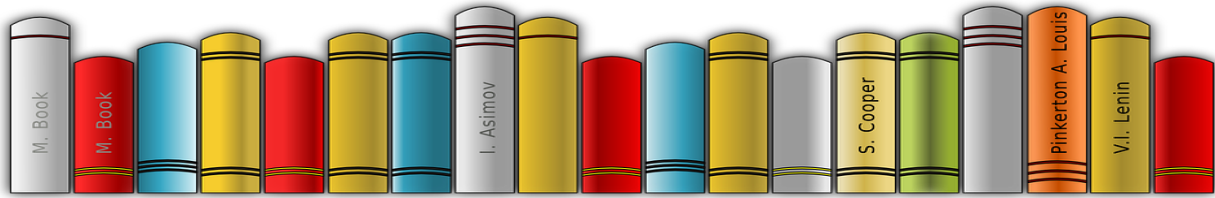


Suggested Grade 4 Summer Reading List



Dear New 4th Graders,

We are excited to welcome you all to fourth grade in the fall. While you are relaxing and enjoying your summer vacation, we encourage you to read as often as you can. Take time to read various types of texts such as books, magazines, newspapers, and even blogs. The list below is a great place to start if you need some ideas.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Teachers

Non-Fiction

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind - by William Kamkwamba

When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Walawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library...and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and thus became the local hero who harnessed the wind.

Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building - by Deborah Hopkinson

It's 1930 and times are tough for Pop and his son. But look! On the corner of 34th Street and 5th Avenue, a building straight and simple as a pencil is being built in record time. Hundreds of men are leveling, shoveling, hauling. They're hoisting 60,000 tons of steel, stacking 10 million bricks, eating lunch in the clouds. And when they cut ribbon and the crowds rush in, the boy and his father will be among the first to zoom up to the top of the tallest building in the world and see all of Manhattan spread at their feet.

Hana's Suitcase - by Karen Levine

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty - by Linda Glaser

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...Who wrote these words? And why? In 1883, Emma Lazarus, deeply moved by an influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe, wrote a sonnet that was to give voice to the Statue of Liberty.

Growing Up Pedro - by Matt Taveras

Before Pedro Martínez pitched the Red Sox to a World Series championship, before he was named to the All-Star team eight times, before he won the Cy Young three times, he was a kid from a place called Manoguayabo in the Dominican Republic. Pedro loved baseball more than anything, and his older brother Ramon was the best pitcher he'd ever seen. He'd dream of the day he and his brother could play together in the major leagues—and here, Matt Taveras tells the story of how that dream came true. In a fitting homage to a modern day baseball star, the acclaimed author-illustrator examines both Pedro Martínez's improbable rise to the top of his game and the power that comes from the deep bond between brothers.

Sports Fiction

Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure - by Dan Gutman (and others in this series)

On October 1, 1932, during game three of the Chicago Cubs – New York Yankees World Series, Babe Ruth belted a long home run to straightaway centerfield. According to legend, just before he hit, Babe pointed to the centerfield bleachers and boldly predicted he would slam the next pitch there. Did he call that shot, or didn't he? Witnesses never agreed. Joe Stoshack knows there's one way to solve the mystery – slip back seventy years and see for himself.

Perfect Game - by Fred Bowen

Isaac is a serious pitcher with an awesome fastball and a sneaky changeup. He is determined to pitch a perfect game: no hits, no runs, no walks, and no errors. He gets close a couple of times, but if a batter gets on base, Isaac loses his cool and can't get his head back in the game. It is not until he joins a Special Olympics Unified Sports team that he learns a new way to think about perfect.

The Distance To Home - by Jenn Bishop

Last summer, Quinnen was the star pitcher of her baseball team, the Panthers. They were headed for the championship, and her loudest supporter at every game was her best friend and older sister, Haley. This summer, everything is different. Haley's death, at the end of last summer, has left Quinnen and her parents reeling. Without Haley in the stands, Quinnen doesn't want to play baseball. It seems like nothing can fill the Haley-sized hole in her world. The one glimmer of happiness comes from the Bandits, the local minor-league baseball team. For the first time, Quinnen and her family are hosting one of the players for the season. Without her sister, Quinnen's not sure it will be any fun, but soon she befriends a few players. With their help, can she make peace with the past and return to the pitcher's mound?

Mystery

The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse: from the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko - by Bruce Hale

Chet Gecko is a fourth grade lizard at Emerson Elementary School who is hired by a fellow fourth-grader to find her missing brother. Chet Gecko uncovers a plot involving a Gila monster's revenge upon the school football team.

