

timberdoodle

# Fifth Grade Handbook



Curriculum Handbook | 2025-2026

**CLASSIC EDITION**

# Contents

## Get Started

5	Meet Your Handbook
6	Tips & Tricks
7	Why Use a Weekly Checklist?
8	Meet Your Online Schedule Customizer
10	Your Annual Planner
12	What Is a Lesson?
14	Sample Weekly Checklists
18	Introducing the Reading Challenge
20	A Fun Beginning-of-the-Year Interview

## Item-by-Item Introductions

22	Language Arts
28	Mathematics
30	Thinking Skills
35	History & Social Studies
38	Geography
42	Science
45	STEM Learning
48	Emotional Intelligence
50	Art
55	Learning Tools

## Further Resources

59	Mosdos Coral Weekly Assignments
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## The Reading Challenge

65	Reading Challenge Questions & Answers
68	Tracking Your Reading Challenge
70	36 Weeks of Reading Challenges
142	Book Awards & Party

## When You're Done

145	Have an Amazing School Year!
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**Get Started**

# Meet Your Handbook

Simple Is Better

## 1. Planning Your Year

Begin with essential tools like the annual planner and sample weekly checklists, which are the foundation of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits.

## 2. Kit Introductions

Explore brief overviews of each kit item, including its purpose, learning goals, and teaching tips to simplify your school year.

## 3. Further Resources

You'll find your weekly assignments for Mosdos in this section.

## 4. Reading Challenge

Track your child's reading with a log that encourages variety, featuring hundreds of book suggestions for inspiration.

## Curriculum Levels Explained

Timberdoodle kits come in Basic, Complete, and Elite options, allowing you to choose based on your child's needs, schedule, and budget. This guide offers overviews and teaching tips for every item in the Elite kit. If you have a Basic, Complete, or customized kit, just focus on the items in your selection.



Photo: The Liwanag Family in Chester, New York

# Tips & Tricks

Your First Week, State Laws, and More

## Find Your Flow

The first week might feel bumpy, but that's normal! Most families using the Timberdoodle Fifth-Grade Kit settle into a rhythm within a few weeks, spending 2–4 hours daily, depending on the schedule.

## Plan Your Day

Some kids prefer to finish bookwork first and save the fun activities for later, while others thrive by mixing in STEM, art, and thinking games. Find what works best—there's no right or wrong approach!

## Set a Schedule

Focus on practicing core subjects like math, phonics, and spelling daily. Tackle history and science in a single session each to simplify your life. For courses you don't need as often, plan for them weekly or monthly, or save them for summer fun!

## Check State Requirements

Visit [hslda.org/laws](https://hslda.org/laws) for your state's homeschool rules. Weekly checklists and work samples usually meet most requirements, but some states may require subjects like P.E. or state history.

## Include P.E. and Health

Make P.E. fun with activities your child enjoys—like swimming, soccer, or dance. Many science programs also cover health topics.

## Use Your Checklist

The weekly checklist helps keep things organized. Check off tasks as you complete them, and cross out anything you don't need to do that week.

## Balance Hard and Easy Days

If your child struggles, start with something fun, like art or reading. Teach him how to work through challenges but also allow breaks when needed.

## Sample Schedules

Use the sample annual and weekly planners (starting on page 10) as a starting point, then adjust them to fit your family's needs. You've got this!

Should  
I Join a  
Homeschool  
Group?





# Why Use a Weekly Checklist?

## Flexibility and Structure Unite

Starting homeschooling can feel overwhelming. How do you know you're doing enough? Your Timberdoodle kit gives structure, but here's how to simplify it.

Without a plan, it's easy to start randomly, quit when things get hard, and feel lost. But overscheduling your day with rigid time slots can be just as stressful—life happens, and interruptions can derail everything.

The solution is a flexible structure. Instead of strict schedules, use Timberdoodle's checklist system and time blocks. Plan key activities like lessons, independent work, reading, outdoor time, and chores. Let your routine adapt to your family's natural flow.

