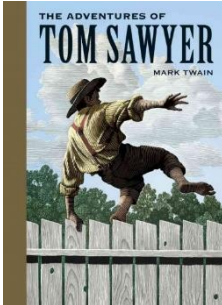




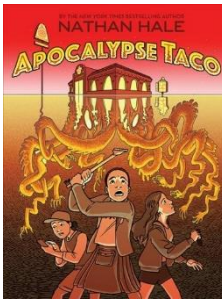
## Book Reviews by Kids



### The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain (J TWA)

Reviewed by Jason L., 6th grader

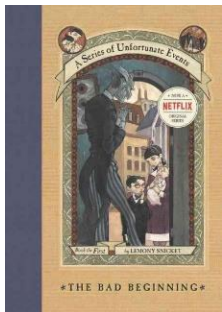
I read the Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, which is about young Tom Sawyer, a boy who goes on adventures and always manages to get himself into trouble. His troubles become worse when a murderer is on the loose... Tom is a very brave and heroic character. He managed to get himself and another character, Becky, out of a cave. He is also very smart and resourceful, as shown when he uses a kites string to find their way out. Trouble strikes when Injun Joe murders a young doctor, and accuses Muff Potter. Tom and Huck saw everything, so Tom told everyone the truth, and Injun Joe fled. Later, Tom met the murderer in a cave... I really enjoyed this book even though it was very short. I also liked the storyline, because it makes you think and wonder what happens next. This was my first time reading a book by Mark Twain, and now I understand why he is famous for his books. The only reason you shouldn't read this is if you can't understand the language and slang people used back then. But other than that, I think the Adventures of Tom Sawyer was a great book!



### Apocalypse Taco, by Nathan Hale (J GN HAL)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

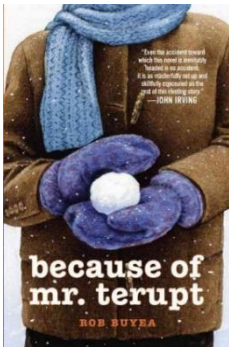
This is a graphic novel which features eleven-year-old twins named Ivan and Axl and a sixteen year old named Sid who take a break from their theater club to get food at Taco Bear. When there, weird things start happening and their food starts attacking them! Their world is turned upside down and they need to save it from destruction. This book is very creative and full of humor. I would recommend this to anyone. This book shows the danger of artificial life.



### The Bad Beginning: A Series of Unfortunate Events (Series Bk 1), by Lemony Snicket (J SNI)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

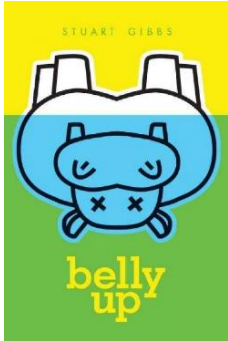
"If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book." This chilling first line really sets the scene for the whole series to come. In this book, we are introduced to the Baudelaire children. The oldest is Violet who is fourteen and loves inventing things. Klaus is twelve and reads any books he can get his hands on and retains all the knowledge he learns. Finally, the youngest child, Sunny, likes to bite things. She is no bigger than a boot, but makes up for it with her four, sharp front teeth. This saddening story begins at Briny Beach where they are informed that their house had burned down taking their parents with it. Understandably, they were devastated, but this was just the start in their miserable life as they have to run from a villain who wants to steal their families fortune. This book is very clever and a must read for anyone. The theme of this story is that no matter how unfortunate the circumstances, people can do brilliant things.



## Because of Mr. Terupt, but Rob Buyea (J BUY)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader**

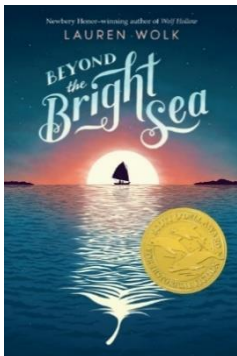
This is the story of a group of 5th graders. This book is told from the perspective of seven of them. All of them have different personalities and don't necessarily get along, but will Mr. Terupt be able to fix that? This is a heartwarming book and amazing writing. I would recommend this book to anyone. The theme of this story is you should take responsibility for your actions. 79



## Belly Up, by Stuart Gibbs (JM GIB)

**Reviewed by Finn D., 6th grader**

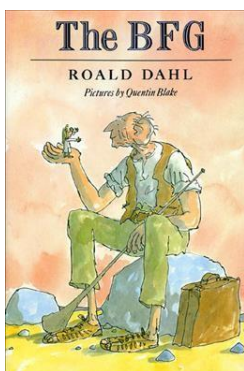
I recommend The FunJungle series by Stuart Gibbs because of the twists and surprises around every corner. It is also very funny and there are many characters to read about. The first book in the series is called Belly Up. In this book, Henry the Hippo is murdered and the main character, Teddy Fitzroy has to figure out on his own who committed the crime. He makes friends with Summer McCracken, who is the famous daughter of J.J. McCracken, who is the creator of FunJungle. Teddy is faced with dangerous situations, a snake let on the loose, tigers breaking out of their exhibit and the annoying security guard, Marge, who is always harassing Teddy. J.J. McCracken can't be trusted even though he acts as though he is on Teddy and his friends' side. Teddy has to investigate without people knowing, or else he could get in trouble. I recommend reading this book series if you get the chance and hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.



## Beyond the Bright Sea, by Lauren Wolk (J WOL)

**Reviewed by Nora T., 5th grader**

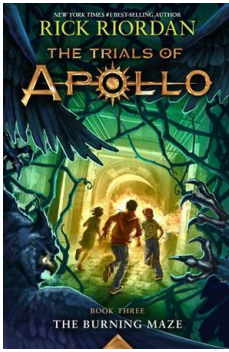
*Beyond the Bright Sea* is a heartwarming story of a girl named Crow who was washed up as a baby on a remote island in the 1900s. As Crow grows older she wants to find out her real parents and if she is from Penikese. As she comes closer to finding out the truth things get thrown in the path.



