5TH GRADE POWER READERS!

Research has shown that students who read at their reading level become better readers faster. Our school utilizes the "lexile" system for leveling readers. Your student should know their lexile from $4^{\rm th}$ grade.

To find books that have been assigned a lexile you or your child can go to the Scholastic website: http://bookwizard.scholastic.com

Once you've located the book you're looking for, click on the title to see the lexile. This website offers many great features besides just showing the lexile of a particular book. You can also search to find a list of books to find new books that fit the lexile and genre preferences of your child! This feature is located in "leveled search." It is a helpful tool to get your child reading! *Please note that the HCP might not have a quiz for a book, even if the Scholastic website tells you that there is a quiz available for the book!*

The book list that follows does *not* follow the lexile system, but are suggestions for readers that are generically at the 5^{th} grade level (700–1000). Research suggests that students read books about 50 points above or below their lexile. Any of the books listed below would be excellent choices for students reading within the 700 to 1000 range.

The more that you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss

5TH GRADE SUGGESTED READING LIST

Check out : http://bookwizard.scholastic.com to find lexile information)

Fiction

Author Balliet, Blue TITLE

Chasing Vermeer; The Wright 3; The Calder Game

A famous Vermeer painting has disappeared. Two classmates at the University School in Chicago join forces to retrieve the painting when they discover that they have both been finding random clues related to the painter, the painting, and the theft. Two additional detective stories

^{*}Indicates a more challenging choice

in this series, which also involve the work of famous artists, are equally intriguing.

*Alexander, Lloyd

The High King Series (from The Chronicles of Prydain)

The series includes the adventures of Taran, the Assistant Pig Keeper in Prydain, who sets out with various warriors to save his country from

evil.

Appelt, Kathi

The Underneath

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and

free.

*Avi

Blue Heron

Maggie finds strength in a heron as she discovers a change in her father

and his new family.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in

fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life

juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Avi

Barry, Dave and Ridley Pearson

Peter and the Starcatchers

The pages fly by when reading this amusing, cliffhanging page-turner. The deftly plotted story does a good job of explaining how the Peter Pan of J.M. Barrie's classic tale came to be the perpetually young leader of a band of lost boys. Before Wendy and Capt. Hook, there was Molly, the mysterious headmaster's daughter, starstuff, and Black Stache. Any classic is a hard act to follow, but this quick-paced prequel is magical. Further acventures of Peter amy be found in *Peter and the Shadow*

Thieves and Peter and the Secret of Rundoon.

Bellairs, John

House with a Clock in its Walls

A boy goes to live with his magician uncle in a mansion with a clock in

its walls that is ticking off the minutes until doomsday.

Birdsall, Jeanne

THE PENDERWICKS

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish

mother. sequel: THE PENDERWICKS ON GARDAM STREET

Broach, Elise

Shakespeare's Secret

Teased at her new school, Hero Netherfield makes friends with an elderly neighbor, who seems to know quite a bit about a mystery connected to the Netherfields' new house. According to local rumor, a former owner may have hidden a priceless diamond, linked to the true identity of Shakespeare, somewhere in the house. Is this all much to do about nothing, or as Hero hopes, is she just the person to discover the

truth?

Broach, Elise

Masterpiece

Marvin is a beetle who lives with his loving family in the kitchen wall of the Pompaday's New York apartment. James Pompaday is a lonely step child whose mother and stepfather are too involved in their social and professional lives to give him much thought. On his eleventh birthday James receives a pen and ink set from his artist father, which Marvin can't resist using. The human family immediately decides that the result, an Albrecht Durer like drawing, must be by James. Seeking fame and celebrity, they unwittingly thrust James and Marvin, who have become friends, into a plot to steal priceless art from the Metropolitan Museum fo Art.

Bruchac, Joseph

Skeleton Man

After her parents disappear and she goes to live with her "great uncle", Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and even her life.

Buckley, Michael

SISTERS GRIMM series

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

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

THE SECRET GARDEN 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.

*Christopher, John City of Gold and Lead

Boys who escaped the Tripods in the White Mountains are training for a very important athletic contest. Part of the Tripods Series.

