

## Summer Reading 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The following books are **required** reading:

***Shh! We're Writing the Constitution* by Jean Fritz**  
***The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare**

Students should also choose **two** books that he/she has **not** read from the following list:

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes (challenging)  
*The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling (challenging)  
*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson (challenging)  
*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott (Puffin Classics edition\*)  
*Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss (Puffin Classics edition)  
*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery  
*Davy Crockett: His Own Story* by David Crockett  
*Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears* by Cornelia Cornelisson  
*A Father's Promise* by Donna Lynn Hess  
*Indian Captive The Story of Mary Jemison* by Lois Lenski  
*Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt

Most of the books on this list should be available at the library, one of the local bookstores or at amazon.com.

\*Little Women was published in England as two separate books. In America both books have been combined into one. I only want them to read the first book which about the childhood of the March girls while their father is away at war. If you get the Puffin classics edition, you will have only the first book. If you get another edition, find the end of the first book which ends like this:

“So grouped, the curtain falls upon Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. Whether it rises again, depends upon the reception given to the first act of the domestic drama called Little Women.”

### Summer Reading Assignment:

Assignments are due on the first day of school, will be graded, and points will be taken off for late assignments. Watch spelling, punctuation, grammar and neatness. On a separate sheet of paper for each book, complete the following assignments:

1. For *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution* by Jean Fritz, describe the three branches of the U.S. government and briefly describe the function of each.
2. For *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare, design a book cover for the book that includes the following: color, the title, the authors, an illustration of a scene from the book. (I will be displaying some of these on the wall outside the classroom at the beginning of the year.)
3. For one of the books you choose, write a paragraph describing your favorite character. Describe the character, explain why he or she is your favorite, and give examples of things your character did in the book to support why you like that character. Also think about including 1 -2 things you learned from the character or how that character has inspired you in some way. For example, perhaps the character inspired you to be more patient, content, joyful, etc.
4. For a different book of your choice, pretend you are a book critic. A book critic reads books and then writes to his or her readers telling them why or why not they should read the book. He or she will briefly describe the story and explain why or why not the book is a good choice to read. The critic remembers to give good reasons why he or she thinks one should read the book, not just because he or she does or doesn't like it.