Track tasks with checklists. Your child can check progress as he goes, whether on paper or online. Finding your groove will take a few weeks, so be patient.

Every week will be different. Focus on core subjects—language arts, math, and thinking skills—while adjusting others as needed. Real-life experiences like outdoor play or helping siblings also count as learning. The goal is not perfection but finding a rhythm that works for your family. Celebrate the wins, adjust as needed, and enjoy the journey!

Why  
Timberdoodle  
Encourages  
Independent  
Learning



Photo: The Johanson Family

# Meet Your Online Schedule Customizer

Getting the Most Out of Your Planner

## Use the Schedule Customizer

Launch your homeschooling plan using the online Schedule Customizer included with your kit. It allows you to adjust school days, customize your schedule, print personalized checklists, and even log your progress!

## First Time? Activate Your Account

- Log in to [schedule.timberdoodle.com](https://schedule.timberdoodle.com) to easily access your kit if you ordered it from our website.
- If you ordered elsewhere or need to activate a different email, use the activation code inside the front cover of this handbook, plus your order number, to activate your account.

## Things to Decide before You Start

- How many weeks will you do school? Thirty-six school weeks plus 4 weeks of breaks is standard. You can shorten this or extend it year-round to accommodate sports, activities, or preferences.
- When will you start? Any day works—you don't need to match the local school calendar.
- What breaks do you want? Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring break, or custom breaks for travel or family visits.

## Calendar Tips

- Single-day breaks: Most families don't log these and instead fit the work into the rest of the week.
- School days: Set your schedule to match your needs, like using a 4-day week or doing school on Saturday.

## Customize Your Schedule

- Add: You can include Timberdoodle items, books you already have, or custom courses.
- Habits: You can add any habits you want to incorporate into your schedule, such as reading, music practice, or taking a walk.
- Edit schedules: You can fine-tune your schedule to reflect your preferences and plans. See a few options on the following page.

## Celebrated Feature

One of the most appreciated features of our Schedule Customizer is the ability to easily see what you skipped in previous weeks. This celebrated tool has made catching up simpler and more efficient for countless users, helping you stay on track with ease!

Want to make your checklist even more customized to your plans and schedule? Read on!

## Exclude Items

You can skip specific items during certain weeks. For example:

- Save an art kit for a May trip.
- Pause science to prepare for a local fair.

## Front-Load vs. Back-Load

Decide how to handle extra lessons (e.g., 40 lessons in 36 weeks):

- Front-Load: Finish extra lessons early, which is ideal for easier items like games.
- Back-Load: Save them for later if they build on other skills.
- Default: Lessons are spread evenly throughout the schedule.

## Weekly vs. Daily Schedules

**Weekly Schedule:** Offers flexibility for unexpected events like dentist appointments or robotics camp. This option teaches time management.

**Daily Schedule:** Great for beginners. Divides work evenly, with extra tasks at the start of the week to avoid end-of-week burnout.

For daily schedules, you can fine-tune by selecting which days a course appears. For example:

- Schedule history on co-op day (Wednesday).
- Alternate science and STEM to avoid overlap.

## Finalize Your Schedule

- Review your schedule summary.
- Click "Save & Continue" to complete.
- Access Your Dashboard: Click "Checklist" to log progress or print.

## Printed Checklists

- Print weekly or daily checklists.
- Choose whether to include unit range reminders (e.g., "pages 50-56").
- Use the large-font version for easier reading.
- Try it for a few weeks before printing an entire year to ensure it works for you.

## Track Progress Online

Alternatively, log completed work in the "Progress" section of the Schedule Customizer. Watch progress bars fill up for a visual representation of your achievements throughout the year.

With these tools, you can easily tailor and manage your homeschool schedule!