Christopher, Matt

STEALING HOME or others by this author

Joey is sure he will not get along with the exchange student from Nicaragua who is staying with his family for a year, but they find common ground on the baseball field.

Clements, Andrew A WEEK IN THE WOODS The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

Clements, Andrew Frindle

When the "class clown" decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, he invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Clements, Andrew Room One: A Mystery or Two

Ted Hammond, the only 6th grader in his small Nebraska town's oneroom school house, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family.

Clements, Andrew NO TALKING

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Collins, Suzanne

GREGOR THE OVERLANDER and others in this series

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

Cooper, Susan

THE BOGGART About visiting the castle in Scotland which her family

has inherited, and the ghost they discover.

Cooper, Susan Over Sea, Under Stone

The days of King Arthur live once more when three children go on holiday by the sea to visit with their beloved Uncle Merry. It all begins when Simon, Jane, and Barney discover a map, an ancient manuscript really, in the attic of Grey House while Uncle Merry is mysteriously absent. Intrigued, they begin to investigate the document. As they do, forces of evil build around them. The children realize the seriousness of their quest when Barney goes missing. This is the first title in *The Dark Is Rising* series.

Creech, Sharon

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best

friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Creech, Sharon

Chasing Redbird

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.

*Creech, Sharon

The Wanderer

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in

England

*Curtis, Christopher Bud, Not Buddy

Paul

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E.

Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Curtis, Christopher

Paul

Mr. Chickee's Funny Money

Steven makes friends with a blind, elderly neighbor who is teased by other children in the neighborhood. Little does Steven expect that his kindness will be rewarded by a quadrillion dollar bill that Mr. Chickee gives to him. Could it possibly be real? The U.S. Government seems to

think so.

*Cushman, Karen

Rodzina

A twelve-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid

slavery.

DeFelice, Cynthia

The Missing Manatee

While coping with his parent's separation, 11 year old Skeet spends most of his spring break in his skiff on a Florida river where he finds a

manatee shot to death and begins looking for its killer.

DiCamillo, Kate

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant

girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring

them all to ruin.

*Farley, Walter Black Stallion

The first in the series of horse stories.

Fox, Helen Eager's Nephew

The Bell family robot, Grumps, is showing his age. His worn out timer causes little but annoying problems like making tomato soup for breakfast. A family friend gives them a new robot to try out. EGR3 is one of a kind and can actually think. Gavin takes to the perky little robot, but his sister Fleur would have preferred a BDC4 like the one her friend Marcia owns, despite sensing something very sinister about this

line of robots from LifeCorps.

Gantos, Jack Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and

acting wired.

Gardner, Sally *I, Coriander*

Coriander, the daughter of a wealthy English merchant and a fairy mother, lives during dangerous times. The creativity and imagination her parents encourage are at odds with Oliver Cromwell's harsh rule. When her mother dies, and her father, before fleeing political enemies remarries a Puritan, a particularly harsh punishment sends Coriander to her mother's land. There she tries to acquire the powers that will make

her home her own once more.

George, Jean My Side of the Mountain

Sam Gribley leaves his home in New York City and heads off to the Catskill Mountains. He intends to live off the land, his house a hollowed out tree, and some wildlife he befriends, his companions. His story continues in On The Far Side of the Mountain and Frightful's Mountain.

George, Jean Craighead JULIE OF THE WOLVES

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is

befriended by a wolf pack.

Giff, Patricia Reilly Lily's Crossing

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own

world differently.

Gutman, Dan BABE & ME or others by this author

With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of

the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Hamilton, Virginia THE PEOPLE COULD FLY: AMERICAN BLACK FOLKTALES

Retells twenty-four African-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the

supernatural, and desire for freedom, each followed by a note

explaining its history and meaning.

Hoeye, Michael

TIME STOPS FOR NO MOUSE and others in series

When Linka Perflinger, a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into his shop to be repaired and then disappears, Hermux Tantamog is caught up in a dangerous search for eternal youth as he tries to find out what

happened to her.

