

The expectation is that all Brown School students entering grades 5-8 will read at least two age/grade appropriate novels before returning to school in September. When students return in September, they should be prepared to discuss their selections with their classmates. The following is a list of suggested titles; students are free to select from the list or read other titles of their choice.

5TH GRADE LIST

Alvarez, Julia. How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay. Yearling, 2002.

Although ten-year-old Miguel is at first embarrassed by his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, he learns to love her.

Avi. Book Without Words. Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 2006.

Thorston, an alchemist who has spent his life trying to decipher the secret to immortality contained in the Book Without Words, is on the brink of realizing his dream when he drops dead, leaving Odo, a talking raven, and Sybil, a servant who was about to be sacrificed to Thorston's plan, to reap the rewards of his work.

Bauer, Marion Dane. On My Honor. Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, c1986.

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience.

Buckley, Michael. Fairy-Tale Detectives. Amulet, 2007.

Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. Secret Garden. Signet Classic, 2003.

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Coville, Bruce. Skull of Truth. Magic Carpet Books, 2007.

Charlie, a sixth-grader with a compulsion to tell lies, acquires a mysterious skull that forces its owner to tell only the truth, causing some awkward moments before he understands its power.

Creech, Sharon. Chasing Redbird. HarperTrophy, 1998.

Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor uncovers family secrets and self truths while clearing a mysterious settler trail that begins on her family's farm in Kentucky.

DeFelice, Cynthia. Nowhere to Call Home. HarperTrophy, 2001.

When her father kills himself after losing his money in the stock market crash of 1929, twelve-year-old Frances, now a penniless orphan, decides to hop aboard a freight train and live

the life of a hobo.

DeFelice, Cynthia. Weasel. Avon Books, 1991.

Alone in the frontier wilderness in the winter of 1839 while his father is recovering from an injury, eleven-year-old Nathan runs afoul of the renegade killer known as Weasel and makes a surprising discovery about the concept of revenge.

Funke, Cornelia. Dragonrider. Scholastic, 2004.

After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.

George, Jean Craighead. Julie of the Wolves. HarperTrophy, 2003.

Escaping from an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl gets lost on the Alaskan tundra and is befriended by a wolf pack.

George, Jean Craighead. My Side of the Mountain. Puffin, 2004.

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. Eleven. Wendy Lamb Books, 2008.

When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories from his past, and, with help from a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project, his questions are eventually answered.

Haddix, Margaret. Running Out of Time. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

Hahn, Mary Downing. Time for Andrew. Clarion Books, c1994.

When he goes to spend the summer with his great-aunt in the family's old house, eleven-year-old Drew is drawn eighty years into the past to trade places with his great-great-uncle who is dying of diphtheria.

Hahn, Mary Downing. Wait Till Helen Comes. Clarion Books, 2008.

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Konigsburg, E. L. The View From Saturday. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1998.

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Korman, Gordon. Escape. The Island, book 3. Scholastic, c2001.

Six kids shipwrecked on an obscure Pacific island urgently need a plan to get home when they realize they are sharing their living space with a deadly group of smugglers--and the situation grows even more dire when the smugglers stumble across an atomic bomb left there in 1945.

Korman, Gordon. Shipwreck. The Island, book 1. Scholastic, 2001.

Six children try to survive on a desert island in the Pacific Ocean after a storm destroys their boat.

Korman, Gordon. Survival. The Island, book 2. Scholastic, 2001.

Four children, having survived a shipwreck and a week with no food, arrive on a deserted island in the Pacific Ocean, missing two of their friends, and find themselves in danger of being found by some very dangerous people.

Lowry, Lois. Number the Stars. Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, 1990.

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Lupica, Mike. Heat. Puffin Books, 2007.

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.

Paterson, Katherine. Bridge to Terabithia. HarperEntertainment, 2007.

Jess Aarons, a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia, finds a beloved and unexpected friend in Leslie, the new girl at school, with whom he creates a secret kingdom in the woods and from whom he learns lifelong lessons when tragedy strikes.

Selznick, Brian. The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Scholastic Press, 2007.

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Sleator, William. Rewind. Puffin Books, 2001.

Not long after learning that he was adopted, eleven-year-old Peter is hit by a car and then given several chances to alter events that could lead to his death.

Taylor, Theodore. The Cay. Dell Laurel-Leaf, 2003.

Philip, an adolescent white boy who is blinded in a torpedo attack at sea during World War II, acquires a new type of vision, courage, and love when he is stranded on a tiny Caribbean island with Timothy, a kind, elderly black man.

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima. So Far from the Bamboo Grove. Beech Tree Books, 1994.

A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.

Woodson, Jacqueline. Feathers. G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2007.

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.