Access Your  
Custom  
Schedule  
Builder





# Your Annual Planner

Curriculum	Lesson or Pages	= Per Week
Language Arts		
Mosdos Literature Coral	36 weeks of work	1 week's work
Spelling You See, Level F	36 weeks	10 minutes a day
101 Doodle Definitions	101 definitions	3 definitions
Jump In	180 assignments	5 assignments
CursiveLogic US Speeches and Writings	pages	2-3 pages
Math		
Thinking Skills		
History & Social Studies		
Geography		

# Sample Weekly Checklist

Elite

Curriculum	This Week	Check It Off!
<b>Language Arts</b>		
Mosdos Literature Coral	1 week's work	<div></div>
Spelling You See, Level F	10 minutes a day	<div></div>
101 Doodle Definitions	3 definitions	<div></div>
Jump In	5 assignments	<div></div>
CursiveLogic US Speeches and Writings	2-3 pages	<div></div>
<b>Math</b>		
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<b>Thinking Skills</b>		
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<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<b>History &amp; Social Studies</b>		
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<b>Geography</b>		
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# Introducing the Reading Challenge

Fifth Grade: 50 States

With 36 weekly themes, the Reading Challenge encourages your child to explore a wide variety of books while covering key topics.

## Why Read Together?

Reading to children isn't just enjoyable; it's incredibly valuable. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) highlights 3 key benefits:

1. **Strengthen language skills:** Reading introduces your child to new words, ideas, and emotions. As books become more complex, he'll learn grammar, pronunciation, rhyming, and more.
2. **Build literacy development and interest in reading:** When you read together, your child sees that books are fun and valuable, building a lifelong appreciation for reading.
3. **Create nurturing parent-child relationships:** Reading creates meaningful moments in a busy life. By stepping into stories together, you'll share experiences and build a connection through discussion, wonder, or even shared grief.

## Emotional Intelligence

Reading expands your child's understanding of emotions and fosters empathy. It's a simple way to teach emotional fluency and compassion for others' perspectives.

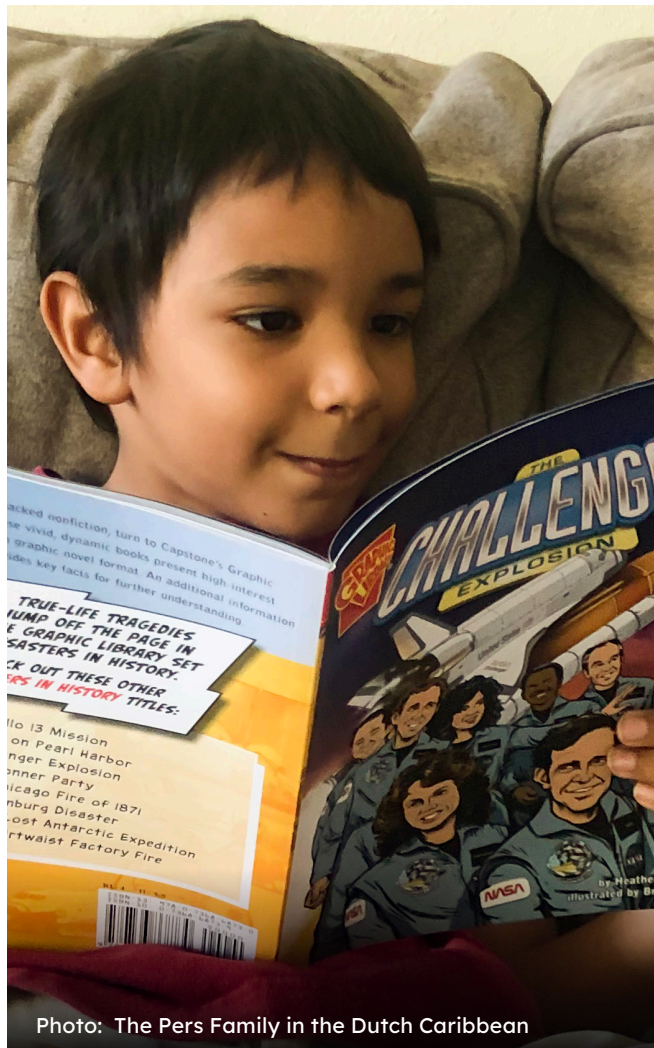


Photo: The Pers Family in the Dutch Caribbean

## How the Reading Challenge Works

Each challenge (starting on page 70) includes:

- Book Suggestions
- Space to Track What You Read Together
- On page 68, you'll find a progress chart to track your overall challenge.