Room One - by Andrew Clements

Ted Hammond loves a good mystery, and in the spring of his 5th grade year, he's working on a big one. How can his school in the little town of Plattsford stay open next year if there are going to be only five students? But the mystery that has Ted's full attention at the moment is about the face he sees in the upper window of the Anderson's house as he rides by on his paper route. The Andersons moved away two years ago, and their old farmhouse is supposed to be empty, boarded up tight!

Belly Up - by Stuart Gibbs

Twelve-year-old Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt Fitzroy believes that Henry, the hippopotamus at the brand-new FunJungle, has been murdered. The zoo’s top brass claim the hippo went belly up the natural way, but Teddy and his feisty friend Summer McCracken have other ideas.

Science Fiction

Aliens Ate My Homework - by Bruce Coville

“I cannot tell a lie,” says Rod Allbright. And it’s the truth. Ask him a question, and he’s bound to give you an honest answer. Which is why when his teacher asks what happened to last night’s math assignment, Rod has to give the only answer he can: “Aliens ate my homework, Miss Maloney!” Of course, no one believes Rod this time, so they don’t bother to ask him why the aliens are here – which is just as well, since he is sworn to silence about their secret mission; and the fact that he has been drafted to help them.

Moon Base Alpha - by Stuart Gibbs

Like his fellow lunarnauts—otherwise known as Moonies—living on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is famous the world over for being one of the first humans to live on the moon. Kids aren’t allowed on the lunar surface, meaning they’re trapped inside the tiny moon base with next to nothing to occupy their time—and the only other kid Dash’s age spends all his time hooked into virtual reality games. Then Moon Base Alpha’s top scientist turns up dead. Dash senses there’s foul play afoot, but no one believes him. Everyone agrees Dr. Holtz went onto the lunar surface without his helmet properly affixed, simple as that. But Dr. Holtz was on the verge of an important new discovery, Dash finds out, and it’s a secret that could change everything for the Moonies—a secret someone just might kill to keep...

Historical Fiction

Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906 - by Gail Karwoski

It is before daybreak on April 18, 1906. Jacob Kaufman slips out of the wooden boarding house where he lives with his immigrant father and little sister Rosie, his father’s harsh words still ringing in his ears. Suddenly the ground beneath his feet begins to rumble, buildings collapse and the street splits wide open as Jacob runs to find safety from a devastating earthquake. Fires engulf the city. He returns to find his father and sister... but there is nothing left of the building but a pile of sticks. Jacob and his dog join the throng of other people searching for shelter, food, fresh water...and loved ones who are missing.

I Survived: Hurricane Katrina, 2005 - by Lauren Tarshis (and others in this series)
Barry's family tries to evacuate before Hurricane Katrina hits their home in New Orleans. When Barry's little sister gets terribly sick, they're forced to stay home and wait out the storm. At first, Katrina doesn't seem to be as bad as predicted. But overnight the levees break and Barry is swept away by the flood waters. Can he survive the storm of the century--alone?

Eleven - by Tom Rogers

Alex Douglas always wanted to be a hero. But nothing heroic ever happened to Alex. Nothing, that is, until his eleventh birthday. When Alex rescues a stray dog as a birthday gift to himself, he doesn't think his life can get much better. Radar, his new dog, pretty much feels the same way. But this day has bigger things in store for both of them. This is a story about bullies and heroes. About tragedy and hope. About enemies with two legs and friends with four, and pesky little sisters and cranky old men, and an unexpected lesson in kindness delivered with a slice of pizza.

Adventure Fiction

The Big House - by Carolyn Coman

When the judge declares their parents guilty of embezzlement, sending them to the big house for twenty-five years, Ivy and Ray are sent to live with Marietta and Lionel Noland, their parents' accusers. As soon as they arrive at the Noland mansion, Ivy begins planning their escape . . . and trying to find a way to free their parents. The two collect evidence, including a shrouded portrait and a hidden document in Marietta and Lionel's decaying wedding cake. Finally they bring Marietta to trial—with Ivy as the judge—and family secrets begin to emerge. Can Ivy and Ray put the pieces together to convict Marietta of lying? Will they be able to spring their parents from the big house?

The Homework Machine - by Dan Gutman

The D Squad, made up of a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker, are bound together by one very big secret: the homework machine. The homework machine, code-named Belch, is doing their homework for them! Keeping that secret is hard and before long things start to get out of control and Belch becomes much more powerful than they ever imagined. Now the kids are in a race against their own creation, and the loser could end up in jail...or worse!

Woodson - by Gary Paulsen

The author's adventures in the wild including the harrowing account of his first Iditarod dogsled race across Alaska.

