

Incoming 4th Grade Summer Reading List

Listed Alphabetically by Author

Summer provides many opportunities for parents and young children to enjoy unforgettable books together. A suggested list of titles is listed below. Parents of elementary students may also want to consult one of the *Read-Aloud Handbooks* by Jim Trelease for additional selections. We also encourage you to visit your local public library. Be sure to fill out the elementary reading log and bring it to school when you return in September in order receive a summer reading certificate.

| Title | Author | Synopsis | Genre | Suitable for |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------|
| Mr. Popper's Penguins | Atwater, Richard | An absurd tale of an unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin that changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. Newbery Honor | Humor | *** |
| Finding the Titanic | Ballard, Robert | Describes the voyage of the Titanic, the accident that caused it to sink, and the rescue of those who survived. | Nonfiction | ** |
| The Indian in the Cupboard | Banks, Lynn Reid | What could be better than a small cupboard that makes toys come alive? A simple birthday present turns Omri's life into a magical adventure. | Fantasy Adventure | *** |
| The Field Guide (Spiderwick Chronicles #1) | Black, Holly and Tony DiTerlizzi | When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. | Fantasy | *** |
| Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing | Blume, Judy | Peter Hatcher, fourth grader, is sick and tired of his two-year-old, terror of a brother, Fudge. How can Peter get his parents to pay attention to him for a change? | Realistic Fiction Family | ** |
| Skateboard Tough | Christopher, Matt | When Brett finds a mysterious skateboard buried in his front yard, his skateboarding abilities suddenly improve. His friends wonder – is the skateboard haunted? | Fiction Sports | ** |
| James and the Giant Peach | Dahl, Roald | James is miserable. After his parents are killed, he is forced to live with his wicked aunts. Until a stranger gives him some magic crystals that change his life forever. | Fantasy Adventure | *** |
| I, Amber Brown | Danziger, Paula | Amber's parents are divorced and when her dad moves back to town, life becomes harder for Amber as she must share everything between mom and dad. Amber just wants something of her own and takes matters into her own hands to get it. | Realistic Fiction | *** |
| Jack Adrift: Fourth Grade Without a Clue | Gantos, Jack | Fourth-grader Jack learns there are no easy answers when his family moves to Cape Hatteras and he is faced with a crazy school year and a bizarre neighbor. | Realistic Fiction Humor | ** |
| Stone Fox | Gardiner, John Reynolds | Ten-year-old Willie needs to win the big dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm, but that means beating the huge Indian mountain man, Stone Fox. | Adventure Notable Book of Fiction Award | ** |
| Just Juice | Hesse, Karen | Times are bad for Juice and her family- Pa is unemployed, food is short, Ma is having another baby and Pa is about to lose the house because he can't read. Juice often stays home from school to work with Pa and helps to take | Realistic Fiction | ** |

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| | | care of Ma. This is a story about a strong loving family who pulls together. | | |
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| A Light in the Storm: The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin | Hesse, Karen | In the 1860's, while working in her father's lighthouse on an island off the coast of Delaware, 15-year-old Amelia records in her diary how the Civil War is beginning to devastate her divided state. | Historical Fiction | *** |
| Balto and the Great Race | Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody | An epidemic strikes the children of Nome, Alaska in 1925. There are no roads through the icy wilderness. The only way to get the cure is by sled- Balto, a sled dog, leads the race for life! | Nonfiction | * |
| Shiloh | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. Newbery Winner | Realistic Fiction | ** |
| Stage Fright on a Summer Night | Osborne, Mary Pope | #25 in the Magic Tree House series has Jack and Annie traveling back in time to Elizabethan London, where they become actors in a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream and try to rescue a tame bear. | Fantasy | * |
| Fourth Grade Rats | Spinelli, Jerry | "First grade babies!/Second grade cats!/Third grade angels!/Fourth grade rats!" This school-yard rhyme is carried too far when Joey instructs his best friend Suds in the ways of rebellion and acting tough. This fast-paced, hilarious story is about the transition between third and fourth grade. | Realistic Fiction Humor | ** |
| Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters | Step toe, John | Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife. An African folktale in the tradition of the "Cinderella" story. | Non Fiction Multicultural | ** Picture book |

*the student who struggles or who does not like to read

**the student who likes to read and can read on his/her own without help

***the student who would like a challenge

Some annotations taken from the Barnes and Noble website: www.bn.com