

Fifth Grade Picks



[Rez Dogs](#)

by Joseph Bruchac

Malian must stay with her grandparents on the Wabanaki reservation because of COVID-19. Everything is more difficult, but one day a large dog shows up as her protector.



[Premeditated Myrtle](#)

by Elizabeth C. Bunce

Myrtle's grouchy, rich next-door neighbor Miss Wodehouse is found dead. Good thing Myrtle is a brilliant young investigator! (series)



[Santiago's Road Home](#)

by Alexandra Diaz

Left alone in Mexico, Santiago, 12, accompanies a woman and her child to the U.S. illegally. ICE intercepts them and Santiago is locked away in a harsh immigration center.



[Wishing Upon the Same Stars](#)

by Jacquetta Nammar Feldman

Yasmeen's Arab American (Palestinian) family is new in town. Their friendly neighbors turn out to be Jewish Israeli Americans. Will the tensions of the Middle East find their way to Texas?



[The School for Whatnots](#)

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Max's rich parents hire "Whatnots" (androids) to be his friends so he's never bullied. After 5th grade, his pal Josie disappears, leaving a note that reads: "No matter what anyone tells you, I'm real."



[The Last Cuentista](#)

by Donna Barba Higuera

Just before Earth is destroyed by a comet, Petra's family boards a generation ship to journey to a new planet. When things go wrong, her love of storytelling just might save the day.



[Saucy](#)

by Cynthia Kadohata

Becca is the least focused of the quadruplets; her brothers are passionate about hockey, science, and music. Then she finds a tiny, sick piglet that will someday weigh 600 pounds.



[Linked](#)

by Gordon Korman

When a swastika is painted on a wall in Link's middle school, the community is thrown into pandemonium. As the town's past is unburied, Link transforms from being just a popular kid to someone else entirely.



[Pony](#)

by R.J. Palacio

In 1860s Ohio, Silas, 12, follows the gang of counterfeiters who have kidnapped his genius father, aided by a mysterious horse and his companion (a ghost that only Silas can see).



[Fast Pitch](#)

by Nic Stone

As a U12 softball team captain, Shenice should be focusing on the upcoming state tournament. Instead, she digs into the scandal that ruined her Great-Grampy's major-league career.



[The Last Mapmaker](#)

by Christina Soontornvat

Assistant to a master mapmaker, Sai hides her father's profession (thief) and lowly social standing. She jumps at the chance to join a dangerous expedition to find the Sunderlands.



[The Elephant in the Room](#)

by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Sila and her father wait for her mother to return from trying to solve her immigration issues overseas. Meanwhile, they befriend a lonely man who purchases an elephant. New friendships result — human and animal alike.



[Sisters of the Neversea](#)

by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Lily, who is Muscogee Creek, and her step siblings, Wendy and Michael, fly themselves to Neverland with their new friend named Peter Pan in this modern retelling of an old classic.

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