Horvath, Polly

Everything on a Waffle

An indescribably insane plot married to a winsome heroine and blessed with wacky characters, sprinkled throughout with honest-to-goodness recipes, all culminating in a heartwarming ending. What more can one ask for?

Ibbottson, Eva

The Dragonfly Pool

Tally does not want to leave her father, a kindly physician, and her dear aunts for boarding school in the English countryside, but as the world prepares fo World War II, it seems wise to send her out of London. A wonderfully progressive school is chosen and Tally is soon happily involved in creating a folk dancing performance for an international festival in Bergainia. Once they arrive for the dance exhibition, Tally and her classmates become caught up in saving the crown prince of Bergania form the Nazis. The feel of this thrilling story is similar to *The* Sound of Music.

Jacques, Brian

REDWALL and others in this series

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy

the enemy.

Johns, Linda

Hannah West in the Belltown Towers: a mystery Budding sleuth, Hannah West, the 12 year old adopted daughter of a

single mom, decides to investigate when a thief targets the paintings of one of Seattle's hot new artists just before the HONCHO charity

auction.

Konigsburg, E.L.

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Feeling unappreciated by her parents Claudia disappears with her younger brother by camping out in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She never expects to become obsessed with a statue, consumed by a mystery, and returned home in the chauffeur driven limousine of a

mischievous recluse.

Lasky, Kathryn

The Capture

Soren, a barn owl that is captured and taken to a special school for orphaned owls, is befriended by elf owl Gylfie and together the two set

out to discover what is really going on at St. Aegolius Academy.

Levine, Gail

Ella Enchanted

In this Cinderella based story, Ella struggles against a childhood curse

that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Lord, Cynthia

Rules

Although she often feels crowded out by the needs of her autistic brother, Catherine shows uncommon sensitivity toward him. As she copes with the difficulties he presents, Catherine expands her own world in ways that she could never have predicted.

McKay, Hilary

Saffy's Angel; Indigo's Star; Permanent Rose; Caddy Ever After; Forever Rose

All the children in this family are named for colors. The household is loveably zany and the two artist parents are always preooccupied. Somehow Saffy, short for Saffron, has always felt herself to be different from the others. With the help of her first friend she begins to uncover the mysteries of her past. In a second novel about this family, Indigo is preparing himself for a return to school after being out sick for a semester. He knows that the bullies who make a misery of his life will be waiting for him when he returns. "Permanent Rose" is the story of the youngest child who has a special gift for creating predicaments.

Milway, Alex

The Mousehunter

Emiline, a mousekeeper who works for the wealthy Isiah Lovelock, is given the opportunity to join the hunt for the legendary pirate Mousebeard.

Morgan, Clay

The Boy Who Spoke Dog

Jack is the cabin boy on the "Patty B," a schooner out of San Francisco carrying wool from New Zealand. Tahitian twins wrap Jack in a bale of wool and toss him overboard to save his life when it looks as if the ship might sink in a terrible storm. Jack washes up on an island inhabited by dogs still herding the sheep from an abandoned farm, and their enemies---dogs without any memory of once knowing humans.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Shiloh

How can it be that he can't keep the puppy if it has run away from an owner who mistreats it? This question is the first of many ethical dilemmas Marty Preston faces as his heart struggles with his conscience.

We are the Ship

Imagine listening to baseball legends Willie Mays and Ernie Banks swapping stories about their Negro League days as they sit in the stands, munching on peanuts and watching Ken Griffey Jr. launch a curve ball into the stratosphere.

Nelson, Kadir

Nimmo, Jennie Griffin's Castle

In this eerie gothic fantasy, Dinah clings to the hope that a dilapidated house she and her mother have moved to will finally be their home. She befriends some magical, supernatural stone animal sculptures that first protect her, but then as the house shows signs of more serious decay, they seem to imprison her inside.

MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH

With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab O'Brien, Robert C. rats living under the rosebush to help save her son, who lies in the path of the farmer's tractor, too ill to be moved.

