

4th Grade Summer Reading List

Required: *Frindle* by Andrew Clements

*****NOTE***** In addition to summer reading, your child should practice math facts over the summer. If the facts are known, continue to practice a little every day to build fluency and speed.

Recommended:

Fiction

- Avi *Secret School*
The Elk Valley, Colorado schoolhouse is five miles by dirt road from the Bidson's farm. Neither Ida nor Tom Bidson is tall enough to steer, clutch, and brake the family Model T, so Felix works the car's pedals with his hands while Ida kneels in the seat to adjust the throttle and steer. This amazing feat of synchronization is just a hint of the resourcefulness put into action when their school shuts down.
- Beck, Ian *The Secret History of Tom Trueheart*
The Truehearts, one of the last great adventuring families, are regularly tapped to live out the tales begun by the Story Bureau in the Land of Stories. One by one, each of the Truehearts goes missing until on his twelfth birthday, the youngest of the Trueheart's is sent on the most critical mission of all--to find out what has happened to the rest of his family.
- Birdsall, Jeanne *The Penderwicks*
The six Penderwicks--four sisters, their abstracted Botanist father, and the family dog--are off on a summer adventure in the Berkshire Mountains where they have rented a cottage on an estate. The independent, curious children soon discover a lonely boy in need of help, and manage to set off a series of near disasters, before bringing their eventful summer to a satisfactory end. An equally delightful sequel entitled *The Penderwicks on Gardam Street* has just been published. Required reading

Clements,
Andrew

The Landry News

Cara Landry pours her talent for journalism into a school newspaper that puts her teacher's job on the line, turns a school upside down, and highlights issues of fairness.

Cole, Henry

A Nest for Celeste

This beautifully illustrated book combines talking animal fantasy with historical fiction.

Celeste, a winsome mouse, and her friend James, the teenaged painter apprenticed to John James Audubon, tell the story of Audubon's efforts to document North American birds while visiting Oakley Plantation in 1821. The story also chronicles Celeste's many adventures as she befriends captured birds and fends off the family cat and two bullying rats.

Cowley, Joy

Chicken Feathers

Josh is dismayed and worried. His no-nonsense grandma has arrived at the farm to help out while his mother awaits the birth of his baby sister in the hospital. Grandma's first act is to evict Semolina, Josh's pet chicken, from his bedroom. Semolina has three secrets: she has an insatiable taste for Grandma's vile homemade brew, she talks, but only to Josh, and she holds the key to a barnyard mystery. Most importantly, she is Josh's confidante and now she is missing. Poignant and great fun.

Creech, Sharon

Granny Torelli Makes Soup

When Rosie is about to lose her best friend she heads for Granny Torelli's kitchen. There is no better place to solve life's problems. Rosie soaks up her grandmother's wisdom as easily as she breathes in the scent of the savory soups and sauces simmering on the stove.

DiCamillo, Kate

Because of Winn-Dixie

When India Opal Buloni and her father, who is a preacher, move to Florida, she finds a dog at the Winn-Dixie Supermarket who changes her life.

DiCamillo, Kate

The Tale of Despereaux

From birth everyone recognizes that Despereaux is not your usual mouse. His huge ears, his love of music, his odd habit of reading rather than eating paper, and his tendency to rely on his own instincts rather than following the rules make him a misfit disowned by his parents. Will he end his days swallowed up by the castle's rat-infested dungeon or will he save the lovely Princess Pea from dastardly doings?

- Funke, Cornelia *Igraine the Brave*
In this delightful madcap adventure, Igraine endeavors to become a knight like her grandfather despite being born into a family of talented and eccentric magicians. Her talents are not fully appreciated until the family's famous singing books become endangered.
- Gorman, Carol *Dork in Disguise*
On the day that he starts life in a new town at a new school, Jerry Flack takes steps to become known as Mr. Cool. Although he's done his homework on the topic, he still needs help to erase all signs of nerdiness. Salvation comes from an expected source just when Jerry is beginning to wonder if coolness is what he really wants.
- Harlow, Joan
Hiatt *Thunder from the Sea*
It seemed like a dream come true when Tom finds a home with the Murray's on Back to the Moon Island. He is a long way from the mission orphanage that has been his home for so long, but he quickly takes to a fisherman's life. After pulling a puppy from the sea, his life seems complete until a struggle begins to make the dog truly his to keep.
- Hill, Kirkpatrick *The Year of Miss Agnes*
Teachers never seem to last more than a year at Frederika's one room school in a rural Alaskan Athabaskan village, until an Englishwoman, a teacher unlike any they have had before, shows up in front of the class one day.
- Horvath, Peggy *Trolls*
The Andersons are leaving for a vacation in France. In a last minute mix-up, the children's quirky Aunt Sally, a relative they have never met, flies in from Vancouver to stay with them. She wins them over with unexpected touches of serendipity and bedtime tales filled with her hair-raising childhood escapades.
- Ibbotson, Eva *The Star of Kazan*
Annika is a foundling discovered in a chapel high up in the Swiss Alps by the cook and housekeeper to a family of professors in nineteenth century Vienna. Annika's life becomes fairytale like when an aging actress she has befriended leaves her a trunk with all her belongings. Almost simultaneously a woman named Edeltraut Von Tannenburg shows up claiming to be Annika's mother and demanding the return of her child. Vienna comes alive in this old-

