



5th Grade Summer Reading 2026

Why encourage a summer reading plan for your children?

Studies suggest that children who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success. When children are provided with 10 to 20 self-selected children's books at the end of the regular school year, as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains.

Research suggests that if children have opportunities to listen to, discuss, and read books on topics that they select, or books about characters that they love, they develop extensive background knowledge that can strengthen their independent reading and sustain their engagement.

Source: <https://study.com/blog/why-is-summer-reading-so-important-for-kids-success.html>

Harding Academy has set in place a summer reading program for all lower school students. Each grade level has **one required book** to be read. An assignment is to be completed and returned to the teacher the first day of school. The information in this assignment will be used to create a fun project during the first weeks of school. The book will need to be reviewed or reread within the 2 weeks before school starts in order to perform well on the comprehension assessment that will be given the first Friday of the school year.

The book for fifth grade is: Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Additional suggestions for reading this summer:

The 39 Clues: series by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson: series by Rick Riordan

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Keeper of the Lost Cities series by Shannon Messenger

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

Warriors series by Erin Hunter

I Survived: series by Lauren Tarshis

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Summer Reading Information: During the first week of school, fifth graders will take part in lessons and activities based on Crash by Jerry Spinelli. Fifth graders will also participate in a short book study, work with a customized list of spelling words taken from the book, and take a test over the book. See the attached pages for the summer reading assignment.



5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: Complete this worksheet and give it to your teacher on the first day of school. **Use complete sentences.**



Name _____

1. Write a short summary about the book.

2. Who are the two main characters?

3. Use 2 words to describe each of the two main characters? (appearance, personality, beliefs etc.)

4. Which character did you like best? Why?

5. What is the setting of this book? Where does it take place?

6. Pick a problem that Crash has to deal with during the book. Tell how he dealt with the problem.

7. What is something that Crash discovers about himself and others in the book, that makes him a better person?

8. What is the turning point of the story (climax?)

9. What is your favorite part of the story?

10. If there was one thing you could change about the story, what would it be?

11. What was something that you have faced in the story? Did it remind you of anything? Explain.

12. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or Why not?
