

5th Grade Summer Reading 2025

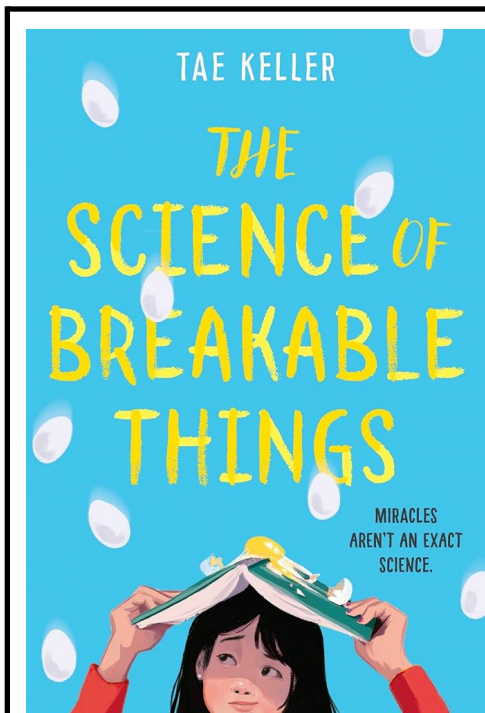
5th Grade Summer Reading

Fifth grade students entering Knox Trail Middle School are required to read the following novel:

The Science of Breakable Things by Tae Keller

The novel is broken down into 8 steps, following the process of the scientific method. While reading, students should use the included “Stop + Jot” notes template to respond to each of the 8 sections.

At the end of the novel, students should choose a project option from the attached choice board to complete in order to demonstrate their understanding of the novel.



The Science of Breakable Things - \$7.29 on Amazon

Eggs are breakable. Hope is not.

When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie thinks that this might be the perfect solution to all of her problems. There's prize money, and if she and her friends win, then she can fly her botanist mother to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids--flowers that survive against impossible odds. Natalie's mother has been suffering from depression, and Natalie is sure that the flowers' magic will inspire her mom to love life again. Which means it's time for Natalie's friends to step up and show her that talking about a problem is like taking a plant out of a dark cupboard and giving it light. With their help, Natalie begins an uplifting journey to discover the science of hope, love, and miracles.

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS

STEP 1: OBSERVE



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 2: QUESTION



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 3: INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 4: HYPOTHESIS



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 5: PROCEDURE



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 6: EXPERIMENT



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 7: RESULTS



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

STOP + JOT

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS STEP 8: ANALYZE YOUR RESULTS



I connect...

Page # _____



I predict...

Page # _____



I picture...

Page # _____



I enjoyed...

Page # _____



I wonder...

Page # _____



I was surprised...

Page # _____

Creative Writing:
The Next Chapter

Write an epilogue set **one year after the book ends**. Your epilogue should be **1-2 pages long** and **answer these two important questions** :

- How is Natalie's mother doing?** Describe what she is doing, how she feels, and how her life has changed since the events of the book
- What is Natalie's next science project?** Explain what new project Natalie is working on and why she chose it

Art & Design:
Theme Collage

Create a collage showing an **important theme** from the book (like friendship, courage, or family). Include:

- Pictures, words, and phrases** cut from magazines or printed
- Drawings** you create
- Captions** explaining how each item connects to the theme
- At least one quote** from the book

Character Analysis:
Character Growth Timeline

Create a **visual timeline** showing how one character changed throughout the book. Include:

- The beginning of the story (**how the character was at first**)
- The middle (**important moments that changed them**)
- The end (**how the character is different now**)
- Drawings, words, or both**
- Explanations** of what caused each change

Science & Engineering:
Diagram

Create a diagram of the **life cycle of a plant** (*seed, sprout, young plant, full-grown plant*) to **represent Natalie's journey** . Include:

- all 4 plant life cycle stages** drawn or labeled
- four connections** to Natalie's journey (this could include a challenge/problem, a difficult choice, self-discovery, or personal growth)
- clear explanations** of how each stage matches Natalie's growth

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS CHOICE BOARD

Select **one** option to demonstrate your understanding of the novel. Be sure to include all listed requirements in your work.

Creative Writing:
Personal Letter

Write a letter from **Natalie's perspective** to her mother to show **what Natalie thinks and feels** at an important moment in the story. Your letter should:

- sound **honest, personal, thoughtful, and age-appropriate**
- include **specific details** from the story, including **Natalie's feelings about her mother** and about the **main conflict**
- have **correct letter formatting** and be about **1-2 pages in length**

Art & Design:
Mental Health Map

Create a **detailed, colorful map** of a fictional island called "The Mind." Design **different territories** that represent the characters' mental states in the book (for example, *The Rocky Ridge of Resilience* for Natalie). Include:

- 4 or more distinct, clearly labeled territories**
- colors, symbols, landscapes, etc.** to clearly represent each character's **emotions** , with a **legend/key**
- a short description (1 paragraph) for **each territory** to **explain the reasoning and evidence** behind the chosen representation

Character Analysis:
Microscopic Identify Poster

Choose one character from the novel and **create a poster** that shows his/her **internal traits** (*feelings, thoughts, values*). Think of it like zooming in with a microscope to see what's inside! Include:

- a **large silhouette** of the character's head, where you will place the traits
- sketches and labels** of **at least 4-5** "microscopic cells" or "elements" that make up their personality
- evidence from the novel** to support each element that you have chosen/identified

Science & Engineering:
Botany Journal

Research a plant that **grows in a difficult environment** (like deserts, rainforests, or frozen places). Then create a **care sheet** that explains **how this plant survives** in its tough home. Include:

- the **name of the plant and where it lives**
- 3-4 special features** (adaptations) that help it survive
- simple care instructions** explaining how to care for it
- a **picture of the plant** with the **important adaptations labeled**