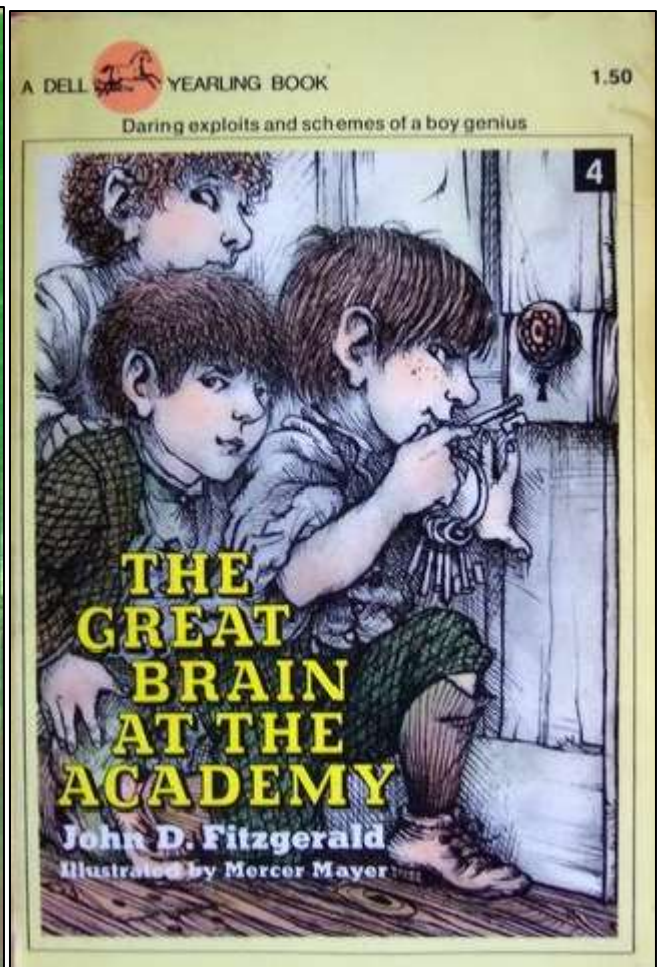
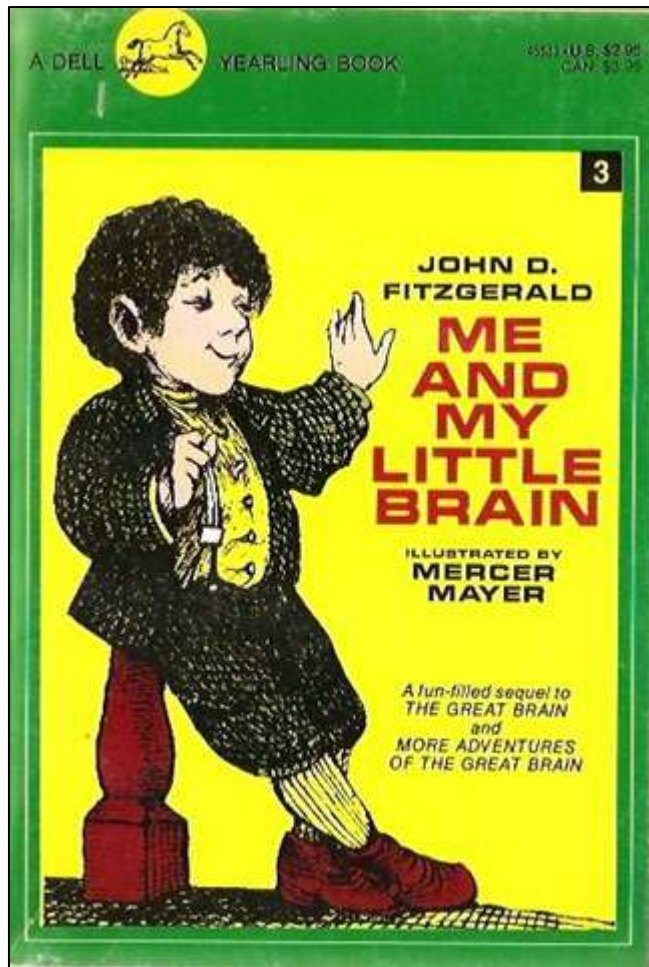


## The best books that I read in fifth grade:



I believe there are seven books in John D. Fitzgerald's original *Great Brain* series, and I read them all during fifth grade. The two books I remember the best are these two.

The narrator of the series, J.D., is the youngest brother in a family with three sons. I was the youngest son in a family with three boys too, so I connected right away to the narrator. Most of the stories told by the narrator in this series are focused on the middle son—Tom Fitzgerald—who has 1) a gifted brain and 2) a money-loving heart. Tom spends his energy finding ways to use his brain to make money from his friends and family. Tom is kind of a swindler, and his schemes aren't always honest.

In *Me and My Little Brain* (the third book in the series), Tom and his great brain are sent away to a private school, and our narrator—in his brother's absence—tries to initiate some of his own schemes back in their hometown. J.D. quickly discovers he's not very good at scheming; he's just too honest, and he's not as smart as his older brother. But he discovers he's a good person in trying.

*The Great Brain at the Academy* happens during the same time as *Me and My Little Brain*. While J.D. is home trying to scheme in Tom's absence, Tom learns how to scheme and get away with mischief at the very strict private school he's sent to. My favorite chapter in this book centers around Tom learning how, after seeing a show in town with his classmates, a mind-reader was able to make it seem as though he was really reading minds of audience members. Tom bets his classmates he can read minds too, and they fall for it.