## The BFG, by Roald Dahl (J DAH)

**Reviewed by Jason L., 6th grader**

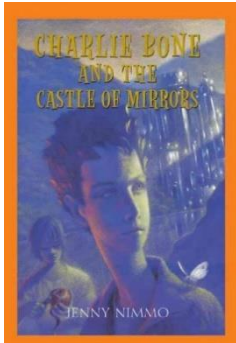
This spectacular novel, by Roald Dahl, is about Sophie, an orphan, and the BFG, a giant. Her life is pretty miserable, until the Big Friendly Giant comes into her life. She sees amazing things in Giant Country that no human has ever seen before, and learns about the other gruesome giants living there who gobble up human beings for supper, so she and the BFG embark on a journey to stop them once and for all. The BFG is a very kind-hearted giant, who, unlike the other man-eating giants, refuses to eat human beings, which makes him unpopular among the other giants. He is always willing to help humans, which is how he got his name, the Big Friendly Giant. I enjoyed reading this book because it was fascinating reading about a giant's life. I also thought it was kind of funny, because a lot of the words the BFG says doesn't make sense, and sometimes he gets his words jumbled up. Lastly, I like how the plot moves rapidly from one scene to another, where all of them are interesting, funny, and action-packed. To conclude, I think this was an awesome book, and I'm sure many others would agree.



## The Burning Maze: The Trials of Apollo (Series Book 3) by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

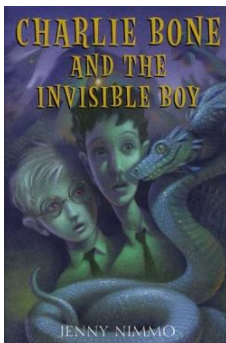
This book takes place after the book Trials of Apollo - The Dark Prophecy. Apollo, Grover, and Meg are forced to travel through the Labyrinth as the Dark Prophecy had said to “travel through the magical maze.” They must fend off monsters and survive the Labyrinth at the same time, and see where the Labyrinth would take them and what their quest would be like fully. Read to find out. This book is amazing and one of my favorites. I would recommend it to anyone one who enjoys Rick Riordan’s work. The theme is that loss is a part of life because Apollo is feeling loss for the deaths of people around him. This is unlike him as a god because he never felt loss because he thought of humans as inferior and didn’t worry of losing himself, as he was immortal.



## Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors, by Jenny Nimmo (J NIM)

Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader

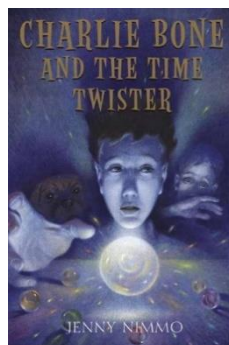
In this installment of the Charlie Bone series, Charlie once again has to deal with lots of problems! A new character is introduced, Joshua Tilpin. He enrolls at Bloor’s Academy and seems to have magnetic abilities. In addition, Billy Raven is promised new parents, but he gets the horrible de Greys for parents which is not good. This causes Charlie and his friends to try and rescue Billy from the de Greys but will they succeed? But more importantly, can Charlie trust Billy enough to tell him about his past? The theme of this book is that friends are needed to help get through the tough times.



## Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy, by Jenny Nimmo (J NIM)

Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader

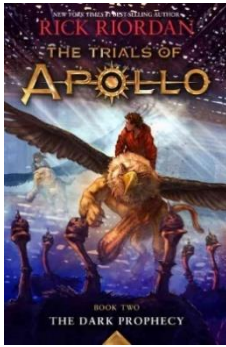
During the summer semester at Bloor Academy, Charlie keeps getting into more trouble. When a mysterious girl named Bella starts plotting against him, he must find ways to survive. In addition, he must find a strange invisible boy named Ollie Sparks who is in danger. Charlie and his friends plan to save his life. This is another amazing Charlie Bone book filled with action, suspense, and intrigue. The theme of this story is trust because many times during the story when Charlie didn’t know something, he had to trust other people. I would highly recommend this book.



## Charlie Bone and the Time Twister, by Jenny Nimmo (J NIM)

Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader

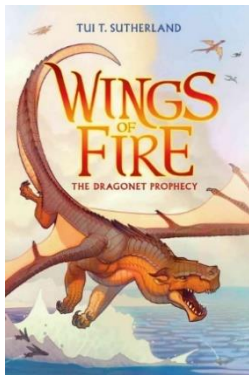
When Charlie Bone’s ancestor, Henry Yewbeam, is sent forward in time by his evil cousin, Zeke, his great-great-nephew, Charlie Bone, must try to help him escape from Bloor’s Academy before it is too late. In addition, Charlie also has to prevent his evil Grandma and aunts from destroying the balance of the good and the evil. This is a gripping book that will keep you on the edge of your seat, eagerly flipping the pages to find out what happens next. The theme of this book is that friends are there to rely on and will help you along the way, as Charlie’s friends do for him.



## The Dark Prophecy: The Trials of Apollo (Series Book 2), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

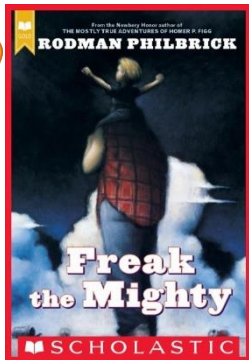
This book comes after the Trials of Apollo book the Hidden Oracle. Now that Apollo knows he has to free the five oracles and he has freed the Grove of Diana at Camp Half Blood, he must continue on his journey alone because Meg had left him. On his journey, he must also push on to kill the three emperors who are trying to become gods. This book shows how Apollo is changing. This book is humorous, riveting, gripping, and will keep you on the edge of your seat making you not want to put down the book and keep flipping the pages. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mythology and adventure because this is an amazing combination of both. The theme of this book is empathy because Apollo is starting to realize that his ways of thinking of morals as disposable is wrong and is starting to change his ways and feel empathy.



## The Dragonet Prophecy: Wings of Fire (Series Book 1), by Tui T. Sutherland (J SUT)

Reviewed by Allie H., 6th grader

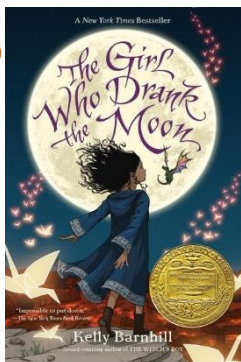
I definitely give this book a thumbs up. In The Dragonet Prophecy, the first book in the series, Clay and four other young dragons are destined to play a big role in a prophecy. A war was being fought for a long time across all of Pyrrhia, and the five dragonets named Sunny, Tsunami, Starflight, Glory, and Clay need to stop it. The prophecy says that the war will last twenty years. Until then, the five dragonets were 'prisoners,' and were kept in a cave so that they will be safe. They want to escape, and fulfill the prophecy now. It is a daunting task, and all of Pyrrhia depends on them. Will their endeavors succeed? This book is filled with excitement and adventure. As the characters face challenges, they help and rely on each other. I would recommend this book for people ages 9-11 years old.



## Freak the Mighty, by Rodman Philbrick (eBook)

Reviewed by Jack L., 6th grader

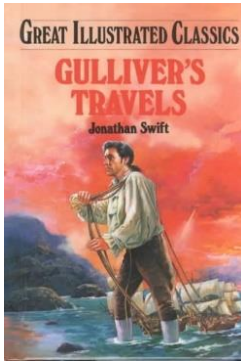
Max is very tall and bigger than most kids. He also isn't that smart either, and is bullied. One day, a new kid named Kevin shows up. He is really smart but extremely small. They become friends quickly, go on adventures, and call themselves Freak the Mighty. Read to hear about their adventures. This book is heartwarming and full of adventure. The theme of this book is that it doesn't matter what you look like because even though Kevin and Max look different, they are both great people.



## The Girl Who Drank the Moon, by Kelly Barnhill (J BAR)

Reviewed by Jack L., 6th grader

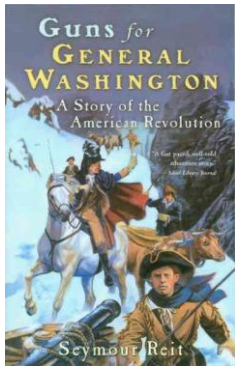
The story The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill, starts at a witch's house called Xan. Every year in the woods near the protectorate, the people of the protectorate sacrifice a child and leave it at the edge of the woods. The council of elders says that to keep the Witch in the woods happy they must sacrifice the last born child of the year. Xan saves the baby every year and brings it to the cities on the other side of the woods known as the free cities. Usually, Xan feeds the baby starlight. But one day the moon is hanging low and she accidentally grabs some moonlight and feeds it to the baby. Moonlight enmagics the baby and Xan has to take it in. She named the baby Luna, but Luna is slowly siphoning magic out of Xan slowly making Xan weaker. In the protectorate, one of the highest members of the council named sister Ignatia is a sorrow eater who needs sorrow, so she says that they have to sacrifice a child every year. This leaves the protectorate being controlled by sister Ignatia and the other superiors.



## Gulliver's Travels, by Jonathan Swift (J SWI)

**Reviewed by Olivia P., 5th grader**

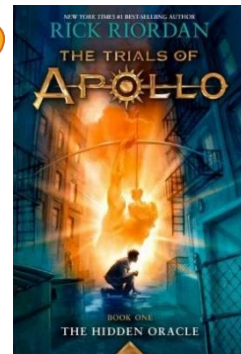
In this book Dr. Lemuel Gulliver tells us about his adventures. He tells us that after a couple years on land he feels an urge to go to sea. So, he packs up and boards the Antelope, a ship heading to the south seas. A terrible storm comes, and Dr. Gulliver becomes shipwrecked. He has adventures when meeting the Lilliputians on this island, but he soon finds a canoe and heads back to England. But he finds himself longing for the sea, so he sets sail once again. This time his ship went ashore to explore the land but soon turns back because of danger, but they forgot Dr. Gulliver! He explores and soon finds himself once again on an adventure when he encounters the Brobdingnagians. When he finally arrives back in England, he has stories to tell. When reading this adventuresome book, I found Dr. Gulliver looking in different points of view on each island. It is a very important moral to learn to have a different perspective. I suggest reading this book because it makes you wonder what will happen next.



## Guns for General Washington, by Seymour Reit (J REI)

**Reviewed by Olivia P., 5th grader**

The American Revolution has taken many tolls on both sides. The Patriots are struggling from lack of gun powder, artillery, food, firewood, proper shelters, and clothes. The treacherous war was making everyone miserable. Then Henry Knox came up with a plan that would definitely save Boston. He would travel up to Fort Ticonderoga, then he would take some of the guns, cannons, building supplies and a lot of gun powder. It is a very difficult, long, and perilous journey to get to Fort Ticonderoga. While Henry and Will Knox travel up to the fort and back to Cambridge, Massachusetts they face many difficult challenges. General Howe is unaware of this plan against him. He is just waiting for a fresh batch of soldiers to arrive. George Washington is anxious to see if Henry and Will Knox are able to bring back the much-needed supplies. The very fate of the colonies hopes to win the war and the captured city of Boston lies on Henry's plan. Read this wonderful historical fiction novel to find out if Henry and Will succeed on saving Boston.



