

Dear Future Fifth Graders,

We can't wait for you to join us in 5th grade! As the 5th graders, you will finally be "the big kids" of the school. With that honor comes the responsibility of being the role models of the school. A way to do that is to follow the theme of kindness. We will talk a lot about what it means to be kind, how do we model kindness, and what kinds of choices we make.

The following is a list of books that all have the theme of kindness. Your first job as a new 5th grader is to read at least one of these titles during your summer break. Of course you may still read any other books that you like. We would love to talk about your book choice with you when we meet you in August, so please bring the book that you read to school with you on the first day of the 2019-2020 school year. Until we meet, happy reading and enjoy your summer!

We look forward to meeting you!

Dr. Maloney, Mrs. Bott, Mrs. Perry, Mr. Keefe, & Mrs. Fitzgerald

**Choice #1: *The War that Saved My Life*** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Genre: Historical fiction

\*2016 Newbery Honor book

\*Winner of the 2016 Schneider Family Book Award

This #1 *New York Times* bestseller is an exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II.

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

## **Choice #2: *Ugly* by Robert Hoge**

**Genre: Non-fiction/Autobiography**

**This true story of an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face is perfect for fans of *Wonder*—now with exclusive paperback content!**

When Robert Hoge was born, he had a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs. Surgeons removed the tumor and made him a new nose from one of his toes. Amazingly, he survived—with a face that would never be the same.

Strangers stared at him, kids called him names, and adults could be cruel in their own ways. Everybody seemed to agree that Robert was "ugly." But Robert refused to let his face dictate his entire life. Then, when Robert came face to face with the biggest decision of his life, he followed his heart. This poignant memoir about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities shows that what makes us "ugly" also makes us who we are.

## **Choice #3: *Rules* by Cynthia Lord**

**Genre: Fiction**

**2007 Newbery Honor book**

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" -- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

## **Choice #4: *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier**

**Genre: Autobiography in Graphic Novel Style**

**Raina Telgemeier's #1 *New York Times* bestselling, Eisner Award-winning graphic memoir based on her childhood!**

Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And

on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly.

### **Choice #5: *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate**

#### **Genre: Fantasy Fiction**

In her first novel since winning the Newbery Medal, *New York Times* bestselling author Katherine Applegate delivers an unforgettable and magical story about family, friendship, and resilience.

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again.

Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?

Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.