## Set Your Pace

Choose a goal based on your schedule and family dynamics.

- Light Reader: 1 book every 2 weeks (18 books)
- Interested Reader: 1 book per week (36 books)
- Avid Reader: 3 books every 2 weeks (54 books)
- Committed Reader: 2 books per week (72 books)
- Enthralled Reader: 5 books every 2 weeks (90 books)

Pick a pace that feels realistic and enjoyable!

## No Idea What to Read?

We've got you covered! Starting on page 70, you'll find thousands of book suggestions for the year, or browse more online.

Access Online  
Reading  
Challenge  
Booklist



## Need More Ideas?

Ask your local librarian, listen to the Read-Aloud Revival podcast, or explore Timberdoodle's Facebook groups. Don't forget to look at the extra reading suggestions in your history or science textbooks—especially if a recent topic piqued your child's interest.

## Reading Levels and Variety

This year's list includes a range of titles perfect for most fifth-graders. Choose books that fit your child's interests, but also try adding a few outside his usual preferences. Exposing your child to diverse literature helps him discover new favorites!

## Keeping It Affordable

Reading doesn't have to break the bank. Use library books or free e-books, borrow from friends, or buy used ones. Many libraries also offer free e-books; services like Kindle Unlimited or Everand may have the needed titles.

## Flexible Challenges

You don't need to follow the challenges in order! Match seasonal topics with holidays, or let your child dive into his current passion (e.g., reptiles). Feel free to skip or substitute topics to make the experience more relevant or enjoyable for your child.

## Let's Get Started!

Pick a plan, select some books with your child, and begin your reading adventure.

# **Item-by-Item Introductions**



# Language Arts

Practice Makes Perfect

This year, your fifth-grader will enhance his writing skills with *Jump In*, a clear and engaging program that teaches brainstorming, organization, and persuasive writing.

However, the centerpiece of his language arts studies is *Mosdos Coral*, offering excellent literature and vibrant, in-depth lessons.

Additionally, he'll build vocabulary with *101 Doodle Definitions* and strengthen spelling skills with *Spelling You See, Level F*.



# Mosdos Press Literature Coral

Basic | Complete | Elite

*Mosdos Press Literature Coral* is a comprehensive literature program that reinforces values like courage, honesty, loyalty, and compassion. It offers age-appropriate content without glamorizing negative themes.

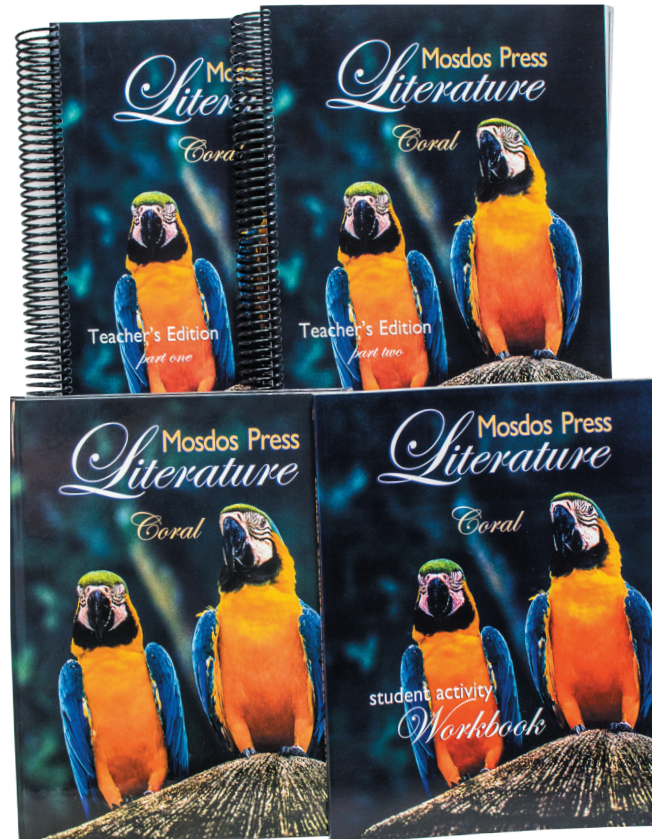
The student reader features beautifully illustrated stories with introductions explaining literary elements like character, theme, and conflict. The program highlights vocabulary words and follows stories with comprehension and analytical questions, as well as optional hands-on activities.