## The Hidden Oracle: The Trials of Apollo (Series Book 1), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader**

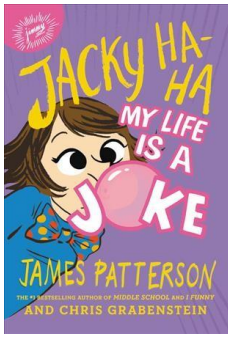
This book takes place after the events of the Heroes Of Olympus series. This is another thrilling and humorous book by the amazing author, Rick Riordan, continuing the adventures of the Greek and Roman Mythology book series. This book starts off with the god Apollo falling from the sky as a mortal (with acne) into a dumpster. He meets a twelve year old girl named Meg in the alley where he lands and their adventure together begins to return himself to his throne on Mount Olympus. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Rick Riordan's work because it is as amazing as his other books. This book's theme is to not just rely on yourself - accept that sometimes you need other people to help you along the way, as Meg does for Apollo.



## Island War, by Patricia Reilly Giff (J GIF)

**Reviewed by Olivia P., 5th grader**

This book is about two kids from Long Island who move to an island very far west in the Aleutian island chain. The beautiful island is filled with lots of birds. The two kids live there peacefully along with fifteen other residents until Pearl Harbor is bombed. The islanders believe one thing, that the war won't hit their island. They think if it did hit the peaceful island that the American army would evacuate them first. When a ship appears on a foggy day the girl from Long Island believes it is the American army there to evacuate them but during church a terrible thing happens, and she realizes that the ship wasn't what she thought it was. Read this amazing book to find out if it was the American Army or the enemy.



## Jackie Ha-Ha: My Life Is a Joke, by James Patterson (J PAT)

Reviewed by Addison S., 5th grader

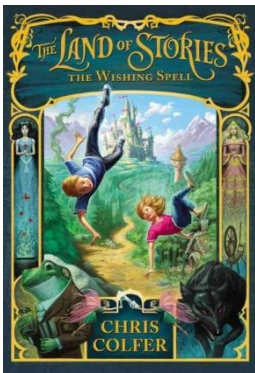
Jacky Hart is back and better than ever! In this book Jacky's parents ruin her summer by making her get a summer job. She thinks it is going to be dull, but she is so wrong! This summer she has to deal with 2 boys, babysitting her little sister, running the best booth on the boardwalk and attending rehearsals. Jacky soon figures out that multitasking is not her kind of thing. Everything comes to a halting stop when she makes a huge mistake. This could cost her a *fortune*. I think the theme of the book is, don't assume until you have proof. I would definitely give this book a thumbs up! Get cozy and warm up with this funny, engaging and hectic book!



## Katt vs. Gogg, by James Patterson (J PAT)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

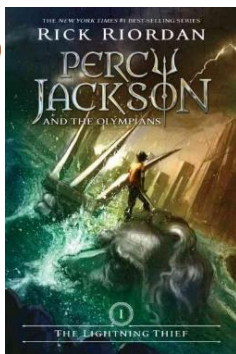
When the Dogg family and the Katt family go on vacation, they are sworn enemies, but when their children get lost in the woods, they must work together to escape the woods. This book is fun and I loved reading it. I would recommend it to anyone. The theme of this book is that even though you are different, it doesn't mean you can't become friends.



## The Land of Stories : The Wishing Spell, by Chris Colfer (J COL)

Reviewed By Caitlyn C., 4th Grader

The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer is a great book. It is about a boy named Conner and a girl named Alex, who get stuck in a fairy tale world called "The Land of Stories" inside an actual book. They have to find a way out using the Wishing Spell. The Wishing Spell is a spell that will grant one wish to the people who collect the items needed for the spell. Along the way, Conner and Alex meet many familiar characters from fairy tales, such as Cinderella, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood. These characters have interesting stories to tell and it's not what you remember from the fairy tales you read before. The characters help Conner and Alex search for the items for the spell, like Cinderella's glass slipper and a strand of Rapunzel's hair. Conner and Alex have many adventures to race against an evil witch who also wants to cast the spell. They meet many monsters and goblins on the way. The book is full of adventure and mystery and it's just fun to read. This book is one of my favorites and I would recommend it to everyone.



## The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians (Series Book 1), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

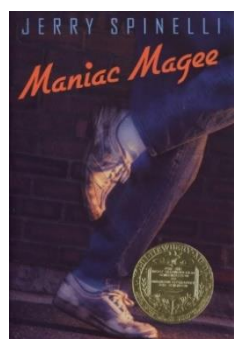
I would recommend this book for many reasons. It intrigued me with its fast paced adventure, amazing plot, and humor throughout. Once I picked up this book, I couldn't put it down. This is in my top three books of all time. Percy Jackson is a twelve year old kid who has ADHD and dyslexia. During summer break, Percy and his friend Grover go home. Percy and his mom decide to go to their small family cabin. Once there, Grover slammed open the door and whispered something to Percy's mom. She then told Percy to get in the car. As they were driving, all chaos broke loose and the underworld was summoned. Percy and his friends must battle to stay alive. The theme of the book is to stick together because Annabeth, Grover and Percy have to stick together to survive.



### The Lost Hero: The Heroes of Olympus; (Series Book 1), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader**

The Lost Hero is the first book in the thrilling Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan, which focuses on Greek and Roman mythology. When Jason wakes up on a school bus, he remembers nothing. Two people claim to be his best friend, but he doesn't know them. Leo who is kind of like a class clown, likes machines and engineering. Piper doesn't like to be popular, but is very kind and caring. When the school bus arrives at the Grand Canyon, wind spirits attack and it causes something big. This book has tons of shock, thrill, and humor. I would recommend it to anyone and I would recommend them to read the Percy Jackson series first to get some background. This is one of my favorite books and has amazing story telling. I think the theme of this story is teamwork can accomplish anything. When they are separated, they always find a way to work together to solve problems.



### Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli (J SPI)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader**

After Jeffrey Lionel Magee's parents are killed when the trolley they were riding on was hit by a drunk driver and plunged into a river, he was left with his aunt and uncle who don't get along or love him. At three years old, he ran and ran and ran until he found a town called Two Mills, Pennsylvania. There, he found that the town was divided into two sections which were the white section and the black section. Maniac starts exploring and making friends in both sections, but can he bring the two sections together and make them live in harmony? This is a good book with a great lesson and I would recommend it. The theme of this book is that it doesn't matter how you look, it's what is on the inside that matters.



