

## Year 5 suggestions for Platinum Reading List

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-5-pupils-ks2-age-9-10/>

### **Malamander by Thomas Taylor**

When Violet teams up with Herbie to help her find out what happened to her long lost parents, little does she realise how her life will become entangled with the Malamander monster of Eerie-on-Sea. A fascinating story that captures a uniquely quirky and fantastical atmosphere. An ideal whole class reading book for year 5 children. The first of a series.

**Fantasy**



### **Coming to England by Floella Benjamin**

This inspiring autobiography sensitively and revealingly chronicles the Windrush experience of a young girl travelling from Trinidad to a new life in England in 1960. A powerful read, Floella Benjamin's childhood account is one that will resonate with KS2 children and one they will be able to empathise with. This text will be a useful resource for autobiographical writing in year 5 literacy lessons.

**Diverse**



### **Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver**

In a dark world set many millennia ago, 12-year-old Torak must take a dangerous journey to the mountain of Wolf Spirit and save the world from a dangerous demon. An ideal group reading book for greater depth year 5 pupils.

**Fantasy**



### **Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans**

An anarchic laugh out loud story about a boy, Elliot, who spots a shooting star one night which turns out to be a deity with a lot on her mind, and something unexpected and very nasty lurking under Stonehenge. The pair call on the Gods of Greek myths to save the world and Elliot's mum. The outrageously funny language will appeal to reluctant readers. This must-read book is probably a cult series in the making.

**Funny**



### The Violet Veil Mysteries by Sophie Cleverly

When Violet's father is arrested for crimes he did not commit, she is thrust into a world of intrigue and ghostly goings-on in this, the first of a new series. Set in the world of undertakers Veil & Son's, Violet is determined to walk in her father's footsteps and one day run the family firm. With fast-paced plotting, short chapters and a strong female protagonist, this story is ideal for upper KS2 murder mystery fans and would make a good year 5 book for reading group discussion.

**Mystery**



### Beetle Boy by MG Leonard

When Darkus' dad vanishes he finds himself living next to the neighbours from hell. When things seemingly can't get any worse, a super-intelligent talking beetle comes to the rescue. Anarchic, funny, and at times completely mad – with a hint of Roald Dahl. This is a gripping storytime read-aloud that pupils will look forward to each day.

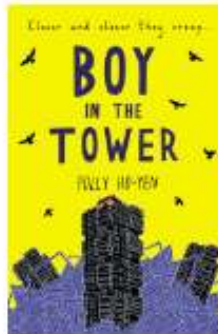
**Adventure**



### Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen

A boy who lives in a tower block sees the whole world below him. But one day the tower begins to crumble and fall. The world around him collapses amongst peculiar and menacing plants. Is all hope lost or can he find a way out? This multi-award-winning book with high-quality text is ideal for teaching in year 5 literacy units, and perfect to use when modelling tension, descriptive writing and settings.

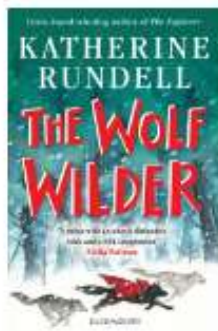
**Dystopia | Diverse**



### The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell

Set in revolution-era Russia, a snowbound mother and daughter live in fear of the encroaching Red Army. But Feodora and her mother have a unique talent – they can turn tame wolves into suspicious and wild beasts fit to fend for themselves. With sparkling prose and rich in figurative language, this is a memorable story for freedom and independence that will keep a class of year five children entranced.

**Historical**



### Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Heidi is an orphan left heartbroken when she has to leave her grandfather and home in the mountains to live in the city. This classic children's literature novel both inspires and delights and will appeal to children who yearn for the great outdoors. The text is also a useful resource for year 5 teachers looking to explore descriptive settings and use landscapes to create atmospheric narrative writing.