The student activity workbook provides creative writing, vocabulary, and comprehension exercises to reinforce literary concepts and assess progress.

The teacher's edition includes answers, commentary, and discussion prompts, with replicated pages from the student reader for easy reference.

## Scheduling

- Complete 1 subsection per week, starting with the “Lesson in Literature” and reading until the next one.
- Use workbook pages as reinforcement, but skip creative writing assignments if your student has enough writing tasks.
- Consider answering “Studying the Selection” questions orally and choosing 1 activity from the “Focus” or “Creating and Writing” sections.
- For the poetry unit, prioritize writing assignments in the “Think about It” section since there are no workbook pages.



- Unit Wrap-Ups and hands-on activities are optional. Combine subsections 3 and 4 of Unit 3 during week 15 to stay on track.
- You can find a sample 36-week schedule starting on page 59.

# Spelling You See, Level F

Basic | Complete | Elite

*Spelling You See, Level F: Ancient Achievements* is a multisensory program designed to help your child become a confident speller at his own pace. Focusing on visual memory instead of rote memorization eliminates weekly spelling lists and tests, requiring minimal prep from instructors.

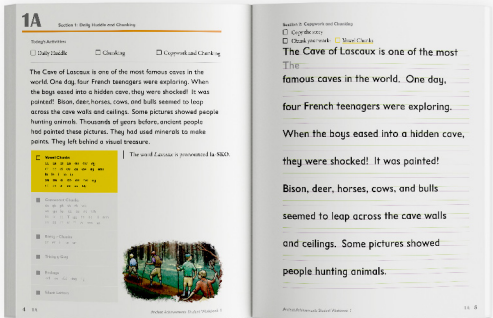
Each lesson uses the actual words in engaging nonfiction stories about cave paintings, Viking ships, and Marco Polo. The lessons are short, colorful, and fun, making them easy to implement and enjoy.

## Scheduling

The program is thoroughly planned with 36 weeks of lessons and 5 daily activities each week—just open and go!

## Pro Tip

To maximize retention, complete 1 short lesson per day. If the lesson feels overwhelming, set a timer for 10-15 minutes and stop when it rings. Simply start the next lesson the following day.



# 101 Doodle Definitions

Basic | Complete | Elite

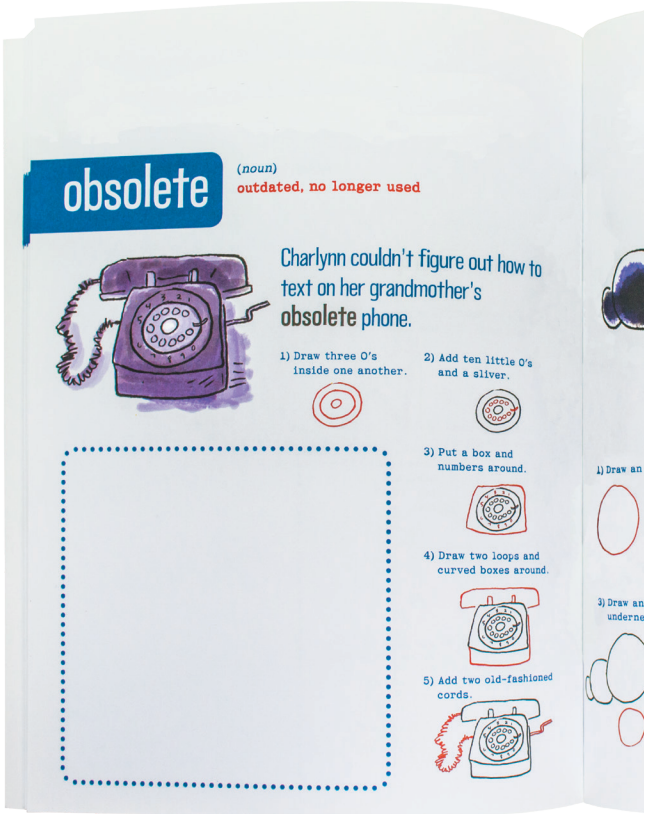
When your child needs to learn new words, tedious memorization isn't the only option. *101 Doodle Definitions* uses drawing to help the brain remember word meanings more effectively.

