The following books are enthusiastically recommended for kids in fifth grade.
The list contains new books which Ferguson librarians have especially enjoyed, as well as old favorites, which have proven popular over the years.
We hope you'll find this list a good place to start your reading. Remember to ask your librarian for additional suggestions by these and other authors.

**HAPPY READING!**

**Fiction**

- **All Alone in the Universe** by Lynne Rae Perkins
  When her best friend deserts her, Debbie begins searching for friendship in new and unusual places. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **All of a Kind Family** by Sydney Taylor
  The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in early 20th century New York. *J FIC & J AUDIO*

- **A Barrelof Laughs, a Valeof Tears**

- **A Birthday Room** by Kevin Henkes
  An unexpected letter sends Ben on a quest because everyone who comes near him laughs uncontrollably. *J FIC*

- **Brainboy and the Deathmaster** by Tor Seidler
  When 12-year-old Darryl is adopted by a technology genius, he finds himself the star of his very own life-threatening video game. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Bull Run** by Paul Fleischman
  Different accounts of what happened at the Civil War Battle of Bull Run. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman
  Catherine finds herself trapped by her father's wish to marry her off to a rich husband. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Count Karlstein** by Philip Pullman
  Evil Count Karlstein is planning to offer up his two nieces to a terrible demon huntsman, and the girls' maid Hildi must find a way to save them. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Framed** by Frank Cottrell Boyce
  Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business, but it isn't until a strange man comes to their small Welsh town with some valuable paintings that they consider turning to crime. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **The Ghost Belonged to Me** by Richard Peck
  Alexander is surprised to discover that there is a ghost living in his barn! *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Half Moon Investigations** by Eoin Colfer
  When Fletcher Moon, the world's youngest detective, is framed for a crime he did not commit, he must solve the case within twelve hours to clear his name. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Hatching Magic** by Ann Downer
  A thirteenth-century dragon finds a magical hole in a meteor patch and crawls into present-day Boston. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Hoop Girlz** by Lucy Jane Bledsoe
  River finds a creative solution when she isn't chosen to play in a basketball tournament. *J FIC*

- **Island of the Aunts** by Eva Ibbotson
  Because the aunts are getting older, they decide to kidnap three children—but things don't work out quite as they planned. *J FIC*

- **Julie of the Wolves** by Jean Craighead George
  Julie, lost in the Alaskan wilderness, befriends a pack of wolves to survive. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Letters from Camp** by Kate Klise
  Three pairs of siblings find themselves forced to work together to solve a mystery and prevent a crime. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Lizard Music** by Daniel Pinkwater
  When Victor's parents are away, he discovers a strange TV channel broadcasting music by a group of lizards. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Meet the Austins** by Madeleine L'Engle
  Everything changes when orphaned Maggy Hamilton moves in with Vicky's family. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH** by Robert O'Brien
  A widowed mouse with four children asks the rats for help with a big problem. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **The Music of Dolphins** by Karen Hesse
  Milo tells the story of how researchers try to make her part of human society after she is found living with a pod of dolphins. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade** by Barthe DeClements
  A fifth grade class learns to be more accepting of an overweight classmate. *J FIC*

- **The Ordinary Princess** by M.M. Kaye
  Unlike her six beautiful sisters, Princess Dow and dies, Rob discovers that it wasn't an accident—but the only one who believes him is the murderer! *J FIC & J PBK*

- **The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11** by Amy Hest
  In journal entries and pen pal letters, Katie talks about growing up during World War II. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Project Mulberry** by Linda Sue Park
  While working on an after-school club project, Julie, a Korean-American, and her friend Patrick, learn about tolerance. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Riding Freedom** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
  After running away from an orphanage, Charley disguises herself as a boy and uses her ability with horses to make a place for herself in frontier California. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Running Out of Time** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
  Jessie lives in the 1840s—or so she believes—until a medical emergency sends her on an escape mission "outside the fence." *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **Stonewords: A Ghost Story** by Pam Conrad
  Zoe's house is occupied by the ghost of an 11-year-old girl, who takes her back to the day of her death in 1870. *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Thirteen Ways to Sink a Sub** by Jamie Gilson
  When 4B gets a substitute for the day they decide to have a contest to see who can make the substitute cry first—with hilarious results. *J FIC, J PBK & J AUDIO*

- **The View from the Cherry Tree** by Willo Davis Roberts
  After Mrs. Calloway falls out of her window and dies, Rob discovers that it wasn't an accident—but the only one who believes him is the murderer! *J FIC & J PBK*

- **Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story** by Mary Downing Hahn
  After her mother remarries, Molly finds herself in charge of her stepfather's unpleasant daughter, Heather. But when...
Non-Fiction

The Bone Detectives: How Forensic Anthropologists Solve Crimes and Uncover Mysteries of the Dead by Donna M. Jackson
Find out how scientists use bones to discover everything from how someone died to what her job was while she was alive. J 363.25 J

John Madden's Heroes of Football: The Story of America's Game by John Madden with Bill Gutman
Learn about the history of football and many of the players and teams that helped make it the most popular sport in the United States. J 796.332 M

An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming by Al Gore
This kid-friendly book based on the former vice president’s award-winning movie, highlights the drastic changes in our planet and the dangers of global warming. J 363.738 G

A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms Selected by Paul B. Janeczko
From sonnets to double dactyls, have fun learning the rules about 29 different poetic forms. J 821.08 K

Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley by Sally M. Walker
For more than 130 years, the fate of the H.L. Hunley was one of the great unsolved mysteries of the Civil War. In 1995, the submarine was found buried off the coast of South Carolina, allowing scientists to learn the secrets of its terrible last voyage. J 973.757 W

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam and the Science of the Ocean Motion by Loree Griffin
How do sneakers, Legos and bathtub toys help us understand our oceans? Oceanographers track everyday items floating in our oceans to better understand what controls the oceans’ flow. J 551.462 B

Tsunami Warning by Taylor Morrison
Discover what causes these killer waves and how scientists can predict them. J 551.463 M

With a Little Luck: Surprising Stories of Amazing Discoveries by Dennis B. Fradin
What does it take to change the world forever? The inventors and discoverers in this book were smart, brave—and lucky! J 509 F

OTHER FAVORITE FIFTH GRADE AUTHORS
Avi, John Bellairs, Betsy Byars, Lois Lowry, Joan Lowery Nixon, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Katherine Paterson, Gary Paulsen, Louis Sachar, Betty Ren Wright