

## Mrs. Dursteler's Summer Reading List For Students Entering 5th Grade

**Author:** Roald Dahl

**Titles/Series:** [Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#), [James and the Giant Peach](#)

**Annotations:** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - Charlie Bucket, so poor that he can only afford one candy bar a year, wins candy for life and a tour of Willie Wonka's top-secret chocolate factory. There are four other prizewinners, each a selfish child with a nasty personality. The story is filled with excitement, fantasy, humor, and moral lessons. This selection is the first of a series about Charlie Bucket.

*James and the Giant Peach* - This classic tale of fantasy and wonder appeals to readers of all ages. Everyone is rooting for James as the magic peach grows in his yard, enabling him to escape "the aunts."

**Author:** E. L. Konigsburg

**Titles/Series:** [From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler](#)

**Annotations:** Claudia decides to run away to teach her parents a lesson in "Claudia appreciation." She takes her brother along and, together, they hide and live for a week in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. While there, Claudia discovers a statue so beautiful that she must find out the identity of the artist. Her quest leads her to the statue's former owner, Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.

**Author:** Kenneth Grahame

**Titles/Series:** [Wind in the Willows](#), [The](#)

**Annotations:** The humorous adventures of four animal friends, resourceful Rat, loyal Mole, exasperating Toad of Toad Hall and stern but wise Badger are related as they share life and habitat along a river in the English countryside.

**Author:** Avi

**Titles/Series:** [Poppy](#)

**Annotations:** When the deer mice that live in the Gray house want to move to a better location for food and shelter, they must secure permission from a powerful, controlling owl that rules Dimwood Forest. Brave Poppy and her friend Ragweed attempt to defy the owl and strike out on their own. An adventure of good versus evil ensues.

**Author:** Eve Bunting

**Titles/Series:** [How Many Days to America?](#)

**Annotations:** Forced to leave everything behind when they escape to America, a Caribbean family suffers many days of hardship, sickness, hunger, and thirst before safely arriving on Thanksgiving Day. This very meaningful story focuses on Thanksgiving Day as a holiday for celebrating freedom, faith, and courage. California author.

**Author:** Clyde Bulla

**Titles/Series:** [Shoeshine Girl](#)

**Annotations:** A summer job at her aunt's helps ten-year-old Sarah to become more self-reliant and understanding. California author.

**Author:** Gennifer Choldenko

**Titles/Series:** [Al Capone Does My Shirts](#)

**Annotations:** A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 (when guards' families were housed there). He has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

*Annotations copied from the California Department of Education's recommended K-12 reading list.*