Mountain Chronicles" by Laurence Yep titles include :

Dragonwings: 1903 ; Child of the Owl: 1965 ; Sea Glass: 1970 ;The Serpent's Children: 1849 ;

Mountain Light: 1885 ;Dragon's Gate: 1876 ;The Traitor: 1885 ;Dragon Road: 1939 ;

Dragons of Silk

Brightly of the Grand Canyon, Misty of Chincoteague, and Justin Morgan Had a Horse  
by Marguerite Henry

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Betty Bao Lord

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron

Jim Ugly, Chancy and the Grand Rascal, By the Great Horn Spoon, Humbug Mountain, and Bandit's Moon by Sid Fleischman

Bull Run by Paul Fleischman

The Journey to Topaz and The Journey Home by Yoshiko Uchida

Bound for Oregon by Jean Van Leeuwen

Thimble Summer by Elizabeth Enright

One Crazy Summer by Rita Garcia-Williams

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck

Brady by Jean Fritz

\*Year of the Book by Andrea Cheng

## **ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

**“The Gilgamesh Trilogy” by Ludmilla Zemann**

**Gilgamesh: Man’s First Story by Bernarda Bryson**

“Life in Ancient Egypt” series by Kathryn Hinds

Hatshepsut: the Princess Who Became King by Ellen Galford

Science in Ancient Egypt by Geraldine Woods

Tutankhamun: the Mystery of the Boy King by Zahi A. Hawas

Ralph Masiello’s Ancient Egypt Drawing Book

Pyramid by David Macaulay

\*\*Black Ships Before Troy and The Wanderings of Odysseus by Rosemary Sutcliff

The Golden Goblet by Eloise McGraw

The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

\*Tut, Tut and \*It’s All Greek to Me by Jon Scieszka

The Dragon and the Thief and The Land of Gold by Gillian Bradshaw

Odysseus in the Serpent Maze by Jane Yolen