Patron, Susan The Higher Power of Lucky

Larklight

It is hard to imagine having a life so filled with hilarious goings on in a town the size of Hard Pan, California with its population of 43 permanent residents, but ten year old Lucky has never known a boring day, and that is just the problem when she is faced with the possibility of having to leave. In *Lucky Breaks*, The just released sequel, Lucky's eleventh birthday brings the possibility of a new friendship and a fervent wish of intrepidness.

Paulsen, Gary Harris and Me Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

Philbrick, Rodman The Young Man and the Sea Taking a page from Hemingway, this story stars twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman who is determined to turn his family's fortunes and ends up battling the sea. He raises his father's sunken fishing boat, fixes the planking, and searches for a way to earn enough to repair the engine. After a try at lobstering, he sets off in a ten-foot long dinghy with a small outboard motor to harpoon a tuna. The size of the task and the meagerness of the resources, sets the stage for a whale of a tale.

*Rawls, Wilson Summer of the Monkeys Jay spends his country summer trying to catch escaped monkeys to earn money.

This Jules Verne-like intergalactic thriller features the Mumby Family, who live in an orbiting mechanical wonder in an alternate unvierse, where Victorian Britain has colonized space. Attacked by an ancient tribe of evil white spiders, the children struggle to save their father, find their mother, protect the empire, and prevent the powerful mechanism

The series continues with Starcross and Mothstream.

The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson series)

The escapades of the Greek gods and heroes get a fresh spin in the first book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, about a contemporary 12-year-old New Yorker who learns he's a demigod.

hidden at the heart of their house from falling into the wrong hands.

*Riordan, Rick

Reeve, Philip

View from the Cherry Tree

*Roberts, Willo Davis Rob has seen a murder, but no one believes him except the murderer.

Rowling, J. K.

HARRY POTTER series Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Salisbury, Graham

UNDER THE BLOOD RED SUN Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Selznick, Brian

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

This winner of the Caldecott medal is a profusely illustrated chapter book about clockworks. Hugo, who has learned all about clockworks from his father and uncle, becomes obsessed with an automaton his father discovers in his work at a musuem. The plot is itself an intricately plotted mechanism as the boy struggles to uncover the automaton's secrets.

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Snicket, Lemony

Tales of three likable, resilient, and unfortunate Baudelaire orphans, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, in search of a home--stories that are literary and irreverent, hilarious and deftly crafted.

Speare, Elizabeth G.SIGN OF THE BEAVER Tale of early pioneer life by a boy left alone to tame the wilderness.

*Springer, Nancy

The Case of the Left-Handed Lady

Pursued by her much older brother Sherlock Holmes, 14 year old Enola, disguised and using false names, attempts to solve the kidnapping of a baronet's 16 year old daughter in 19th century London.

Taylor, Theodore

THE CAY

After the freighter on which Phillip and his mother were traveling from wartime Curacao to the U.S. is torpedoed, the boy finds himself dependent on an old West Indian for survival.

Taylor, Theodore

Ice Drift

While fishing on the ice two Inuit brothers are set adrift in the Greenalnd Sea when an iceberg crashes into the shoreline taking the ice they are on with it as it moves southward. Fortunately their sled is packed with emergency provisions and they manage to release the sled dogs to swim to shore and alert the village to their plight. With the lead dog they use all of their skills and wits to survive.

Wiles, Deborah

The Aurora County All-Stars

Laugh out loud funny, and at times poignant, this story of a small town baseball team is a winner. The main character, House Jackson, the twelve year old pitcher, is the team's captain and equal to all the challenges he must suddenly face.

Nonfiction

Bolden, Tonya

Maritcha

Maritcha's parents own a boarding house in the mid nineteenth century in lower Manhattan. Forced to leave during the New York City Draft riots, her middle class black family flees to Providence, Rhode Island where they are determined to rebuild their lives and become affluent once more. Maritcha is determined to continue her education, eventually becoming the first African-American to graduate from Providence High School.

Bonner, Hannan

When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began to Swarm This inviting look at life on earth before the dinosaurs is presented cartoon style. Packed with information about the Silurian and Devonian Ages, the text includes charts, timelines, diagrams, and fanciful illustrations where occasional jokes are tucked away.