fashioned historical drama filled with action and suspense.

Juster, Norton *The Phantom Tollbooth*

This light-hearted fantasy, now a classic, features a boy named Milo who enters a world of magical chaos via a turnpike tollbooth he receives as an unexpected, anonymous present.

Morpurgo,
Michael *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*

Michael's grandmother sends him an unusual gift as a way of telling him some important news about herself. The gift takes Michael back to his grandmother's childhood when the English and Americans were preparing for D-Day.

Morpurgo,
Michael *Kensuke's Kingdom*

When Michael's parents lose their jobs, they decide to sell the house, buy a yacht called the "Peggy Sue," and spend a year traveling around the world. What they don't foresee is that one night Michael and his dog Stella will be swept off the ship into the Coral Sea. Washed up on an island, Michael discovers that he and Stella are not alone as he struggles to survive and attempts to light a signal fire.

Pullman, Philip *The Scarecrow and His Servant*

A scarecrow, who comes to life after being struck by lightning, is befriended by an orphaned boy named Jack. Together the charming pair set off to see the world. At every turn the scarecrow is saved from his wild ideas by the cunning of the boy. Little do the two know that they are being pursued by the evil Buffaloni family who are after a secret the scarecrow unknowingly holds within himself.

Schlitz, Laura
Amy *The Night Fairy*

Exquisite color plates illustrate this story of Flory, a night fairy, whose wings are damaged when she is mistaken for a moth by a bat. Defenseless because she is unable to fly, but still fierce and resourceful, Flory tries to build a new life in the daytime. She learns to use her magic, even though it is still strongest at a little before midnight, during the hour she was born.

Singh, Vandana *Younguncle Comes to Town*

The children needn't have worried about having father's youngest brother living with them.

From the moment they spy him coming up the drive, they are intrigued by his offbeat appearance.

Urban, Linda

A Crooked Kind of Perfect

Zoe Elias, daughter of a workaholic mother and agoraphobic father, envisions herself as a famous concert pianist. How she keeps her dreams on track and mends her family, after many false starts and near disasters, is a winning tale.

Weston, Robert

Zorgamazoo

Paul

Told in rhymed anapestic tetrameter, filled with imaginary beasts and derring-do, this tale chronicles the efforts of little Katrina Katrell to help Morty the Zorgle find the missing zorgles of Zorgamazoo.

Winthrop,

Elizabeth

The Castle in the Attic

Before William's nanny returns to England, she gives him a very real looking miniature castle so big it can only fit in the attic. Imagine her surprise when she finds herself trapped inside.

Woodson,

Jacqueline

Locomotion

In this story of courage and perseverance, Lonnie Collins Motion's world came apart when he was only seven. He has been trying to put it back together ever since. He is determined to make what is left of his family whole again.

Yue, Guo

Little Leap Forward

This beautiful little volume contains a fictionalized memoir of the author's childhood in China during the Cultural Revolution. Little Leap Forward keeps a small bird he has captured in a bamboo cage, but even his flute playing cannot make her sing.

Nonfiction

Alexander, Sally

Hobart

She Touched the World

In 1829, fifty-one years before Helen Keller was born, a bright eager child named Laura Bridgman was born into a New England farm family. Laura lost her sight and hearing to childhood illness while a toddler. Her remarkable story, towering intellect, and incessant

curiosity became an inspiration and changed the way educators looked at teaching.

Bardoe, Cheryl Mammoths and Mastodons

Published in cooperation with the Field Museum, this book presents the latest research on two Ice Age giants, now extinct

Bishop, Nic Secrets of Animal Flight

The aerial acrobatics of butterflies, bats, hummingbirds, and ladybugs occur so fleetingly that you will want to leaf through this book again and again to study the arresting photos of birds and bugs in flight. You may even be tempted to touch the page to make sure that what you see is not real.