### The Mark of Athena: The Heroes of Olympus; (Series Book 3), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader**

The Mark of Athena is the third book in the Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan. This book continues the quest of the chosen demigods. When Annabeth's mother, Athena, visits her, she gives her the worst present of her life: the mark of Athena. To save the world, they must find the statue of Athena to unite the two camps. If they don't succeed, the two camps will destroy the world before Gaia and her giants can. To get the statue of Athena they must face their most difficult challenge yet. The theme of this book is trust. Reyna needs to trust that Jason, Percy, and their friends didn't attack the camp on purpose and that their ultimate goal was to help.

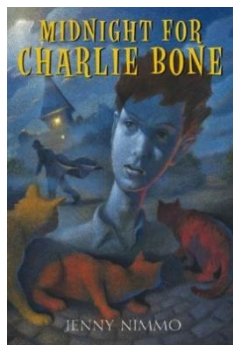


### Mary Poppins, by P.L. Travers (J TRA)

**Reviewed by Olivia P., 5th grader**

This book is about the Banks children, Jane, Michael, John, Barbara and their new nanny, Mary Poppins. Mary Poppins flew in with the wind when Mrs. and Mr. Banks advertised that they needed a nanny. She told them she would stay 'til the wind changes. And she stayed true to her word. Mary Poppins is very vain, selfish, secretive, and rude. She takes the Banks children on wild adventures but after they are done, she acts like they never happened. I read the book then watched the movie and I definitely like the movie better. The movie and book are very different. I thought in the book Mary Poppins would be a kind nanny, but she wasn't. I don't suggest reading the book.

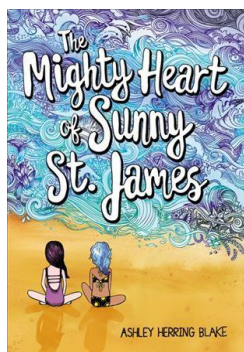
*It sounds like Mary Poppins' character is very different in the book than in the movie. Would you agree? Do you think you would like Mary Poppins? As they say, "To each their own." This means everyone has the right to their own opinion. If you read this book, send us a review and give us your opinion. - Emma S. Clark Library*



### Midnight for Charlie Bone, by Jenny Nimmo (J NIM)

Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader

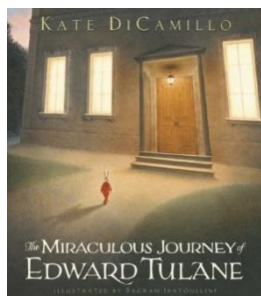
If you like the Harry Potter series, this series is totally for you! When 10 year old Charlie Bone accidentally discovers he has magic powers when he looks at a photo of a missing baby, he realizes he can hear the voices of the people in the photograph. When his mean Grandma and her three evil sisters find out about his powers, they send him off to Bloor's Academy where he is to learn to control his powers. He makes some friends but also makes some enemies too. This is a great, underrated book that will make you want to read the next one. I highly recommend this book. The theme of this book is that with great power comes great responsibility. Charlie must only use his powers when necessary.



### Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James, by Ashley Herring Blake (J BLA)

Reviewed by Nora T., 5th grader

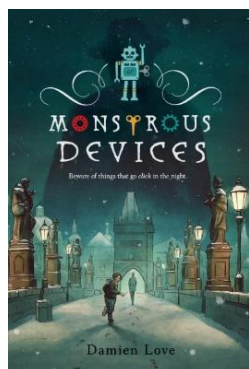
This is the perfect book for you if you love romance, happy endings and feeling good. The main character is a girl named Sunny St. James and she is a heart transplantee. Her mother and father left her as a baby for their best friend Kate, but now her mother wants them to be reunited again. While juggling all of this she meets Quinn, and the kissing quest begins.



### The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, by Kate DiCamillo (J DIC)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

In a house on Egypt Street, there lived a rabbit. He was an arrogant, overdressed, china rabbit doll who was loved by his owner, Abilene Tulane. She loved and took care of him everyday, but when he was lost, Edward Tulane's adventure began traveling from home to home, place to place. Follow him on the thrilling journey to see where he finally ends up. This book is amazingly good and will make you care about it. The theme of this story is, as it states in the book, "If you have no intention of loving or being loved, then the whole journey is pointless." This shows everyone needs to be loved.



### Monstrous Devices, by Damien Love (J SCI F LOV)

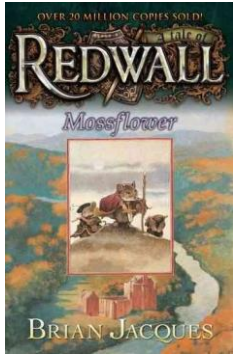
Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

One day, a twelve year old boy named Alex receives a mysterious package in the mail. Inside is a small tin robot from his grandfather. There was also a note saying, "This one is special." He thinks nothing of it but then weird events start happening. Toy robots start coming to life and a crew of dangerous people come after him and his grandfather. This book has an amazing storyline, but I think the story was extremely slow. The theme of this book is that trust is needed in relationships. If you want, you can still read this book, but I wouldn't really recommend it. I didn't enjoy the book that much.

Not every book is for everyone. Maybe you would feel differently. If you read this book, send us a review and let us know what YOU think.