This innovative method covers 101 commonly tested words, providing clear definitions and prompts for drawing a picture to reinforce each word. Once completed, your child will have the tools to create doodles for any new word.

*101 Doodle Definitions* is fun, challenging, and cleverly designed to make vocabulary learning a highlight of the year.

Scheduling

Learn 3 definitions per week to stay on track.



# Jump In

Basic | Complete | Elite

*Jump In* offers an engaging workbook with illustrations, plenty of space, large fonts, and short daily assignments. Beneath the fun design, it teaches persuasive writing, essays, descriptions, narration, and poetry.

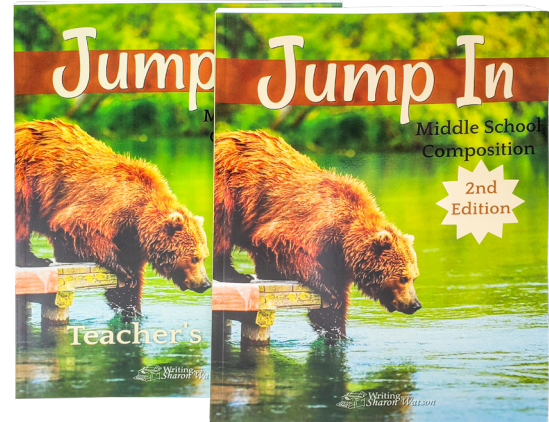
The parent/teacher guide provides instructions for evaluating assignments, proofreading, and more. Daily writing prompts can stretch the course from 1 year to 2 years, though skipping them is fine unless your child loves them. *Jump In* makes creative writing enjoyable and stress-free.

A note: The curriculum, written from a Christian perspective, covers persuasive writing deeply and encourages choosing controversial topics, like abortion and same-sex marriage. If your family hasn't discussed these topics, be aware that the program briefly mentions them.

## Scheduling

The program has 198 lessons, which is ideal for dedicated writers but overwhelming for some. The suggested 1-year schedule includes 77 lessons and optional writing prompts, which may feel light for some students.

For most, we recommend completing all units except "A Newspaper Article," "A Book Report," and "A Book Response," totaling 177 lessons—perfect for a 180-day school year with 1 lesson per day. Lessons (called "skills") can be completed in 1 day or over multiple days as suggested.





# CursiveLogic U.S. Speeches and Writings

Basic | Complete | **Elite**

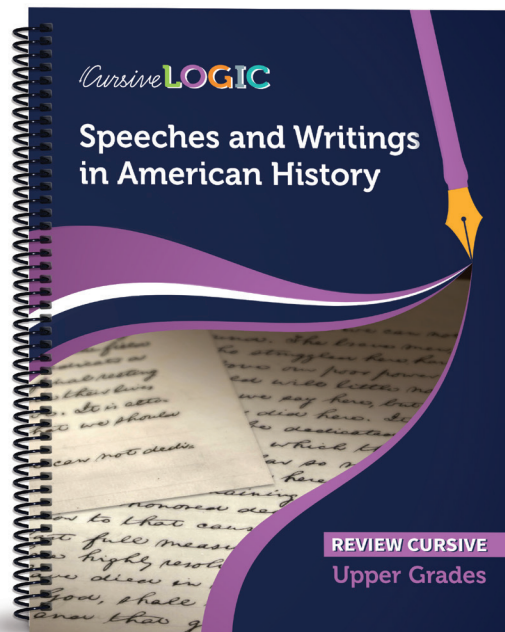
*CursiveLogic Speeches and Writings in American History* is a workbook that combines historical learning with cursive practice. Students explore the lives of 18 notable Americans, copying carefully chosen passages to deepen their understanding of history while improving their handwriting. The workbook includes reference charts for letters and numbers, a glossary of key terms, and a cursive review of letter strings, capitals, techniques, and connections.

