Great Books for 5th Graders
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Agyemang, Elizabeth. *Fibbed*, 2022. JGN
After telling too many far-fetched tales, Nana Busumuru is sent to spend the summer with relatives in Ghana, where she must join forces with the trickster spider Ananse to prevent an evil corporation from stealing the magic in the village forest.

Cisneros, Ernesto. *Falling Short*, 2022. JFIC
Friends Isaac and Marco—one athletically gifted and one academically gifted—have more in common than they realize when their goals intersect, forcing them to support each other so they don’t fall short.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *Invisible*, 2022. JGN
This book tells a story about five very different students who are forced together by their school to complete community service... and may just have more in common than they thought.

Keller, Tae. *Jennifer Chan is Not Alone*, 2022. JFIC.
Mallory Moss knows the rules of middle school. The most important one? You have to fit in to survive. But then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street, and that rule doesn't seem to apply.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *We Dream of Space*, 2020. JFIC
Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle "Challenger," they each struggle with their own personal anxieties.

Evie's family runs a Jewish funeral home and she enjoys helping out. She doesn't normally interact with the grieving family, but one day she befriends Oren, a boy overwhelmed by grief after an awful accident. Oren hasn't spoken a word since, but Evie is set on helping him deal with his loss and discover his voice again.
Lukoff, Kyle. *Too Bright to See*, 2021. JFIC
In the summer before middle school, eleven-year-old Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghost haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity.

From seventeen acclaimed Black male and nonbinary authors comes a vibrant collection of stories, comics, and poems about the power of joy and the wonders of Black boyhood.

Ortega, Claribel. *Frizzy*, 2022. JGN
Tired of going to the salon to have her curls straightened every weekend, Marlene slowly learns to embrace her natural curly hair with the help of her best friend and favorite aunt.

Reynolds, Justin. *It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit*, 2022. JFIC
When the electricity goes out, twelve-year-old Eddie and his friends set out to investigate what is going on when they make the startling discovery that they are the only ones left in their neighborhood—and perhaps the only people left anywhere.

Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. *Operation Sisterhood*, 2022. JFIC
Bo is used to it being just her and her mom in their cozy New York apartment. When her mom gets married, Bo must adjust to her new sisters and a music-minded blended family that is larger and more complex than she ever imagined.

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Last Mapmaker*, 2022. JFIC
As assistant to Mangkon's most celebrated mapmaker, Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady. In reality, her father is a commoner. When she joins a charting expedition, she isn't the only one aboard the ship with secrets.

Yee, Lisa. *Maizy Chen’s Last Chance*, 2022. JFIC
When Maizy visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself.