

Great Books for 5th Graders
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Beckhorn, Susan Williams. **The Wolf's Boy**, 2016. JFIC

Marked as tabat, the unlucky one, prehistoric boy Kai and his wolf, Uff, must brave the long winter together and learn what it takes to survive on their own.

Bowling, Dusti. **Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus**, 2017. JFIC Book #1

New friends and a mystery help 13-year-old Aven adjust to middle school and life at a dying western theme park in a new state, where her being born armless presents many challenges.

Craft, Jerry. **New Kid**, 2020. JGN/JNBRY/JCSK

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life, but instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. **When Stars Are Scattered**, 2020. JGN

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother.

Keller, Tae. **When You Trap a Tiger**, 2020. JFIC/JNBRY

When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily meets a tiger and makes a deal with her to heal Halmoni.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. **We Dream of Space**, 2020. JFIC

Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle "Challenger," they each struggle with their own personal anxieties.

Lai, Remy. **Pie in the Sky**, 2019. JFIC

Knowing very little English, eleven-year-old Jingwen feels like an alien when his family immigrates to Australia. He copes with loneliness and the loss of his father by baking elaborate cakes.

Mbalia, Kwame. **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky**, 2019. JFIC Book #1

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky. The story contains violence.

Messner, Kate. **Chirp**, 2020. JFIC

After moving to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, a young gymnast hides a secret as

she makes new friends and investigates her grandmother's claim that someone is trying to destroy the cricket farm.

Ortega, Claribel A. **Ghost Squad**, 2020. JFIC

Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and her best friend, Syd, cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine.

Ramee, Lisa Moore. **A Good Kind of Trouble**, 2019. JFIC

Shayla is in junior high, and all the rules have changed. She's suddenly questioning who her best friends are, and some people at school are saying she's not black enough.

Reynolds, Jason. **Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks**, 2019. JFIC

This book is a collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school.

Schmidt, Gary. **Pay Attention, Carter Jones**, 2019. JFIC

Sixth-grader Carter must deal with burdens from the past and adjust to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to help him become a gentleman.

Stone, Nic. **Clean Getaway**, 2020. JFIC

For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble, and now the run-ins at school have led to a lockdown at home.

Ursu, Anne. **The Lost Girl**, 2019. JFIC

An identical twin's story always starts with someone else. For Iris, her story starts with Lark. When fifth grade arrives, it's decided that they should be split into different classrooms, and something breaks in them.

Wang, Jen. **Stargazing**, 2019. JGN

Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

Winston, Sherri. **President of the Whole Fifth Grade**, 2010. JFIC Book #1

To gain leadership skills needed to run a cupcake-baking empire when she grows up, Brianna runs for president of the fifth grade, expecting little competition, until a new girl enters the race.

Yang, Kelly. **Front Desk**, 2019. JFIC Book #1

Ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents are recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money. When they take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers.