

Books for 5th Grade

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J Fiction

Crispin at the Edge of the World by Avi

Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriendng a disfigured girl.

Ingo by Helen Dunmore

As they search for their missing father near their Cornwall home, Sapphy and her brother Conor learn about their family's connection to the domains of air and of water.

Gone-Away Lake by Elizabeth Enright

Portia and her cousin Julian discover adventure in a hidden colony of forgotten summer houses on the shores of a swampy lake.

The Giant Rat of Sumatra, or Pirates Galore by Sid Fleischman

A cabin boy on a pirate ship finds himself in San Diego in 1846 as war breaks out between the United States and Mexico. A swashbuckling pirate ship cuts through the early morning fog. Crouching like a tiger about to spring, her figurehead is a huge and ferocious rat with crooked teeth and gouged-out eyes. When the daring Giant Rat of Sumatra drops anchor in San Diego, twelve-year-old cabin boy Shipwreck only wants to begin his long journey home to Boston. Instead he encounters: snarling mutineers barefoot bandits hairbreadth escapes duels cunning barkeeps simmering revenge secret identities scrappy orphans betrayals lost loves old enemies new villains heroic last stands and razzle-dazzle treasure so well hidden that only someone as quick and clever as Shipwreck could keep up with it. Plucked from the sea by the most notorious pirate in the Pacific, Shipwreck discovers his adventure is only beginning.

Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath

Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Wild River by P.J. Peterson

Considered lazy and unathletic, twelve-year-old Ryan discovers a heroic side of himself when a kayak trip with his older brother goes horribly awry.

Dolphin Song by Lauren St. John

A second prophesy, this time involving dolphins, comes true for eleven-year-old Martine, an orphaned South African girl who has mystical powers over animals, when she embarks on a school trip to study marine life off the coast of Mozambique.

Mysterious Benedict Society & the Perilous Journey by Trenton Stewart

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

J Nonfiction

The Frog Scientist by Pamela Turner (J597.8 Turner)

Tyrone Hayes works to discover the effects pesticides have on frogs and, in turn, us.

Pharaoh's Boat by David Weitzman (J932 Weitzman)

This book describes the building of Egyptian pharaoh Cheops's funeral boat.