

2016 Battle of the Books 5th Grade Books

Here is the list of books for this year's event. Depending on the size of your team, you will be reading 2-4 books. That way we have at least two people on each team reading every book. This helps when it comes time for all those "pesky" questions at the tournament. You are welcome to read them all if you like!

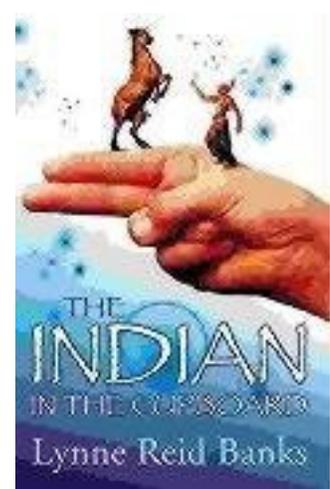
Our 5th grade readers are being offered books that range in Reading Level difficulty - R, S, T, U & V. All of these books are well-known and most are award winners. We encourage you to make a list of the books you are most interested in reading. Since you are on a team, you may not get all of your top choices. It's important to make compromises when you are all working towards the same goal.

* Please note: all book summaries have been taken from www.goodreads.com

And the books are:

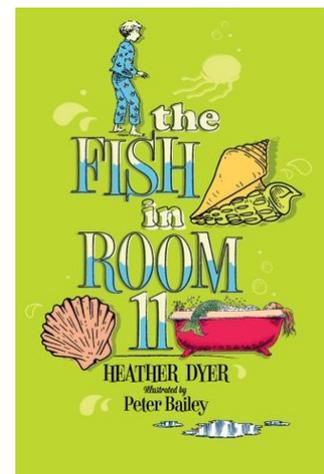
- 1) The Indian in the Cupboard
By Lynne Reid Banks
Book Length - 192
Reading Level - R

At first, Omri is unimpressed with the plastic Indian toy he is given for his birthday. But when he puts it in his old cupboard and turns the key, something extraordinary happens that will change Omri's life forever. For Little Bull, the Iroquois Indian brave, comes to life...



- 2) The Fish in Room 11
By Heather Dyer
Book Length - 160
Reading Level - R

Toby can't remember a time he didn't live at the seaside hotel. When he meets Eliza Flot down by the pier, he takes to her, well, like a fish to water. And when he meets her parents, that tips the scales even more. So what if they're mermaids?



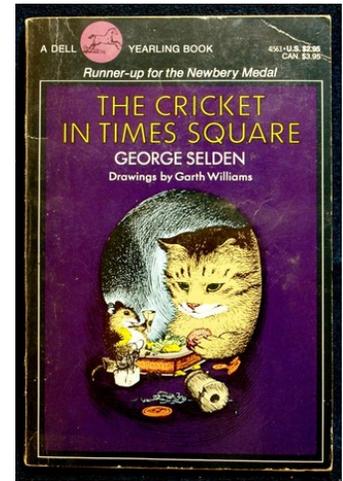
3) The Cricket in Time Square

By George Selden

Book Length – 174

Reading Level – S

After Chester, a cricket, arrives in the Times Square subway station via a picnic basket from his native Connecticut, he takes up residence in the Bellinis' newsstand. There, the tiny creature is lucky enough to find three good friends—a little boy named Mario whose parents run the unsuccessful newsstand, a fast-talking Broadway mouse named Tucker and his Pal, Harry the Cat. Throughout their escapades and their ups and downs in New York City, together they somehow manage to bring success to the almost bankrupt newsstand.



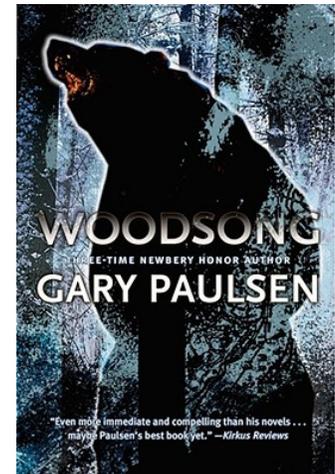
4) Woodsong

By Gary Paulsen

Book Length – 144

Reading Level – T

Gary Paulsen, three-time Newbery Honor author, is no stranger to adventure. He has flown off the back of a dogsled and down a frozen waterfall to near disaster, and waited for a giant bear to seal his fate with one slap of a claw. He has led a team of sled dogs toward the Alaskan Mountain Range in an Iditarod -- the grueling, 1,180-mile dogsled race -- hallucinating from lack of sleep, but he determined to finish. Here, in vivid detail, Paulsen recounts several of the remarkable experiences that shaped his life and inspired his award-winning writing.