Foster, Mark Whale Port

Though fortunately short-lived, whaling played a prominent role in the growth of New England seaport towns. Drawing on the history of several places, this book demonstrates how communities grew up around this industry in a place aptly named Tuckanucket.

Fradin, Dennis Let It Begin Here!

In this rousing account of Paul Revere's ride and the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the details of the opening events of the Revolutionary War become clear and immediate. The excitement captured in the text is also expressed by the action-packed illustrations.

Freedman,
Russell Give me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence

In a dramatic account, the author of the Newbery award-winning *Lincoln: A Photobiography*, describes the overheated times that lead to a revolutionary document.

Fritz, Jean Where was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May

Hint: This date happens to be his birthday! The lighthearted choice of this date as a benchmark, helps us to understand the growth of a small boy into a statesman. Never a scholar, Patrick Henry had failed at both farming and shop keeping, when he turned in desperation to the law, a perfect outlet for his love of oratory.

Haas, Robert B. African Critters

Splicing together experiences from his many travels in Africa, a wildlife photographer creates a vicarious safari for armchair adventurers. Organized by chapters dedicated to specific animals, the book's photographs and text vividly convey his experiences. The photographs possess a

reality that makes it seem as if the animals could leap from the page. The photos of animal babies are especially endearing and unusual.

Hodges,
Margaret

Merlin and the Making of the King

Exquisitely illustrated in the style of medieval manuscripts, this small gem of a book retells the legend of King Arthur, in simple prose, through three brief tales.

Lewin, Ted

Tooth and Claw

Lewin is an author who travels the world to gather material for his nonfiction titles. Here he has collected many of his wildlife encounters from far reaches of the globe. They include photographing a charging Bengal tiger from the back of an elephant, crawling along behind a dung beetle in the Kalahari Desert, and following by rowboat the roar of the red howler monkeys.

Lewis, J. Patrick Arithme-tickles

These brain teasers, all but one in rhyme, tickle the ribs and summon up latent math ability. Cartoon style illustrations, intriguing facts, and clever scenarios will keep you figuring.

Magaziner,
Henry J.

Our Liberty Bell

This history of the Liberty Bell is also the story of revolutionary times when this beloved artifact was rung often to spread the news of American steps toward independence.

Mallory, Kenneth Swimming with Hammerhead Sharks

The author was given an assignment by the New England Aquarium to work with a group of filmmakers to create an IMAX movie on hammerhead sharks. This book is the story of how he met his first shark, researched hammerheads, and worked with the film crew on location in Cocos Island off the coast of Costa Rica.

Martin, Alex

Picture That: Knights and Castles

The engaging text leads readers on a tour of medieval art, including reproductions of work by the Breughels, to hunt for historical information about daily life in the Middle Ages.

Pinkney, Andrea
Davis

Dear Benjamin Banneker

He wrote an impassioned complaint to a public official before anyone else thought to. While others slept he figured out the movements of the stars. Biography inspires and instructs, and is

never better at this task than when someone as remarkable as this outspoken mathematician, astronomer, writer, surveyor, clockmaker, and Maryland farmer, is its subject.

Robinson, Sharon Promises to Keep

In a warm, intimate biography filled with family photographs, the author shares the story of her father's life. Her insights and her ability to tell his story against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement make this look at a legendary baseball player especially appealing and important.

Rosing, Norbert Face to Face With Polar Bears

The author, a nature and wildlife photographer, began photographing polar bears on a 1983 trip to Canada when his equipment stopped functioning in the cold. Despite his inability to take photos of polar bears, he developed a lifelong fascination with them that is clearly evident in this wonderful book.

Simon, Seymour Spiders

Did you know that spider web thread is a liquid that hardens? That it can be stronger than steel that is equally thick, that it can stretch two times its length, and can be thinner than human hair? Facts like these and spectacular close-up photographs make this a winner.

St. George,
Judith

So You Want to be President

And then again, maybe you don't. In either case, this quick rundown of presidential tastes, talents, quirks, qualifications, foibles, and little known facts will show that the path to the White House is by no means straight and narrow.

Tchana, Katrin The Serpent Slayer

A sure-fire collection of folktales drawn from many cultures, annihilates the notion that girls in traditional literature always need to be saved by a charming prince, not being able to manage a little spunk of their own. Add in a dragon that leaves a trail of poisonous slime, a golden wand, a talking skull or other bits of magic, all illustrated by the magnificent paintings of Tina Schart Hyman, and you are guaranteed an enchanting time.

Wick, Walter A Drop of Water

Art and science converge in photographs that make time stand still so that water's curious behavior can be recorded and explored. Notes on the experiments pictured suggest ways

budding scientists can study droplets, bubbles, snowflakes, dew condensation, and other states of moisture.