



# BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 5 - SEPTEMBER, 2010

*Books suggested on this list are meant for individual student reading AND shared reading. Parents should continue to read aloud to their children long after the children have mastered independent reading. Hearing a book read aloud that would be too difficult for the child to read alone develops increased vocabulary as well as greater understanding of the language through contextual cues. Above all, it is a wonderful opportunity for special time with your child.*

### FICTION

ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY. **LITTLE WOMEN**

In nineteenth century New England, tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war.

ALEXANDER, LLOYD. **THE HIGH KING (Chronicles of Prydain)**

In this final part of the chronicle of Prydain, the forces of good and evil meet in an ultimate confrontation, which determines the fate of Taran, the Assistant Pig-Keeper who wanted to be a hero.

BYARS, BETSY. **SUMMER OF THE SWANS**

A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost.

CLEARY, BEVERLY. **DEAR MR. HENSHAW**

In his letters to his favourite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

DANZIGER, PAULA. **THERE'S A BAT IN BUNK FIVE**

On her own for the first time, fourteen-year-old Marcy tries to cope with the new people and situations she encounters while working as a counselor at an arts camp.

DU PRAU, JEANNE. **THE CITY OF EMBER**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse unknown Regions.

GRAHAME, KENNETH. **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

The adventures of a group of animals who live in the English countryside – bashful Mole, boastful Toad, practical Badger, and world-wise Rat.

FARMER, NANCY. **A GIRL NAMED DISASTER**

While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and hunger and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

GALLOWAY, PRISCILLA. **ALETA AND THE QUEEN**

Fans of Greek mythology will enjoy this engaging story of life at the royal court of Ithaca after the Trojan War, as seen through the eyes of a young serving girl. A reworking of sections of **The Odyssey**.

GIPSON, FRED. **OLD YELLER**

The classic story of a boy and his big, yellow dog in the Texas hill country.

HAMILTON, VIRGINIA. **HOUSE OF DIES DREAR**

A family of five moves into an enormous house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves. Mysterious sounds and events and discoveries of secret passageways make the family believe they are in grave danger.

HELPRIN, MARK. **VEIL OF SNOWS**

Although her kingdom has lived in peace for many years, the queen has always feared the day the Usurper would return to plunge her city into darkness. As that day approaches, the queen's faithful general masterminds a strategy to keep the city safe, against great odds. The Veil of Snows is a moving and powerful tale about the light of the human spirit, a light that can never be wholly extinguished

HENKE, KEVIN. **OLIVE'S OCEAN**

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

HESSE, KAREN. **JUST JUICE**

Realizing that her father's lack of work has endangered her family, nine-year-old Juice decides that he must return to school and learn to read in order to help their chances of surviving and keeping their house.

HORVATH, POLLY. **EVERYTHING ON A WAFFLE**

Eleven-year-old Primrose, living in a small fishing village in B.C., 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.

HUDSON, JAN. **DAWN RIDER**

Kit Fox's sixteenth year with her people, the Bloods, is filled with preparations for an important buffalo run, talk of her older sister's coming marriage, and skirmishes with their traditional enemy, the Snakes.

HUGHES, MONICA. **KEEPER OF THE ISIS LIGHT**

Sixteen-year-old Olwen, who lives alone on the planet Isis with her faithful robot, falls tragically in love with an arrival from earth who is unaware that her natural form has been hidden in a humanlike space suit.

JUSTER, NORTON. **THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH.**

For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a tick watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams!

KOGAWA, JOY. **NAOMI'S ROAD**

During World War II, Naomi and her Japanese-Canadian family are moved from their home in Vancouver to an internment camp.

KONIGSBURG, E.L. **FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER** (NEWBERY WINNER)

Twelve-year-old Claudia and her younger brother Jamie run away to New York City and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where they meet with Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler and solve an art mystery.

KNIGHT, ERIC. **LASSIE COME HOME**

After being sold to a wealthy duke living in the far north of Scotland, a collie undertakes a 1000-mile journey to Yorkshire in order to be reunited with her former master, the son of a poor farmer.

LEVINE, GAIL CARLSON. **ELLA ENCHANTED** (NEWBERY HONOR)

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

LITTLE, JEAN. **THE BELONGING PLACE**

In 1848, sixteen-year-old Elspel, looks back on her life and describes how she came to be orphaned in Scotland, went to live with relatives, and emigrated with them to a rough but rewarding existence in Canada.

LOWRY, LOIS. **TAKING CARE OF TERRIFIC**

Taking her overprotected young charge to the public park to broaden his horizons, fourteen-year-old babysitter Enid enjoys unexpected friendships with a black saxophonist and a bag lady until she is charged with kidnapping.

MORGENSTERN, SUSIE. **A BOOK OF COUPONS**

Elderly Monsieur Noel, the very unconventional new eighth-grade teacher, gives coupon books for such things as dancing in class and sleeping late, which are bound to get him in trouble with the military discipline of Principal Incarnation Perez.

O'BRIEN, ROBERT C. **Z FOR ZACHARIAH**

Seemingly the only person left alive after the holocaust of a war, a young girl is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley until she realizes that he is dangerous and she must somehow escape.

MORPURGO, MICHAEL. **KENSUKE'S KINGDOM**

When Michael is swept off his family's yacht – he washes up on a desert island, where he struggles to survive – until he finds he is not alone.

PULLMAN, PHILLIP. **CLOCKWORK**

Long ago in Germany, a storyteller's story and an apprentice clockwork-maker's nightmare, meet in a menacing, lifelike figure created by the strange Dr. Kalmenius.