5) Swindle

By Gordon Korman

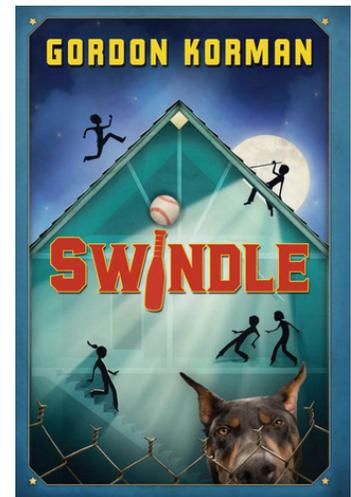
Book Length – 256

Reading Level – T

Ocean's 11... with 11-year-olds, in a super stand-alone heist caper from Gordon Korman!

After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card. There are many things

standing in their way -- a menacing guard dog, a high-tech security system, a very secret hiding place, and their general inability to drive -- but Griffin and his team are going to get back what's rightfully his . . . even if hijinks ensue. This is Gordon Korman at his crowd-pleasing best, perfect for readers who like to hoot, howl, and heist.



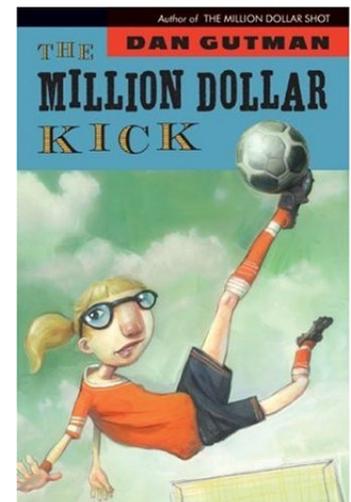
6) The Million Dollar Kick

By Dan Gutman

Book Length – 208

Reading Level – T

Whisper Nelson hates sports--all sports--with a passion! So when by a fluke she wins a chance to kick a goal past a professional soccer star for a million-dollar prize, she is torn. Should she try it and risk humiliation, or just forget the whole thing and save what dignity she has left? But the Million Dollar Kick might be Whisper's big chance not only to win a million dollars, but to regain confidence in herself.



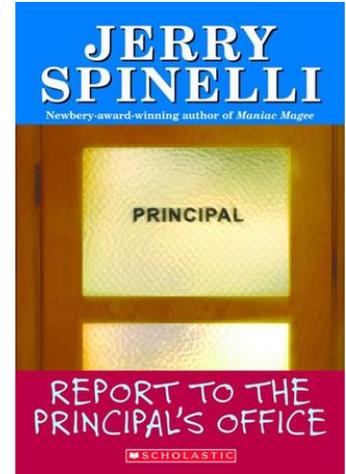
7) Report to the Principal's Office

By Jerry Spinelli

Book Length – 144

Reading Level - U

It's the first day of school at Plumstead Middle School and already there's trouble. It starts with Sunny, who is determined to do whatever it will take to get herself suspended. Then there's Eddie, who has a three-point plan for fitting in, but still gets beaten up on the morning bus. Salem is all too pleased to witness Eddie's troubles--as a future famous writer, she's drawn to drama. And on top of it all, there's Pickles Johnson, who is just...well...Pickles. These four sixth graders have only one thing in common. They're all about to report to the principal's office.



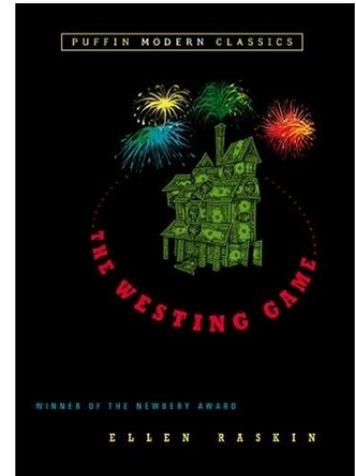
8) The Westing Game

By Ellen Raskin

Book Length – 182

Reading Level - V

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger - and a possible murderer - to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead... but that won't stop him from playing one last game!



My Top Picks for Battle of the Books:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

Where can you find these books? Here are some options:

Oak Street School Library
Bernards Township Library
The Bookworm, Bernardsville
Amazon.com
Barnesandnoble.com
Scholastic.com