**HART COUNTY SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST FOR 3rd- 5th Grades**

2017-2018 Kentucky Bluegrass Awards Master List for Grades 3-5

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**Dog Man**/Dav Pilkey. Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2016.

Dog Man, who is born when a police dog’s head is surgically attached to his cop companion’s body, becomes a bit of a hero even though he doesn’t always follow the rules in his hilarious, crime-fighting adventures.


This is the powerful true story of how one brave girl named Malala, who defied the Taliban’s rules and was almost killed for her beliefs, spoke out for education for every girl and proved that one person really can make a difference.

**Giants Beware**/Jorge Aguirre; Rafael Rosado, ill. First Second Books, 2012. 2015 *KBA Winner for Grades 3-5!*

Tough and spunky, Claudette, who has big goals of becoming a giant slayer, sets off on a super-secret quest outside of the safe walls of her city with her best friend and her brother in order to kill the rumored local giant.

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**The Key to Extraordinary**/Natalie Lloyd. Scholastic, 2016.

Twelve-year old orphan Emma Casey lives by a haunted graveyard in her Tennessee town, giving tours, and helping her brother and Granny Blue with the family bakery, and waiting for the destiny dream of her ancestors. When her dream comes, it shows her only a key, and she discovers that she must solve a ghostly mystery that has haunted her town for generations.


Fifth-grader Timminy, who is small for his age, moves to a new town and receives a big, lovable, deaf dog, Maxi, as a consolation prize. Together with his new neighbor, Abby, an adopted girl who doesn’t let her blindness stop her from living a full, confident life, Maxi helps Timminy navigate the challenges of being bully bait in a new school.


When Reena, her little brother Luke, and their parents move from New York City to a small town in Maine, Reena and Luke find an unexpected bond and learn some patience along the way when their parents volunteer them to help the grouchy, eccentric neighbor, Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna, and that stubborn cow, Zora.


Peter, who is forced to give up his best friend, a pet fox named Pax, when his dad enlists in the military decides he must go back for him, not knowing that Pax is also on his own adventure in hopes of reuniting with his boy.

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Raymie Clarke, a ten-year-old girl from a small Florida town, forms an unlikely friendship with drama-queen Louisiana Elefante and rebellious Beverly Tapinski when they take baton-twirling lessons for the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition. Through their adventures we watch as these “three rancheros” try to make sense of the difficult circumstances they each face, and along the way discover that rescue comes in different forms in this beautiful story about loss, hope, friendship, and determination.


Eleven-year-old Ruby Danes has a real best friend for the first time ever, but agonizes over whether or not to tell her a secret she has never shared with anyone--that her mother has been in prison since Ruby was five--and over whether to express her anger to her mother.


Bowser is a mutt, just adopted by eleven-year-old Birdie Gaux and her grandmother, but when they all get home to Grammy’s bait and tackle shop in the bayou they discover that their prize stuffed marlin has been stolen. As told through Bowser’s point of view, when he and Birdie decide to investigate, things quickly become complicated and dangerous.

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**Past KBA Winners**

**Tucky Jo and Little Heart**/Patricia Polacco. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015. 2017 *KBA Winner for Grades 3-5*

During World War II, a fifteen-year-old soldier from Kentucky meets a sweet, young girl in the Philippines who helps him remember what he is fighting for as he helps her and others of her village avoid starvation, and many years later she returns his kindness.


In 1944, Hobie Hanson’s father is flying B-24s in Europe, so Hobie decides to donate his beloved German shepherd, Duke, to Dogs for Defense in the hope that it will help end the war sooner--but when he learns that Duke is being trained for combat he is shocked, frightened, and determined to get his dog back.

**Giants Beware** by Jorge Aguirre; Rafael Rosado, ill. First Second Books, 2012. 2015 *KBA Winner for Grades 3-5!*

Tough and spunky, Claudette, who has big goals of becoming a giant slayer, sets off on a super-secret quest outside of the safe walls of her city with her best friend and her brother in order to kill the rumored local giant.


Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, born with an extreme facial deformity, struggles to fit in as he makes the transition from homeschooling to private school.
Smile by Raina Telgemeier. Graphix, 2010. 2013 KBA Winner for Grades 3-5! The author relates, in graphic form, her experiences after she injured her two front teeth and had to have surgeries and wear embarrassing braces and headgear, all while also dealing with the trials and tribulations of middle school.

Big Nate: In a Class By Himself by Lincoln Pierce. 2012 KBA Winner for Grades 3-5! Supremely confident middle school student Nate Wright manages to make getting detention from every one of his teachers in the same day seem like an achievement.

You may also like....

Captain Underpants series/Dave Pilkey. Who is the greatest, most hilarious superhero in the history of elementary school? What elastic-waist adventurer fights for "Truth, Justice and all that is Pre-shrunk and Cottony" and can "leap tall building without a single bound? Captain Underpants, of course!!

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White. Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer’s Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

Dear America Series. A series of historical fiction novels. In each book, an important event or period of American history is the setting of a story written through the eyes of a young girl. Each book is written in diary format and includes historical notes at the end which highlight the chosen time period.

Frindle/Andrew Clements. When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher’s love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly gets out of control.

Geronimo Stilton series. In this series, Geronimo is a talking mouse, is a best-selling author and works as a journalist for the fictional newspaper The Rodent’s Gazette. Geronimo is a nervous, mild-mannered mouse who would like nothing better than to live a quiet life, but he keeps getting involved in far-away adventures.

Goosebumps & Mostly Ghostly series/R. L. Stine. Check out books in these popular series for mystery stories with a scary twist. In the Mostly Ghostly series, meet Max Doyle who has two ghosts living in his bedroom that only he can see!

Ida B & Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, & (Possibly) Save the World/Katherine Hannigan. In Wisconsin, 4th grader Ida B is happy being home-schooled and playing in her family’s orchard, until her mother begins breast cancer treatment and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

Love That Dog/Sharon Creech. A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne - These fantastic books revolve around eight-year-old Jack and his sister Annie, who stumble upon a magic tree house filled with books that transports them back in time to the places described in the books.

Ninjago Chapter Book Series/Greg Farshtey. Masters of Spinjitzu: a new force to save the world! Will Kai be the greatest warrior ever known? Maybe, if he ever listens to Sensei Wu long enough to complete his training! He’s stubborn, he’s reckless, and he might just save the world.

Ramona series/Beverly Cleary. A popular children’s book series revolving around the main character, Ramona Quimby, her family including her sister Beezus, and the various events that take place in her neighborhood.

The Story of Ferdinand/ Munro Leaf. Ferdinand is the world’s most peaceful--and--beloved little bull. While all of the other bulls snort, leap, and butt their heads, Ferdinand is content to just sit and smell the flowers under his favorite cork tree.

The Tale of Despereaux/Kate DiCamillo. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume. Peter finds his demanding two year old brother an ever increasing problem. Also check out other books by the same author.

Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story/Mary D. Hahn. Molly and Michael dislike their spooky stepsister Heather but realize they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Where the Red Fern Grows/Wilson Rawls. A boy and his 2 dogs, Old Dan and Little Ann, go through adventure and tragedy in the Ozark Mountain Valley.