Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 5: Action & Adventure

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s library**
by Chris Grabenstein
Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

**Revenge of the living dummy**
by R. L. Stine
Britney battles against her cousin’s new ventriloquist dummy and discovers a frightening secret in a new amusement park called HorrorLand.

**The mysterious Benedict Society**
by Trenton Lee Stewart
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Warriors**
by Erin W Hunter
When Rusty, an ordinary housecat, becomes ThunderClan’s new apprentice, he realizes that his past life has not prepared him for the hardships he now faces and so must work extra hard to prove he can be a true warrior.

**Refugee**
by Alan Gratz
Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

**Endling**
by Katherine Applegate
Byx, the youngest member and only survivor of her pack of mythical doglike creatures, dairens, sets out to find safe haven and, perhaps, more of her kind, aided by allies, both animal and human.

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Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 5: Friends & Family

**Ghost**
by Jason Reynolds
Ghost is a naturally talented runner with a troubled background, but when he is recruited for an elite middle school track team, he must prove to his coach that he can overcome his problems and become the best sprinter in the city.

**Front desk**
by Kelly Yang
After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school.

**Wishtree**
by Katherine Applegate
An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

**Rain reign**
by Ann M. Martin
Struggling with the challenges of OCD and Asperger's syndrome, Rose, a homonym enthusiast, shares an inseparable bond with a beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places in order to search for her pet. By the Newbery Honor-winning author of A Corner of the Universe.

**Other words for home**
by Jasmine Warga
Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

**The epic fail of Arturo Zamora**
by Pablo Cartaya
Arturo's Miami summer is marked by the arrival of poetry enthusiast Carmen, who helps him use the power of protest to fight the plans of a land developer who wants to demolish his Abuela's restaurant.
Reluctant Reader Quick Picks
Grade 5: Silly Stories

The terrible two
by Mac Barnett
When master prankster Miles Murphy moves to sleepy Yawnee Valley, he challenges the local mystery prankster in an epic battle of tricks but soon the two join forces to pull off the biggest prank ever seen.

Spy school
by Stuart Gibbs
Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA’s highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

House of robots
by James Patterson
“Fifth-grader Sammy Hayes-Rodriguez struggles to fit in when his inventor mother requires him to take her latest creation, a robotic “brother,” to school with him to learn to become a student.”

Pie in the Sky
by Remy Lai
Feeling as out of place as if he landed on Mars when his family moves to an English-speaking country, 11-year-old Jingwen dreams about the cakes he would have baked with his late father, a hope that is challenged by his mother’s strict kitchen safety rules. Grade 4-6

The Misadventures of Max Crumbly
by Rachel Renée Russell
Questioning his resolve to attend public school after years of being homeschooled when he is targeted by a mean-spirited bully, Max aspires to become like his favorite comic book heroes and finds an unexpected opportunity to do his best to be the hero his middle school needs. By the creator of the Dork Diaries series.

The unteachables
by Gordon Korman
Isolated from the rest of their school, a notorious class of misfits, delinquents and academic underachievers embark on a year of unexpected changes with a burned-out teacher who has been shattered by a cheating scandal. By the author of Restart.

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Koala Hospital
by Suzi Eszterhas
A debut entry in a new series is set in an Australian koala rescue center and describes the efforts of advocates to protect and rehabilitate injured koalas, in a reference that also provides a glossary of terms and an author Q&A of common questions.

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club
by Phillip M. Hoose
Presents the story of a group of Danish boys who formed a resistance organization against the Nazi occupation of their country.

Lives of the artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought)
by Kathleen Krull
Profiles the lives and discusses the humor and tragedy of artists of the sixteenth century to the twentieth century, including Georgia O’Keeffe, Salvador Dali, and Pablo Picasso.

Bats: Learning to Fly
by Falynn Koch
A latest entry in the accessible science graphic-novel series introduces kids to the bat through the adventures of an injured critter who meets a variety of bat species while rehabilitating and relearning how to fly.

Two Truths and a Lie: It’s Alive!
by Ammi-Joan Paquette
Blends strange but true facts about the natural world with a handful of fictional accounts, challenging readers to discover which two out of every three stories are true.

Who Was Sacagawea?
by Dennis B. Fradin
A brief biography of Sacagawea, the Shoshoni woman who accompanied explorers Lewis and Clark on their expedition in the early 1800s.