

2007 SUMMER READING LIST – TRAFTON ACADEMY
Incoming Fifth Grade

Students entering the fifth grade are required to read *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George this summer. There will be a writing assignment on the book when school begins, and each student will take the AR test for this book. Read as many books as possible from the list below during the summer. Students will be allowed to take AR tests for each book read.

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Gawgon and the Boy.* In Depression-era Philadelphia, when eleven-year-old David is too ill to attend school, he is tutored by the unique and adventurous Aunt Annie whose teaching combines with his imagination to greatly enrich his life.

Ardaugh, Philip. *A House Called Awful End: Book One in the Eddie Dickens Trilogy. Dreadful Acts: Book Two in the Eddie Dickens Trilogy.* When eleven-year-old Eddie Dickens' ill parents become "a bit crinkly around the edges," he is taken by his great uncle and great aunt, Mad Uncle Jack and Mad Aunt Maud. He embarks on adventures that involve strolling actors, St. Horrid's Home for Grateful Orphans, and a carnival float shaped like a giant cow.

Avi. *Don't You Know There's a War On?* In wartime Brooklyn in 1943 eleven-year-old Howie Crispers mounts a campaign to save his favorite teacher from being fired. Set during World War II during a time when unexpected, even shocking, events took place without warning, days when, no matter what happened, you could explain it all with a simple phrase, "Don't you know there's a war on?"

Brittain, Bill. *The Shape Changer.* Awakened by an eerie light, Frank Dunn is amazed when he meets a talking fire hydrant that turns out to be an alien detective shape-changer pursuing an insane, escaped criminal intent on destroying the earth.

Clements, Andrew. *The Janitor's Boy.* When fifth-grader Jack finds himself the target of ridicule at school for being the son of one of the janitors, he turns his anger toward his father.

Cooney, Doug. *The Beloved Dearly.* Although his father has forbidden it, Ernie, a twelve-year-old business tycoon, makes a tidy profit in the pet funeral business, but, when he refuses to give his star employee a raise and the business starts to fall apart, it takes the death of his own dog to bring everyone back together.

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

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy.* 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. Newbery Medal winner.

Danziger, Paula. *United Tates of America.* Skate Tate hates change, but her whole life is changing at once. It's just not fair! Sixth grade is tough. Her new school is bigger; the classes are harder; and Skate's group of close friends is growing apart. Only her Great-uncle Mort (Gum for short) remains constant.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie.* Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.

George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves.* While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, Julie, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl, becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack. Newbery Medal winner.

Gutman, Dan. *Honus and Me, a Baseball Card Adventure.* Joe Stoshack is beginning to think that life can't get much worse. The thing he likes best in the whole world is baseball. He knows

everything there is to know about the game...except how to hit home runs. His specialty seems to be striking out. But Joe's life is about to change in the most amazing way.

Gutman, Dan. *Jackie and Me, a Baseball Card Adventure*. With his ability to travel through time by using his baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson, turning into a black boy in the process.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Just Ella*. In this continuation of the Cinderella story, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.

Henkes, Kevin. *Words of Stone*. Blaze Werla is having a typical summer. He lives in the country with his father and grandmother. He spends his days alone, wandering around the hill beside his home. Then the message appears on the side of the hill. And Blaze's summer suddenly takes a turn toward the mysterious. By the time Blaze meets Joselle Stark, the unexpected seems almost normal.

Horvath, Polly. *Everything on a Waffle*. Eleven-year-old Primrose, who lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learn about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *Class President*. The fifth-grade class election is shaping up as a close contest between class clown, Lucas Cott, and one-time teacher's pet, Cricket Kaufman. It's just possible that the student with the greatest leadership ability is Julio Sanchez, but Julio's too busy running Lucas's campaign to notice. Or is he? And how can Julio throw his hat into the ring without betraying his best friend?

Karr, Kathleen. *The Great Turkey Walk*. Fifteen-year old Simon has many amusing adventures when he attempts to herd 1000 turkeys from Missouri to Denver, Colorado, in hopes of selling them at a profit. Set in the 1860's.

Konigsberg, E. L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.* Claudia and Jamie have a wonderful time when they run away to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Newbery Medal winner.

Lasky, Kathryn. *The Journal of Augustus Pelletier: The Lewis and Clark Expedition.* Twelve-year-old Augustus Pelletier, youngest member of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery, keeps a journal in this fictional account of the expedition. My Name is America series.

L'Engle Madeline. *Meet the Austins.* The large and happy Austin family teaches an unhappy orphaned Maggie about life and love.

Lisle, Janet Taylor. *Afternoon of the Elves.* As Hillary works in the miniature village, allegedly built by elves, in Sara Kate's backyard, she becomes more and more curious about Sara Kate's real life inside her big, gloomy house with her mysterious, silent mother.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *The Grand Escape.* After years of being strictly house cats, Marco and Polo escape into the wonderful, but dangerous, outside world and are sent on three challenging adventures by a group of cats known as the Club of Mysteries.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Saving Shiloh.* Marty and his family try to help Judd Travers change his mean ways even though his neighbors continue to expect the worst of him.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. *Search for the Shadowman.* Twelve-year-old Andy solves an old family mystery when he is given a school genealogy project.

O'Dell, Scott. *Black Star, Bright Dawn.* After her father is injured, Bright Dawn must face the challenge of the Iditarod dog sled race alone.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia.* During a storm Jess' new friend Leslie meets an unexpected tragedy while trying to reach their secret kingdom of Terabithia. Newbery Medal winner

Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*. Impoverished Vermont farm girl, Lyddie Worthen, is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840's.

Paulson, Gary. *Hatchet*. On his way to visit his recently divorced father in the Canadian mountains, thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is the only survivor when the single engine plane crashes. His body battered, his clothes in shreds, Brian must now stay alive in the boundless Canadian wilderness.

Skolosky, Mindy Warshaw. *Love From Your Friend, Hannah*. Hannah's best friend, Aggie, moves away and doesn't answer a single one of her letters. Determined to find a new pen pal, Hannah picks an address from a box on her teacher's desk. It's a boy, but his first letter is so dopey that Hannah isn't even going to answer it. Instead she writes to President Roosevelt. Before long, Hannah has a whole lot of pen pals and finally discovers the perfect friend in the most unlikely place.

Soto, Gary. *The Skirt*. Miata has left the beautiful folklorico skirt her mother wore in Mexico on the bus. She was going to wear the skirt on Sunday when her dance group performed folklorico. Can Miata and her friend Ana rescue the precious skirt in time? A warmhearted story about a contemporary Mexican-American family.

Steig, William. *The Real Thief*. When Gawain, the goose, is deserted by his friends after being unjustly convicted of stealing from his beloved king, the real thief is tortured by his conscience.

Taylor, Theodore. *The Cay*. Shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island, Philip must overcome his prejudice towards Timothy, the old black sailor who becomes the key to his survival.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*. While scanning the neighborhood with some high powered binoculars, Sammy spots something strange at the Heavenly Hotel. A man in one room is wearing gloves and rummaging

through a purse. When he looks out the window straight at Sammy, what does she do? She waves. This is the first in the exciting mystery series with super sleuth Sammy Keyes.

Yep, Laurence. Chinatown series. *The Case of the Firecrackers*, *The Case of the Goblin Pearls*, *The Case of the Lion Dance*. Tiger Lil Leung and her great-niece, Lily, solve mysteries in Chinatown.

