Greetings 5th Grade Students and Families,

We hope that your summer is off to a great start. We are really looking forward to the start of the year, and believe it or not, are already planning activities! We are most excited to share reading with you. You will be reading two books over the summer to help you prepare for your fifth grade experience.

First, you will have a required book to read over the summer. It is a non-fiction book titled *Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect the Environment*, by Harriet Rohmer. There will be follow-up activities for this book after the school year starts, so you just need to make sure you read *Heroes* before school begins.

Next, you will get to choose one book from any author or genre from the following list. Feel free to select a book/author that is not on the list, as long as it is age/topic appropriate and approved by a parent. You will need to complete a written response to the book, as we will begin the school year sharing and discussing your summer book choice. See below for directions and book list.

**Written response directions for choice novel:**

On a piece of lined paper, write your responses to the follow questions in complete sentences and in your neatest handwriting. Remember: do this for each book that you choose!

1. What is the setting of your book (where and when does it take place)? Would the story line change if the setting changed? Why or why not?
2. Who is the main character(s) in the book? Describe him or her.
3. Who is telling the story in your book?
4. What is the main problem in the book? How does it get resolved?
5. What is the theme of your book? In other words, what do you think the author is trying to say to his or her readers?
6. If you could play any of the characters from your book, who would it be and why?

**Sample author list** (authors with a + by their names write across several genres. For example, Madeleine L'Engle's Austin Family series is contemporary fiction and her Time Trilogy series is science fiction):

**Contemporary Fiction**

+ Avi

**Natalie Babbitt**
+ **Eve Bunting**

**Frances Hodgson Burnett**

+ **Andrew Clements**

**Sharon Creech**

**Kate DiCamillo**

**Jack Gantos** *(Joey Pigza series)*

**Carl Hiaasen**

**E. L. Konigsburg**

+ **Gail Carson Levine**

+ **Lois Lowry**

**Mike Lupica**

**Ben Mikaelsen**

+ **Katherine Paterson**

+ **James Patterson**

+ **Cynthia Rylant**

**Louis Sacher**

**Jerry Spinelli**

+ **Stephanie Tolan**

+ **Cynthia Voigt** *(Tillerman series)*

**Fantasy**

**Lloyd Alexander**

+ **Susan Cooper** *(Dark is Rising series)*

+ **Bruce Coville** *(Magic Shop books)*

**Cornelia Funke**

**Brian Jacques** *(Redwall series)*
+ Diana Wynne Jones

P.B. Kerr

+ Madeline L'Engle (Time Triology)

C. S. Lewis (Chronicles of Narnia)

Janet Taylor Lisle

Brandon Mull

Garth Nix (Seventh Tower series)

Rick Riordan

J. K. Rowling (Harry Potter series)

Lemony Snicket

Historical Fiction

+ Joan Aiken

Karen Cushman

Jean Craighead George

+ Patricia Reilly Giff

+ Karen Hesse

+ Kathryn Lasky (also writes nonfiction)

+ Scott O'Dell

Ann Rinaldi

Elizabeth George Speare

Rosemary Sutcliff

Claire Vanderpool

+ Laurence Yep (Dragonwings series)

Adventure

Pseudonymous Bosch
Will Hobbs

+ Gordon Korman (Island series)

Iain Lawrence

Gary Paulsen (Hatchet series)

Robert Stevenson

Mystery

Joan Aiken

John Bellairs (Johnny Dixon series)

Lois Duncan

Bruce Hale (Chet Gecko series)

+ Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Wendelin Van Draanen (Sammy Keyes series)

Barbara Brooks Wallace (Jean Karl series)

Science Fiction

K. A. Applegate (Remnants & Animorphs)

Jeanne DuPrau

Margaret Peterson Haddix (Among the series)

Ursula Le Guin (Earthsea series)

+ Jenny Nimmo

Tamora Pierce (Song of the Lioness series)

+ William Sleator

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Enjoy this opportunity and bring your books and responses to school at the beginning of the year. Have a great summer!

Cheers,

Mrs. McDaniel        Mr. Narten        Mr. Wamsley