~ Emma S. Clark Library

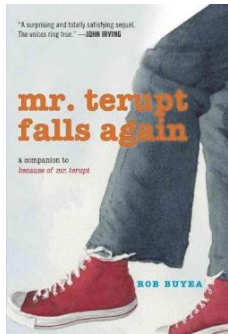




## Mossflower: Redwall, by Brian Jacques (J JAC)

Reviewed by Olivia P., 5th grader

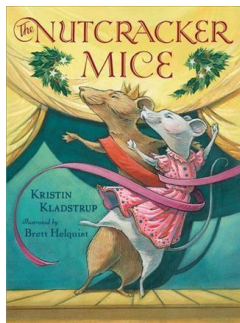
When Tsarmina takes over Mossflower after her father's death she makes the lives of the woodlanders miserable. She eventually declares war on the woodlanders. Bella of Brockhall knows they have no chance defeating the powerful Queen Tsarmina, so she sends Martin, Gonff, and Young Dinny to go to Salamandastron to get her father Boar the Fighter so he could kill Tsarmina. The travelers face many challenges along the way, but they reach Salamandastron and Boar. While all of this is happening Tsarmina is plotting a horrible plan to bring death to all the woodlanders and has gotten herself a partner after her old one died. The woodlanders have come up with their own plan to flood Tsarmina's castle, Kotir. Will the travelers come back with Boar? And who will win the war? Read this very intense book to find out all the answers to these questions and more!



## Mr. Terupt Falls Again, by Rob Buyea (J BUY)

Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader

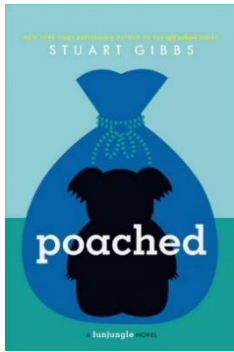
The kids in Mr. Terupt's fifth grade class get the opportunity to loop with him for one more year, their last of elementary school. They are excited to start school again, but in the new year, there are new problems for everyone. In the beginning of the school year, Mr. Terupt gives them surprising news. Their school has to pull off a very special project. As each student deals with personal problems and challenges, the reader wonders if happiness and success are possible. The theme of this book is to not give up and to believe in yourself.



## Nutcracker Mice, by Kristin Kladstrup (J KLA)

Reviewed by Olivia P., 5th grader

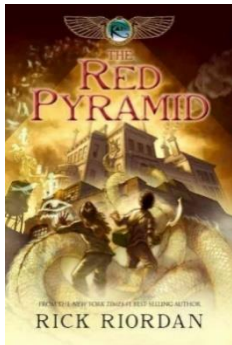
The mice at the Mariinsky Ballet Theatre in Russia are struggling to keep the audience. Esmerelda knows The Nutcracker ballet has to be a success, but it can't be because the mice are the villains. The theater is in huge trouble if no one likes the performance because audience members pay admission with food. A small audience means little food for the mice at the theater. When Esmerelda meets another mouse who always goes to the mice performances, she knows she has to change the storyline of the dance and the way she dances. She goes to her brother to have him change the storyline, so the Nutcracker is evil, and the mice are good. When Esmerelda finds out the head custodian's daughter has a doll with dresses that are mouse sized, she steals the dresses and some paintings from the producer's office to help the ballet be a success. Will Esmerelda succeed? Will the head custodian lose his job because the mice keep outsmarting him? Read this amazing book to find out.



## Poached, by Stuart Gibbs (JM GIB)

**Review by Finn D., 6th grader**

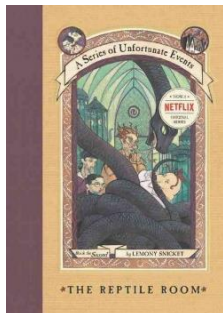
The second book in The FunJungle series by Stuart Gibbs is called Poached. It is about Teddy Fitzroy and his friends. A koala was stolen and replaced with a stuffed animal in KoalaVille, and Teddy is the main suspect when security cams show him leaving KoalaVille at closing time with his school backpack, which is big enough to fit a koala. Since Teddy was framed, the pressure is twice as heavy as the last case. He has to investigate who stole the koala while hiding out from security. All the evidence points to Teddy, and of course his friends don't believe Teddy stole the koala since the one that's running the show is Large Marge, a security guard driven by revenge since Teddy has played so many pranks on her. And also because Teddy's friends and parents know Teddy is a troublemaker, but he wouldn't go that far. This book always keeps you going, if you know what I mean. There are twists and turns and reveals and suspense and action. I really recommend reading this book if you get the chance.



## The Red Pyramid: The Kane Chronicles (Series Book 1), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader**

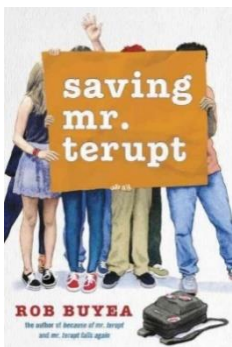
Sadie, Carter, and their dad, who is an Egyptologist, go on a trip to the British Museum. It turns out, their dad blows up the Rosetta Stone unleashing 5 ancient Egyptian gods and it becomes Sadie and Carter's job to save the world. This is a very thrilling book full of adventure and will keep the reader at the edge of their seat. I would recommend this to anyone, especially people who like Rick Riordan's writing, as he is the author. Sadie and Carter have a lot of troubles on their journey, but the theme of this book is to not doubt your abilities.



## The Reptile Room, by Lemony Snicket (J SNI)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader**

After fleeing their despicable uncle who is still following them, the Baudelaire children are put in the care of their uncle Montgomery Montgomery, or Monty for short. He is an herpetologist and has a lifelong interest in snakes and reptiles. He keeps some in his house in a room called the Reptile Room. He treats the Baudelaire's well. The Baudelaire's are in constant fear of Count Olaf and when he shows up, will they be able to save Montgomery or will they all be too late to stop anything? This is a thrilling book that has ingenious writing and an ingenious plot that will keep anyone engrossed for days. This book is so amazing it will give you chills. I would highly recommend this book and the entire series to anyone. The theme of this book is teamwork because the Baudelaire's have to work together to stop Count Olaf from killing them, their uncle, and stealing their families fortune.