**Classic**



### Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Artemis Fowl is the twelve-year-old son of an Irish crime lord. After significant research, Artemis believes that he has confirmed the existence of fairies, and he intends to track them down. A more advanced book for year 5 book clubs.

**Fantasy**



### The Wonder Garden by Jenny Bloom and Kristjana Williams

A beautifully realised illustrated exploration of five incredible habitats – each meticulously detailed in colourful pictures and snappy labels. Journey through the Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon in this visual masterpiece. Great for sparking off imaginative 9 year-old young minds.

**Natural history**



### The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

11-year-old Parvana is forced by circumstances to become the breadwinner for her family in a war-torn Taliban ruled Afghanistan. This complex issue-based story is a masterpiece of empathy and will not only grip children in year five, but allow them to empathise, hot-seat, and compare how different their lives are to Parvana's experiences. Highly recommended for year 5 book clubs and topic-based teaching.

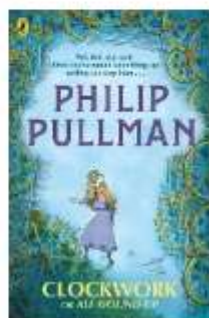
**Diverse**



### Clockwork by Philip Pullman

A tormented apprentice clock-maker, a deadly mechanical knight in armour – and the sinister Dr Kalmenius, who some say is the devil. A great modern fairy tale, this short chapter book contains sparkling writing, rich figurative language and evocative descriptions. It's a gift for creative writing teachers looking to develop pupils' storytelling skills in year 5.

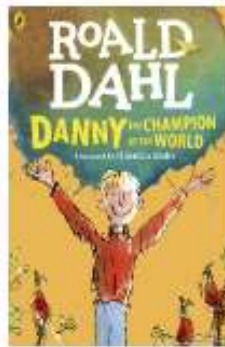
**Fantasy**



### Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl

Danny and his father William live in a Gypsy caravan mending cars for a living, although Danny's father also has a dangerous sideline in poaching pheasants. A gripping and at times visceral story that is peppered with humour and warmth, this is one of the more challenging and thought-provoking children's novels by Roald Dahl.

**Family**



### The What on Earth? Wallbook Timeline of Big History by Christopher Lloyd

An incredible history book that spans the dawn of time to the present day, in a five-metre-long fold-out book timeline which can be laid out on a table, floor or wall. Unique and very engaging, children can walk around the book and dip into different time periods. Thought-provoking and inspiring, this book and walkchart combination is great for reluctant readers and it's perfect for year 5 pupils who are interested in facts, history and non-fiction texts.

**History**



### Dial a Ghost by Eva Ibbotson

When new owners force the Wilkinsons to leave the home they're haunting, they travel to London and apply to Dial-a-Ghost for a new home. The agency finds the perfect home for the Wilkinsons – a ruin – and tells them they can move in on Friday the 13th... A fun and easy to read short chapter novel. Dial a Ghost is perfect for guided reading groups in year 5 – especially around Halloween time.

**Funny**



### Indiana Bones by Harry Heape

With the perfect blend of humour and history, Indiana Bones, a dog detective with Aisha as his owner and sidekick, set out to fathom centuries-old crimes from Castile to Casablanca. This gripping and pacy mystery is cleverly set in highly legible and doubled spaced type to appeal to reluctant readers in UKS2. It's also a useful text to help less able readers develop language and vocabulary, both in terms of reading, and when modelling creative writing.

**Mystery**



### Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke

A silver dragon named Firedrake, the Brownie Somal, and Bert, a boy, search for the mythical mountain range called the Rim of Heaven to escape persecution from humans. Friendship, loyalty, good and evil are some of the key themes in this epic quest. The first in a series of bestselling spellbinding fantasy novels, Dragon Rider will transfix many of the 9-year-olds that read it.