Students study figures like Patrick Henry, Geronimo, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Cesar Chavez and U.S. presidents such as Lincoln, Jefferson, and Kennedy. Each section features a brief biography, portrait, and narrative for copying.

Students build cursive proficiency through tracing and guided writing over 3 days per section. Students new to the CursiveLogic method should expect a brief adjustment period.

## Scheduling

The workbook has 2 parts: 12 review lessons and 18 weeks of assignments designed for 3 days per week. To simplify, aim to complete 2 assignments most weeks to finish within a school year.



# **The Reading Challenge**

# Reading Challenge Questions & Answers

## Practical Details to Set Up a Productive Routine

Are you excited about the reading challenge but need a jumpstart? You're in the right place!

These book suggestions are just a starting point—feel free to customize and find what works best for your family. There are hundreds of great options, so use this as inspiration, not a rulebook!

### Will the Same Books Repeat?

Some books may appear more than once, but not often. Each grade has its own book list, and about 25% of titles appear in multiple grades when they align with different challenges. Many books could fit multiple categories within a grade, but we list each book only once to keep things simple. If you want to read more from a challenge, check the list—you'll likely find another category where it fits!

### A Mix of Reading Levels

Some books are for reading aloud, while your child could read most independently. Reading aloud builds literacy, language, and a love for stories, sparking the desire to read.

Access Online  
Reading  
Challenge  
Booklist



Photo: The Dale Family in Idaho

# Florida

## Challenge 20

The Book You Chose	Date Completed
<b>20.1</b> <i>Light Reader</i>	
<b>20.2</b> <i>Interested Reader</i>	
<b>20.3</b> <i>Avid Reader</i>	
<b>20.4</b> <i>Committed Reader</i>	
<b>20.5</b> <i>Enthralled Reader</i>	

*90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis  
*Beach Ride* by Bonnie Bryant (Saddle Club)  
*Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo  
*Beverly, Right Here* by Kate DiCamillo  
*Blown Away!* by Joan Hiatt Harlow  
*Boys of Blur* by N. D. Wilson  
*Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen  
*Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida* by Kelly Rodgers (Social Studies Readers)  
*A Daring Rescue* by Catherine Hapka (Dolphin Island)  
*Deadly Waters: A Mystery in Everglades National Park* by Gloria Zkurzynski and Alane Ferguson  
*Defeat of the Ghost Riders: Mary McLeod Bethune* by Dave and Neta Jackson (Trailblazer Books)  
*Dolphin Adventure* by Wayne Grover  
*Dolphin Treasure* by Wayne Grover  
*The Everglades Poacher Who Pretended* by Steve Brezenoff (Field Trip Mysteries)

*Farah Rocks Florida* by Susan Muaddi Darraj  
*Fiasco in Florida* by Daniel Kenney (The History Mystery Kids)  
*Finding Florida: Exploration and Its Legacy* by Wendy Conklin (Social Studies Readers)  
*Florida* by Kate Boehm Jerome (What’s So Great about This State?)  
*Florida* by Tamra B. Orr (True Book: My United States)  
*Florida* by Jim Ollhoff (United States)  
*Florida* by Karen Sirvaitis (Hello U.S.A.)  
*Florida* by Teresa Wimmer (This Land Called America)  
*Florida: 1513–1821* by Matthew C. Cannavale (Voices from Colonial America)  
Florida Historical Fiction for Youth series by various authors  
*Florida Panther* by Barbara A. Somervill (Road to Recovery)  
*Florida: The Sunshine State* by Tika Downey (Our Amazing States)

