

## Advanced 5th Grade Text Characteristics and Independent Reading Behaviors

\*It is important to note that even though your child may be assessed at a higher level and able to read more advanced books, their reading interest may still be in stories/topics written for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Talk with your child to find out what topics and types of books they are excited to read. **The most important activity to help your child grow as a reader is to let him/her talk about the books he/she is reading.**

### Text Characteristics:

- Informational books deal with controversial social concepts and political issues and include detailed historical accounts of periods less well-known
- Vocabulary becomes more sophisticated and complex
- Informational texts include complex examples of the complex organizational structures
- Fiction texts explore a wide range of mature themes
- Fantasy texts present heroic quests, symbolism, and complex characters

### Readers at this stage:

- Have an understanding of figurative language
- Analyze vocabulary words in terms of both literal and connotative meanings
- Readers learn new ways of finding technical information
- Use prior knowledge of political and historical events and about the problems of cultural groups
- Use critical thinking skills to help understand the text
- Do a majority of their reading silently

When I got home from the cemetery that afternoon, exhausted and feeling like broken shards of glass, I opened my e-mail and searched for old messages from Gerald. I was looking for a Sign from Beyond the Grave, I guess. There were five or six messages from him, mostly appallingly juvenile jokes, nothing the least bit comforting. Then an unexpected e-mail arrived from Celine, who hadn't been around much since the accident. She said she wasn't sleeping, wasn't eating much, and was contemplating dropping out of school. She seemed to be convinced that what happened to Gerald was her fault.

I reread the message, thinking, that is so wrong-headed! What happened was not Celine's responsibility. Gerald would be the first to tell her that she needed to let go of useless self-blame. Then I heard myself and laughed, a shaky laugh, maybe, but the first since the accident. I'd received my sign after all.

So here I am six months later. Celine and I talk a lot, I'm playing soccer again, and I still go for runs in Penitente Canyon. And when the sky gets dark and it looks like rain, I hear a voice whispering in my ear, "Hey buddy, *qué serás, serás*; stop worrying. Come on, Luis, it'll all work out." I smile and pick up the pace.



Fiction Text

**What Can Be Done?**  
Another form of tourism should be encouraged by governments. Tourism can be educational, and environmentally and culturally sensitive. Ecotourism, as it is called, can bring valuable income while preserving the rain forests. Tourists who wish to learn more about the natural environment come to the area. This means that tourists and tourism operators alike will have an interest in treating the rain forest with respect.

**Ecotourism Saves Gorillas**  
The mountain gorilla is one of the two most endangered ape species in the world. In the middle of the last century, deforestation was destroying its habitat. Gorillas were also being lost to hunters, war, and disease. About 40 years ago, American scientist Dian Fossey did groundbreaking research on the gorillas. Her work received a lot of publicity. It made people aware of just how threatened this species was. Since then, several organizations have been working to preserve and protect the mountain gorillas. They are now protected from poachers 24 hours a day. Tightly controlled ecotourism is creating jobs. It is also helping fund conservation programs. The park in Rwanda where the gorillas live has become an international attraction. It is a major source of income for the country.

**Where Mountain Gorillas Are Found**  
AFRICA  
Rwanda

Dian Fossey with a group of mountain gorillas.

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Non-fiction Text