Collard, Sneed

Pocket Babies and other Amazing Marsupial

This very appealing over-sized book is filled with wonderful photographs and fascinating information about marsupials. The author covers more commonly known animals such as kangaroos, koalas, and wallabies as well as lesser known species like mumbats, quolls, and bilbies.

Collard, Sneed

The Prairie Builders

European immigrants traveling west called it "The Great American Desert." The stretch of land from what is now Ohio to South Dakota, was anything but a desert. The twelve-foot tall grasses that covered the land were home to elk, deer, buffalo, birds, coyote, bears, and thousands of insects including hundreds of different kinds of butterflies. A bold experiment that draws on Native American techniques, is now attempting to return farmlands to their original state -- the tall grass prairie.

Dash, Joan

A Dangerous Engine

A biography of eighteenth-century printer, scientist, revolutionary, and diplomat, Benjamin Franklin.

Davies, Nicola

Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth

Using humor and engrossingly gross information this entertaining little book is packed full of facts about animals who have managed to adapt

to the most severe conditions earth has to offer.

DK EYEWITNESS

You may choose one from this series.

Fang, Linda

The Chi-Lin Purse

A well-known storyteller, who lives in Rockville, retells nine clever tales remembered from her childhood in Shanghai, and traced to a variety of Chinese sources including opera.

Out of Darkness

*Freedman, Russell

A biography of the nineteenth-century Frenchman who, having been blinded himself at the age of three, went on to develop a system of raised dots on paper that enabled blind people to read and write

Baseball's Biggest Bloopers

Stories of baseball players who made errors that people are still talking

Gutman, Dan about.

Janeczko, Paul B. A Poke in the I

This playful book of poetry will poke your creative spirit and your funny bone. Here the shape of a poem, the way it is illustrated, and its placement on the page are as important to its meaning as the words.

Kramer, Stephen Hidden Worlds: Looking Through a Scientist's Microscope

When Dennis Kunkel was ten years old he received a gift that changed his life. From the day he started figuring out how to use his first microscope he became a microscopist. He is now a scientist who studies small objects using microscopes so sophisticated and powerful that the photographs of what he sees seem taken out of science fiction rather

than real life.

Marrin, Albert Saving the Buffalo

This tour de force history of the buffalo covers the central role buffalo played in the life of the Plains Indians, the importance of the buffalo in the ecology of the grasslands, the near extinction of the buffalo, and the efforts to return buffalo to the American West. The illustrations are

particularly noteworthy.

Martin, Jacqueline B.

The Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish

In 1913 a group of Canadian scientists sailed north in the Arctic to study plant and animal life and the indigenous peoples. They invited an Inupiaq family, with children and a cat, to travel along, knowing that the family's survival skills would be critical to the success of the expedition. In August when the boat became mired in ice, every effort

from that point on was focused on survival.

Montgomery, Sy The Snake Scientist; Search for the Golden Moon Bear

Would you volunteer to stuff handfuls of slithering snakes into pillowcases? Bob Mason, snake scientist, recruits people from all over, to do just that. Evolutionary scientist Gary Galbreath travels to Cambodia to find and research what might be a new species of bears with golden fur that has never been described in any scientific papers

anywhere in the world.

*Montgomery, Sy The Tarantula Scientist

Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath birdeating tarantula.

*Murphy, Jim

Blizzard! The Storm that Changed America

Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

Patent, Dorothy H. Shaping the Earth

Beautiful photographs by William Munoz illustrate this scientific account of tectonic plates, geysers, glaciers, and other dynamic forces that continue to shape planet Earth, including the activities of humankind.

Walker, Sally M.

Secrets of a Civil War Submarine

P.T. Barnum, of circus fame, offered a \$100,000 reward for the submarine's recovery, but for 131 years the H.L. Hunley lay buried beneath the ocean floor. Built to break the Union blockade, the ship mysteriously vanished. In 1995, divers found the submarine, sparking a ten-year archeological study to piece together the ship's story.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Holm, Jennifer - Babymouse (series)

An imaginative mouse dreams of being queen of the world, but will settle for an invitation to the most popular girl's slumber party.

Kinney, Jeff - Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

*Indicates a more challenging choice