*Florida: The Sunshine State* by Derek Miller (It's My State)  
*Florida: The Sunshine State* by Emily Rose Oachs (Exploring the States)  
*Florida: The Sunshine State* by Ann Sullivan (A Guide to American States)  
*Florida's American Indians Through History* by Jennifer Prior (Social Studies Readers)  
*Freddy Goes to Florida* by Walter R. Brooks  
*Full of Beans* by Jennifer L. Holm  
*The Goose's Gold* by Ron Roy (A to Z Mysteries)  
*The Great Shark Mystery* by Gertrude Chandler Warner (The Boxcar Children)  
*Growth of Florida: Pioneers and Technological Advances* by Heather E. Schwartz (Social Studies Readers)  
*The Happy Hollisters and the Mystery at Missile Town* by Jerry West  
*The Happy Hollisters and the Sea Turtle Mystery* by Jerry West  
*The Happy Hollisters at Circus Island* by Jerry West  
*How to Speak Dolphin* by Ginny Rorby  
*Junonia* by Kevin Henkes  
*Lost in Gator Swamp* by Franklin W. Dixon (Hardy Boys)  
*Lost in the Everglades* by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew)  
*Lost in the Storm* by Catherine Hapka (Dolphin Island)  
*Lue Gim Gong: The Citrus Wizard* by Christina Hill (Social Studies Readers)  
*Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings: Writing in Rural Florida* by Heather E. Schwartz (Social Studies Readers)  
*Maryellen: Taking Off* by Valerie Tripp (American Girl)  
*Maryellen: The One and Only* by Valerie Tripp (American Girl)  
*Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina  
*Miami!* by Giada De Laurentiis (Recipe for Adventure)

*The Missing Marlin* by David A. Kelly (Ballpark Mysteries)  
*Mystery of Crocodile Island* by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew)  
*The Mystery of Hidden Beach* by Gertrude Chandler Warner (The Boxcar Children)  
*The Mystery of the Moss-Covered Mansion* by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew)  
*No Children, No Pets* by Marion Holland  
*The Old Motel Mystery* by Gertrude Chandler Warner (The Boxcar Children)  
*The Orchid Thief* by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew Girl Detective)  
*The Panther Mystery* by Gertrude Chandler Warner (The Boxcar Children)  
*Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo  
*S Is for Sunshine: A Florida Alphabet* by Carol Crane (Sleeping Bear Alphabets)  
*The Seminoles of Florida: Culture, Customs, and Conflict* by Wendy Conklin (Social Studies Readers)  
*Space Shuttle Scam* by Ron Roy (A to Z Mysteries)  
*Strawberry Girl* by Lois Lenski (American Regional)  
*Swimming with Dolphins* by Jessie Paddock  
*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor  
*A Treacherous Tide* by Franklin W. Dixon (Hardy Boys Adventures)  
*Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm  
*Under the Tangerine Tree* by Esther M. Bandy\*  
*Uniquely Florida* by Bob Knotts (Heinemann State Studies)  
*Wake Up Missing* by Kate Messner  
*What's Great about Florida?* by Mary Meinking (Our Great State)



**When You're  
Done**

# Have an Amazing School Year!

You're Going to Make Some Epic Memories

At Timberdoodle, our goal is to make your homeschooling experience both effective and enjoyable.

If you have any questions about your curriculum kit or about homeschooling, please reach out—we'd love to help!

Email: [mail@timberdoodle.com](mailto:mail@timberdoodle.com)

Call: 800-478-0672

Live Chat: Visit [timberdoodle.com](https://timberdoodle.com)

Ready to share your experience with a review? Your insight can help other homeschooling families find the right fit.

From our family to yours,  
Timberdoodle

Contact  
Timberdoodle



Review Your  
5th Grade Kit



About  
Timberdoodle





## <- Meet Timberdoodle

Need help getting started? Our team is standing by and eager to assist!



800-478-0672



Timberdoodle.com



mail@timberdoodle.com