Animals

Guardians of Ga'Hoole Series: The Capture - by Kathryn Lasky (and others in this series)
The first book in the Guardians of Ga'Hoole series introduces Soren, a barn owl. When Soren is pushed from his family's nest by his older brother, he is rescued from certain death on the forest floor by agents from a mysterious school for orphaned owls, St. Aggie's. When Soren arrives at St. Aggie's he suspects there is more to the school than meets the eye. He and his new friend, Gylfie, find out that St. Aggie's is actually a training camp where the school's leader uses young owls to help her achieve her goal.

A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray - by Ann Martin
Squirrel and her brother Bone begin their lives in a toolshed behind someone's summer house. Their mother nurtures them and teaches them the many skills they will need to survive as stray dogs. But when their mother is taken from them suddenly and too soon, the puppies are forced to make their own way in the world, facing humans both gentle and brutal, busy highways, other animals, and the changing seasons. When Bone and Squirrel become separated, Squirrel must fend for herself, and in the process makes two friends who in very different ways define her fate.

Swordbird - by Nancy Yi Fan (12-year-old author!)
The blue jays and cardinals of Stone-Forest have turned against each other. According to legend, only Swordbird, son of the Great Spirit, has the power to conquer evil and restore peace to the land. Swordbird leads the quest for peace with heroism, courage, and resourcefulness.

Realistic Fiction

The Legend of Spud Murphy - by Eoin Colfer
When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.

Wish - by Barbara O'Connor
Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is, until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.

A Handful of Stars - by Cynthia Lord

When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. Salma, the daughter of migrant workers, is in the small town with her family for the blueberry-picking season. After their initial chance meeting, Salma and Lily bond over painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather, and Salma's friendship transforms Lily's summer. But when Salma decides to run in the upcoming Blueberry Queen pageant, they'll have to face some tough truths about friendship and belonging. Should an outsider like Salma really participate in the pageant -- and possibly win?

Fantasy

The Tail of Emily Windsnap - by Liz Kessler

For as long as she can remember, twelve-year-old Emily Windsnap has lived on a boat. And, oddly enough, for just as long, her mother has seemed anxious to keep her away from the water. But when Mom finally agrees to let her take swimming lessons, Emily makes a startling discovery - about her own identity, the mysterious father she's never met, and the thrilling possibilities and perils shimmering deep below the water's surface.

Wings of Fire Book 1 - The Dragonet Prophecy - by Tui Sutherland

Clay and his friends have grown up under a mountain, secretly raised by the Talons of Peace to fulfill a mysterious prophecy. The five young dragons are destined to end the war that's been raging between the tribes of Pyrrhia -- but how they'll do this, none of them knows. But not every dragonet wants a destiny. When one of their own is threatened, Clay and his friends decide to escape. Maybe they can break free and end the war at the same time -- or maybe they'll risk everything ...

The Wishing Spell (Land of Stories Book 1) - by Chris Colfer

The Land of Stories tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

Me and Marvin Gardens - by Amy Sarig King

Obe Devlin has problems. His family's farmland has been taken over by developers. His best friend Tommy has abandoned him. And he keeps getting nosebleeds, because of that thing he doesn't like to talk about. So Obe hangs out at the nearby creek, in the last wild patch left, picking up trash and looking for animal tracks. One day, he sees a creature that looks kind of like a large dog. And as he watches it, he realizes it eats plastic. *Only* plastic. Water bottles, shopping bags... No one has seen a creature like this before. The animal--Marvin Gardens--becomes Obe's best friend and biggest secret. But to keep him safe from the developers and Tommy and his friends, Obe must make a decision that might change everything.

Humorous Fiction

Niagara Falls, or Does It? - by Henry Winkler (and others in the series)

For Hank, fourth grade does not start out on the right foot. First of all, he gets called to the principal's office on the very first day of school. Then the first assignment his teacher gives him is to write five paragraphs on "What You Did This Summer." Hank is terrified--writing one good sentence is hard for him, so how in the world is he going to write five whole paragraphs? Hank comes up with a plan: instead of writing what he did on vacation, he'll show what he did. But when Hank's "living essay" becomes a living disaster, he finds himself in detention. Strangely enough, however, detention ends up becoming a turning point in his life.

Enginerts - by Jarrett Lerner

Ken is an EngiNerd: one of a super-smart group of friends—all nerds—who have been close since kindergarten. They may be brainiacs, but they're just like everyone else: they fight with one another, watch too much TV, eat Chinese food, and hate walking their dogs. Well, maybe not just like everyone because Ken's best friend Dan has been building robots. He then secretly sent one to each of the EngiNerds, never letting them know he's the mastermind.

The Bad Guys (series) - by Aaron Blabey

They sound like bad guys, they look like bad guys . . . and they even smell like bad guys. But Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Shark are about to change all of that...Mr. Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. They are going to break two hundred dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr. Snake please stop swallowing Mr. Piranha?!