

2024 ~ Rising 5th Grade/Middle Schoolers ~ Summer Reading Ideas: Part 1 “Mirrors & Windows”

Reading is....”the greatest path to empathy. We invest and learn about other people’s points of view, we walk in their shoes for a little while, we learn that what we are feeling ourselves is not so strange.”

- Lena Roy (grand daughter of Madeleine L’Engle & co-author of “Becoming Madeleine”)

“MIRRORS

&

WINDOWS”



Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita of Education at The Ohio State University, coined this phrase in a 1990 article, and it has again gained popularity in recent years.

The phrase reminds us that books have transformational power.

- Books can serve as **mirrors** in which you can see a part or parts of your identity and in turn have your various identities affirmed.
- Books can also serve as **essential windows** to other experiences, other cultures, other perspectives, and other people that we all need to have.
- When done well, books can even allow us to **step through that door** and walk in another’s shoes.

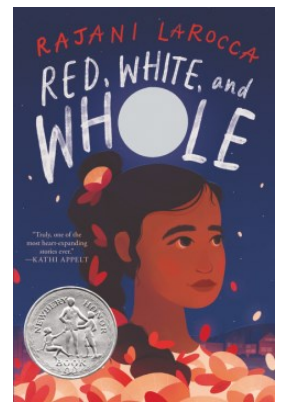
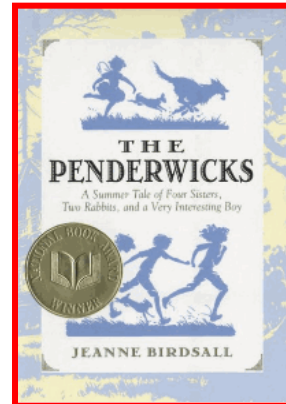
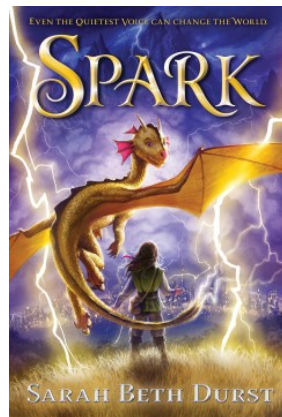
Grace's examples

Mirror books:

The Airport Book + Spark

Window books:

The Penderwicks + Red, White, & Whole



Can you share a book you've read that was a "MIRROR book" for you & why?

Can you share a book you've read that served as a "WINDOW book" for you & why?

Summer Challenge

As you're reading books that you're excited about this summer, can you identify at least one book as a "MIRROR book" and at least one book as a "WINDOW book"?

You could jot that down in the notebook that your 5th grade teachers just gave you.