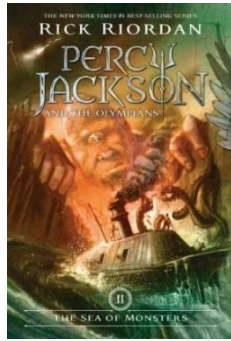


## Saving Mr. Terupt, by Rob Buyea (J BUY)

**Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader**

When Mr.Terrupts' sixth grade class moved on to seventh grade, his students from the past two years were separated. They each went their different ways and started adjusting to middle school, each of them having their own problems to deal with. Without Mr.Terupt, school was very different for them all. One day, an incident threatened to destroy their friendship and they went to Mr.Terupt for help, but found out he needs help more than they do. The theme of this story is, as it says in the book, "Hard times like these make you better...as long as you have the right attitude about things," and I would add that the support and friendship of others helps.



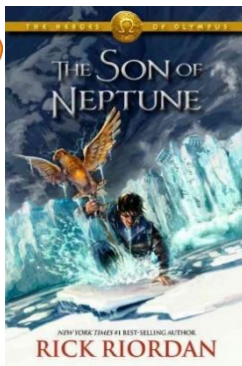


## Sea of Monsters: Percy Jackson and the Olympians (Series Book 2), by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

I would highly recommend this book. This book will keep you on the edge of your seat and will deliver with humor. You will feel like you are in the book with the characters and that you are right next to them.

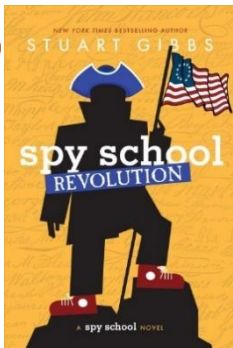
Now that Percy is starting to understand his powers, more monsters are trying to track him down. He is going to a new middle school with a friend who he met named Tyson. Tyson is over six foot five and extremely strong, but has a very soft heart and doesn't like fighting. When something happens at Camp Half Blood, Clarrise is chosen for the quest. Because Percy and his friends don't trust Clarrise, Percy and Annabeth set out to help Camp Half Blood, and to save Grover. The theme that I think this book has is to persevere. Annabeth and Percy showed great determination and didn't give up.



## The Son of Neptune: The Heroes of Olympus; (Series Book 2) by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

The Son of Neptune is the second book in the Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan. When Percy wakes up, he doesn't know what happened. He has no memory of anything. He is forced to fight off Gorgons for days and days, but no matter how many times he kills them, they come back and he is getting tired. For some reason they can't kill him. He is low on food, but water heals him and rejuvenates him. When he is about to give up, an old lady appears on the side of the road. She gives him a choice: live in the water peacefully by himself, or go on a dangerous path where there is hardship, sadness and pain, but it could save the world. Read to find out what he chooses. The theme of this story is acceptance. The people who accepted him became stronger and better and they also helped Percy along the way.



## Spy School Revolution, by Stuart Gibbs (JM GIB)

Reviewed by Finn D., 6th grader

Spy School Revolution by Stuart Gibbs is a great book to read, that is, once you've read every other Spy School book in the series. Nevertheless, this is a good read for people who like to occupy their time by reading action-packed suspenseful books. Ben finds himself being attacked by one of his fellow spies who supposedly turned to the dark side. Ben knew Erica would never do that, so he followed the clues that Erica left behind for him to find her, and when he does, Erica tells him that she only attacked because she was forced by an evil Spanish terrorist organization named the Croatan. The Croatan then threatened Erica and told her that if she didn't attempt to kill Ben, then they would kill her sister, Trixie. All in all, Ben is mixed up in a crazy adventure of loyalty and suspense.

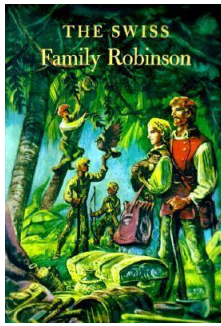


## The Stolen Sapphire: A Samantha Mystery, by Sarah Masters Buckey (J BUC)

Reviewed by Olivia Anne P., 5th grader

In this book Samantha Parkington and Nellie, her adopted sister, are invited to go to Europe with Grandmary and the Admiral Beemis. Nellie and Samantha meet all the passengers on the old-fashioned ship they are taking, but some aren't as nice as they seem. One of the passengers found a mysterious gem called the Blue Star that brings bad luck to all who have it. When all the first-class passengers are dining the lights go out and when they turn back on the gem is gone! As Samantha and Nellie investigate, their French tutor is accused of stealing the gem. They have to find the gem in a couple of days before they dock in Ireland. Will they find the gem, or will the thief get away? Read this thrilling mystery tale that comes right before the other Samantha mystery "Danger in Paris."

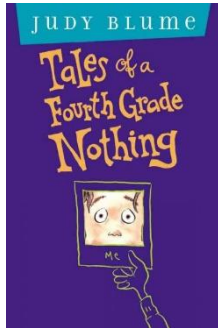




## The Swiss Family Robinson, by Johann Wyss (J WYS)

Reviewed by Olivia Anne P., 5th grader

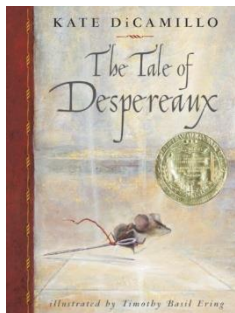
The Robinson family has gotten themselves shipwrecked on an unknown island when sailing from Switzerland. As the remaining survivors of the shipwreck they start out on an adventure. They face many perils once they reach land. The boys encounter many strange but wonderful animals. Father, Fritz, Ernest, and Jack create a vast number of creative houses. Also, Father creates many inventions that help them when living on the island. The four children tame many wild animals and love to race them while father, who is very knowledgeable, goes out on adventures and finds many edible foods and stupendous sites. This classic book is very amazing and draws the reader into the adventure like they are one of the characters themselves. Enjoy reading this book.



## Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, by Judy Blume (J BLU)

Reviewed by Caitlyn C., 4th Grader

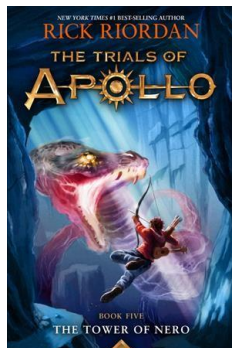
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing is a fantastic book! I would recommend the book Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing because it is very funny and full of excitement and mystery. The book is about a boy named Peter and his younger brother, Farley Drexel Hatcher, who everyone calls Fudge. Everyone thinks Fudge is adorable, but Peter knows the truth. Peter thinks his younger brother is a big troublemaker and super annoying! The brothers have many silly adventures everywhere they go. Fudge is always getting in big trouble, and makes a mess wherever they go! When Peter gets a new pet turtle, named Dribble, Fudge is of course causing mischief again! Read the book to find out what happens when Fudge swallows Dribble, and Peter is stuck with no pet. There was another time when Fudge had a tantrum at the shoe store because he wanted to wear the same shoes as Peter but they didn't have them in his size. But no matter how annoying Fudge is to Peter, the two brothers always love each other! This book will make you laugh out loud and is another one of my favorites.



## The Tale of Despereaux, by Kate DiCamillo (J DIC)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

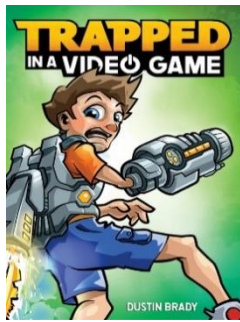
Inside the walls of a castle, a mouse is born. He was the only one to survive the litter. He looked different and people said his ears were too big, or that he was born with his eyes open. He was expected to die, but he didn't. He liked to explore and go into the castle which was restricted, and when he talked to a human, he was banished to the dungeons for betraying the opinions and ideas of the other mice. This is when his adventure started. This book is fast paced and will always keep you entertained. I would highly recommend this to anyone. The theme of this book is that sometimes the impossible is possible.



## The Tower of Nero: The Trials of Apollo (Series Book 5) by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

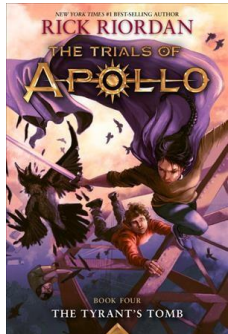
This book takes place after the events in the book of The Trials of Apollo - The Tyrants Tomb. Now that Caligula and Commundus have both been killed by Frank and Apollo, they must now kill the last surviving emperor, Nero, and Meg's stepfather. If Apollo survives he must face his strongest and oldest enemy - the Python who he had to use all his godly strength to defeat the first time. This is the final book and you should read to the end to find out how this amazing series comes to a close. This book really shows Apollo's progress. This is an awesome book that shows all of Rick Riordan's writing talent. I would recommend this amazing book to anyone. The theme of this book is that you need courage because Apollo needs courage to fight his mortal enemy and try to beat him.



## Trapped in a Video Game, by Dustin Brady (eBook)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

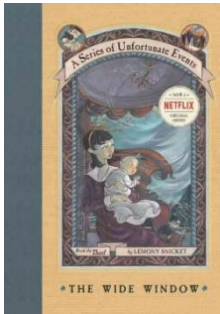
When Jesse Rigsby and his friend Eric get stuck in the video game Full Blast, they have to get out quickly; before they will be stuck in it forever. This is a good book that keeps you excited the entire way. The theme of this story is two different people can still get along. Jesse and Eric are completely different and like different things, but they are still friends.



## The Tyrant's Tomb: The Trials of Apollo (Series Book 4) by Rick Riordan (J RIO)

Reviewed by Holden C., 5th grader

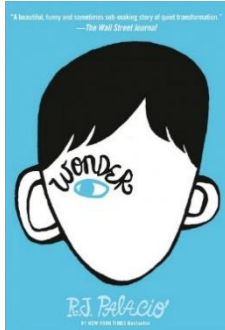
This book comes after the Trials of Apollo - The Burning Maze. After Jason's death by Caligula on the cruise ship, they are taking his body to Camp Jupiter for a proper funeral which leads them to discover the unofficial "fourth emperor." Will they be able to survive this new challenge? Read to find out what happens. This is an amazing book with amazing writing. I would recommend this book to anyone. The theme of this book is that no one is powerless and everyone has the power to make a change because Apollo feels powerless against the oracle but must gain his courage to make a change.



## The Wide Window, by Lemony Snicket (J SNI)

Reviewed by Holden C., 6th grader

Once again on the run from their uncle, the Baudelaires are in despair as their feeling of a safe home was cruelly shattered by Count Olaf when he murdered their Uncle Monty who loved them very much. After their Uncle's death, they were sent to their new guardian, their paranoid Aunt Josephine. She is scared of practically everything even though her rickety old house is precariously balanced hundreds of feet above a cliff with harsh rough water below. As the Baudelaires start adjusting to their new life and the illusion of safety, Count Olaf finds his way into it. This is an awesome book and I would one hundred percent recommend it to anyone. The theme of this story is that you can't always rely on other people to help you.



## Wonder, by R. J. Palacio (J PAL)

Reviewed by Addison S., 5th grader

August (Auggie) Pullman is different from most kids. When people see him, sometimes they get scared. Auggie isn't that different though. He does ordinary things. He eats ice cream, he rides his bike and he does so many things that are ordinary. Auggie is starting middle school at Beecher Prep for the first time. He has been homeschooled for all his life, until now!!!! When he gets there he notices there are many, many bullies but also friends. Auggie works through all his tough times. Friends are always there for him! I would give this book a thumbs up and I would definitely recommend it! This book has a mixture of feelings in it!

So get to it, read **WONDER!!!**

\*If you are in grade 4-6 and would like to write a book review and get community service credit, [click this link for instructions.](#)