**Fantasy**



### Emil and the Detectives by Erich Kästner

On the train to Berlin, Emil meets a mysterious man who introduces himself as Max Grundeis. This man gives Emil mysterious chocolate and Emil falls asleep. When he wakes up, the money and Herr Grundeis are gone. A classic of twentieth-century children's literature, and a gripping mystery, this is a surefire addition to your year five classroom library.

**Classic**



### Peter in Peril by Helen Bate

Peter's life is turned upside down when his family have to go into hiding to escape persecution in WW2 Hungary. This easy to read graphic novel is accessible, highly visual and ideal for reluctant readers in year five. It's also ideal to read in conjunction with When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr.

**Historical**



### Cloud Soup by Kate Wakeling

This new collection from the creators of the award-winning Moon Juice contains 35 inventive, quirky and humorous poems for 9-11-year-olds. Full of imagery and great to read aloud, this is a good pick for year 5&6 classrooms. This highly imaginative poetry collection is also ideal for sparking ideas for children's writing in upper KS2.

**Poetry**



### The Ghost of Thomas Kempe by Penelope Lively

James Harrison and his family move into a cottage in Ledsham and from day one they are bothered by a ghost called Thomas Kempe. An atmospheric and slightly scary book for group-reading with more confident readers in Year 5. It's perfect if you want to set up an after-school ghost story writing activity for nine-year-olds.

**Horror**



### Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling

The publishing phenomenon and bestselling middle-grade series starring Harry, Ron and Hermione is perfect for independent reading, whole-class novel studies, and group reading. Also, Harry Potter might well be the series of books that gets your child hooked on reading for pleasure and energised to start reading more often.

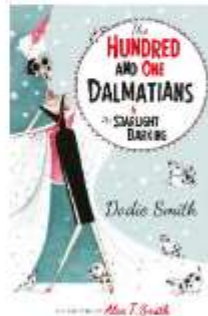
**Fantasy**



### The Hundred and One Dalmatians by Dodie Smith

Cruella de Vil has 97 Dalmatian puppies. She needs 101 to make a new fur coat. Can anyone stop her before it's too late? This classic children's novel has been turned into a number of films and audiobook adaptations, making it a highly accessible option for year five guided reading groups.

**Classic**



### The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

A new paperback edition of this classic children's novel, with spectacular graphic illustrations by Chris Mould. A giant metal man rains destruction on the countryside by attacking farm equipment, before befriending a boy and defending the world from an alien monster. A wonderful introduction to figurative writing, no year 5 classroom should be without a set of this book.

**Science fiction**



### Wild is the Wind by Grahame Baker-Smith

A truly mesmerising picture book that takes the reader on a journey over the ocean in a hot air balloon with Cassi and the swift that she has nursed back to health. The reader experiences spectacular and diverse illustrated landscapes along the route, in this migration story with a distinctly human element. Ideal to incorporate into topics about seasons and weather, the poetic commentary also lends itself to use as an impetus for teaching similes and metaphors in year 5 English lessons.

**Picture book**



### Scribbleboy by Philip Ridley

Bailey arrives in a new neighbourhood with his unusual family. He has no friends but receives a strange invitation to join the Scribbleboy Fan Club. With exciting vocabulary, wacky, larger than life characters, vivid descriptions, lively illustrations and laugh out loud moments, this is a great book to encourage reluctant readers in year 5.

**Family**



### Stig of the Dump by Clive King

Stig is a caveman. He lives at the bottom of a pit close to Barney's grandparents' house. People throw all their old junk in the pit and Barney decides it would be the perfect place to build a den. An ideal group reader book for year 5, this classic is a staple for KS2 English teaching as well as being a never to be forgotten independent read.

**Classic**



### Hacker by Malorie Blackman

Vicky's father is accused of stealing over a million pounds from the bank where he works. How can she prove his innocence? A more mature independent reading book for year 5 pupils, this novel will appeal to children who have a strong sense of right and wrong, or who are interested in computers and coding.

**Mystery | Diverse**