ROBERTS, WILLOW DAVIS. **THE GIRL WITH SILVER EYES**

A ten-year-old girl, who has always looked different from other children, discovers that she not only has unusual powers but that there are others like her.

SEWELL, ANNA. **BLACK BEAUTY**

Young readers will follow Black Beauty's fortunes, good and bad, with gentle masters as well as cruel. Children can easily make the leap from horse-human relationships to human-human relationships, and begin to understand how their own consideration of others may be a benefit to all.

SILVERSTEIN, SHELL. **RUNNY BABBIT.**

In this "billy sook," which was a 20-year work-in-progress, readers are introduced to Runny Babbit and his friends Toe Jurtle, Skertie Gunk, Goctor Doose, and Millie Woose, and are encouraged to plunge headlong into this phonemic flip-flop world of funny poems. "So if you say, 'Let's bead a rook/That's billy as can se,/You're talkin' Runny Babbit talk,/Just like mim and he.'" Complete with signature comical bold line drawings that provide visual clues, the poems require concentration to translate the silly phrases.

SHREVE, SUSAN. **BLISTER**

When a family tragedy occurs, ten-year-old Alyssa "Blister" Reed changes school, moves to an apartment with her depressed mother while her father gets his own place, and tries to believe her grandmother, who tells her she is "elastic" and can handle it all.

SPINELLI, JERRY. **LOSER**

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Donald Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

WALLACE-BRODEUR, RUTH. **BLUE EYES BETTER**

Written with quiet intensity, this beautiful and spare novel examines what happens to Tessa's family after her fifteen-year-old brother is killed in a drunk-driving accident. Their mother first retreats to her room, then goes away altogether, leaving Tessa and her father, and a great emptiness, behind. Tessa is desperate to draw her mother back. She finds solace in a stronger bond with her father and help from different sources.

WALTERS, ERIC. **RUN**

A troubled boy visits Nova Scotia with his father to learn about a young man trying to run across Canada - Terry Fox.

YOLAN, JANE. **NOT ONE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS**

A collection of thirteen traditional tales from various parts of the world, with the main character of each being a fearless, strong, heroic and resourceful woman.

## **NON-FICTION**

BLAKE, QUENTIN. **TELL ME A PICTURE**

Provides guidance for studying paintings and illustrations from the National Gallery in London to find their story within each.

BORDEN, LOUISE. **FLY HIGH! THE STORY OF BESSIE COLEMAN**

Discusses the life of the determined African American woman who went all the way to France in order to earn her pilot's license in 1921.

FREEDMAN, RUSSELL. **CONFUCIUS: THE GOLDEN RULE**

The author delves deep into Chinese history in this comprehensive biography of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. philosopher Confucius, whose teachings have influenced the development of modern government and education in both China and the West.

GOODALL, JANE. **THE CHIMPANZEES I LOVE: SAVING THEIR WORLD AND OURS**

A personal narrative by a world-renowned pioneer in scientific field observation. In this book, Goodall presents her long involvement with the chimpanzees of Gombe, describing the amazing discoveries she has made over forty years.

KRAMER, STEPHEN. **HIDDEN WORLDS: LOOKING THROUGH A SCIENTIST'S MICROSCOPE**

An illuminating look at the world of a microscopist Dennis Kunkel works with microscopes to explore science, both on his own and with specialists from related fields. This book contains many of his photos, most taken with electron microscopes.

MACAULEY, DAVID. **THE NEW WAY THINGS WORK**

Text and numerous detailed illustrations introduce and explain the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines. Includes new material about digital technology.

SCHAEFER, V. **THE CARE AND KEEPING OF YOU: THE BODY BOOK FOR GIRLS**

This bestselling guide offers guidance about basic hygiene and health and answers all the questions growing girls have about their bodies - from hair care to healthy eating, bad breath to bra buying, pimples to periods.

SIS, PETER. **TREE OF LIFE: A BOOK DEPICTING THE LIFE OF CHARLES DARWIN**

Presents the life of the famous nineteenth-century naturalist using text from Darwin's writing and detailed drawings by Sis.

**POETRY**

BOOTH, DAVID. **'TIL ALL THE STARS HAVE FALLEN**

This beautifully illustrated collection includes works by and about Native Americans, and about Canada. Other poems refer to diverse topics such as the seasons, laughter, dinosaurs, nature and licorice.

BOUCHARD, D. **PRAIRIE BORN**

A poem describing the joys of growing up on the prairies. Fantastic full-page paintings depict seasonal childhood pastimes.

--- **IF YOU'RE NOT FROM THE PRAIRIE**

"Blazing skies in bright blue bounce from the full-page acrylic illustrations that face every page of poetic text in this piece about modern-day life on the prairie." (School Library Journal).

LITTLE, JEAN. **I GAVE MY MOM A CASTLE**

Selection of prose, poem and mini-stories about the joys and pains of giving and receiving, featuring a wide cast of characters from toddlers to teens, with an adult or two thrown in for good measure.

SILVERSTEIN, SHEL. **RUNNY BABBIT**

In this "billy sook," which was a 20-year work-in-progress, readers are introduced to Runny Babbit and his friends Toe Jurtle, Skertie Gunk, Goctor Doose, and Millie Woose, and are encouraged to plunge headlong into this phonemic flip-flop world of funny poems. "So if you say, 'Let's bead a rook/That's billy as can se,'/You're talkin' Runny Babbit talk,/Just like mim and he." Complete with signature comical bold line drawings that provide visual clues, the poems require concentration to translate the silly phrases.

**BIOGRAPHY**

BYARS, BETSY. **THE MOON AND I**

While describing her humorous adventures with a black snake, Betsy Byars recounts childhood anecdotes and explains how she writes a book.