

**Laguna Blanca School
Summer Reading List 2013
For Students Entering Grade 5**

REQUIRED READING:

THE HOMEWORK MACHINE Dan Gutman

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

IN ADDITION, STUDENTS MUST READ ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

HOW TIA LOLA CAME TO VISIT/STAY Julia Alvarez

At first ten-year-old Miguel is embarrassed by his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, but he learns to love her.

WHITTINGTON (Newbery Honor Book 2006) Alan W. Armstrong

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

SOMETHING UPSTAIRS (California Young Reader Medal 1993) Avi

When he moves from Los Angeles to Providence, Rhode Island, Kenny discovers that his new house is haunted by the spirit of a black slave boy who asks Kenny to return him to the early nineteenth century and prevent his murder by slave traders.

GREGOR THE OVERLANDER Suzanne Collins

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, tars, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. ("Underland Chronicles" series; Book 1)

BUD, NOT BUDDY (Newbery Medal 2000) Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE (Notable Children's Book 2007)

Kate DiCamillo Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

CITY OF EMBER (Notable Children's Book 2004) Jeanne DuPrau

In the year 241, 12-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. ("Ember" series; Book 1)

THE THIEF LORD (Notable Children’s Book 2003; Batchelder Award 2003) Cornelia Funke
Two brothers, having run away from an aunt who plans to adopt only the younger one, are pursued by a detective who was hired by the aunt. They have found shelter with—and protection from—Venice’s “Thief Lord.”

IGRAINE THE BRAVE (CYRM Nominee 2010-2011) Cornelia Funke
The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight, and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.

JACKIE AND ME: A BASEBALL CARD ADVENTURE Dan Gutman
With his ability to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson, turning into a black boy in the process.

HOOT (Newbery Honor Book 2002) Carl Hiaasen
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy’s attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

WARRIORS: INTO THE WILD Erin Hunter
Four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their powerful ancestors. Rusty, an ordinary house cat, may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all. (“Warriors” series; Book 1)

REDWALL (Best Books for Young Adults 1987) Brian Jacques
Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior, which he is convinced will help defend Redwall against the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes. (“Redwall” series; Book 1).

THE LIGHTNING THIEF Rick Riordan
Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is literally a Greek god. Percy is sent to Camp Half-Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and begins a journey to retrieve Zeus’s lightning bolt. (Percy Jackson series; Book 1)

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET (Caldecott Medal 2008) Brian Selznick
Hugo Cabret, a clever mechanically-minded orphan living in Paris in the 1930’s, has fascinating secrets and amazing adventures in the train station where he lives. Sequences of text and drawings combine to tell this suspenseful tale.

THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY (Notable Children’s Book 2008) Trenton Lee Stuart
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected to go on a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (“The Mysterious Benedict Society” series; Book 1)

SAMMY KEYES AND THE HOTEL THIEF (Edgar Allan Poe Award 1999) Wendelin Van Draanen
Thirteen-year-old Sammy’s penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the “seedy” hotel across the street from the senior’s building where she is living with her grandmother. (Sammy Keyes series; Book 1)