Dear Rising 5th Grader,

You worked extremely hard all school year long, so let’s keep that momentum going! This summer we want you to relax, have fun, and keep learning. In this letter, you will find engaging books and corresponding STEAM activities/projects that match your upcoming standards. Read at least 3 books with corresponding activities (or more). These books and activities are only suggestions. If you find a different book and want to complete a different activity that is fine, too!!

We are partnering with Live Oak libraries, so get started there! At the library, you’ll be able to find all the books or similar type books you need to complete your summer reading and STEAM activities. And since you’re already at the library, “blast off” with their OUT OF THIS WORLD space themed summer reading program! Join the program, it will be super easy. Then, when you return in the fall with your summer reading and STEAM activities, not only will you receive PBIS points, extra credit grades worth 100 each, but you’ll also be invited to our STEAM back to school blast off party!

We’ll be excited to see all the great things you create this summer! Remember to have fun, relax, and read on!

See You at the Library,

The Fifth Grade Team

Suggested Books with Accompanying STEAM Activities

Books/Activities

Each activity/project is different, so you decide on the time-frame. Remember, these books and activities are only suggestions! Our goal is to make reading fun! So find a book you love and create a project to go along with it. The possibilities are endless!

Fantastic Series Books (we LOVE book series because once you get hooked you just have to keep reading...)

➔ I Survived Series
   ◆ Project Idea: Create a disaster escape vehicle or a survival kit specific to the title you read. Make sure you explain your design and how it would be useful.

➔ Ada Lace Series by Emily Calandrelli
Project Idea: Ada Lace on the Case
Ada named her turtles Hydrogen and Oxygen. What are hydrogen and oxygen? Look them up to find out. Why do you think she named the turtles that?

Project Idea: Ada Lace Sees Red
What kind of robot would you design? Make a list of all the things you would have a robot do. Draw a design of your robot.

Gears are simple machines, but they are good engineering tools. Clocks, cars, and toys all use gears. Gears can work together to make things move in different directions, to change forces, to increase or decrease speed, and to make a job easier to do. Design a machine to do a simple job using gears. Learn how gears work: https://vimeo.com/30206625 http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/videos/physics/

Code Busters Club by Penny Warner
Project Idea: Create your own code and then write a message for someone to solve using your code.

Spin the Golden Light Bulb - The Crimson Fire Series - by Jackie Yeager
Project Idea: Design your own “Inventor’s Project” like the characters in the book.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate (Book 1), The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate (Book 2) by Jacqueline Kelly
Project Idea: Calpurnia uses a journal to record what she sees all around her. Keep a journal for a week just like her! You can sketch, write, and record observations that you experience in the natural world around you.

Other Great Titles
The Little Prince - by Antoine De Saint-Exupery
Project Idea: what questions do you have about the natural world around you? Research asteroids or an environmental issue we are facing in the world today. Create a poster or a Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video to inform people about the situation and call others into action to help solve the problem.

Hatchet - by Gary Paulson
Project Idea: Survival Design
Help Brian survive the wilderness. Design a shelter, a tool, or a survival kit that would be useful. You could also experiment with materials and try to purify dirty water to make it drinkable (without boiling it :)

Fuzzy Mud - by Louis Sachar
Project Idea: Engineering in a Crisis
Two characters in the story had to find their way through the woods. One is blind, and the other could barely use her hands. Imagine and create a device that allows two children to cross a “river” safely without the use of sight or touch. You could also research turtles or biofuels.

Masterminds - by Gordon Korman
Project Ideas:
Serenity, New Mexico was designed to be a perfect community. Design your own dream community. Which parts of Serenity’s location, features and size appeal to you? What would you do differently?
Do some research and learn more about cloning. Consider the arguments for and against cloning. Why do you think it is such a controversial issue? Present your thinking creatively