

RISING 4th GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

To encourage continued growth in reading skills through the summer, the following list of titles has been compiled to assist children and parents in the selection of books. These are merely suggestions. *It is not necessary to limit your choices to these titles.*

Please plan on your child spending 20 minutes Monday-Friday reading or being read to. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

FABLES AND FANTASY

***The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer Holm**

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.

***Pax* by Sara Pennypacker**

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

***Snow and Rose* by Emily Winfield Martin**

Before their father disappeared into the woods and their mother disappeared into sorrow, Snow White and Rose Red had the perfect life. This is the story of two sisters and the enchanted woods that have been waiting for them to break a set of terrible spells.

***Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate**

Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say old Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.

HUMOR

***Swindle* by Gordon Korman (or any in the series)**

After a collector cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into a heavily guarded store and steal the card back.

***Pie* by Sarah Weeks**

When Alice's Aunt Polly passes away, she leaves the secret to her famous pie-crust recipe with her cat, Lardo. And then leaves Lardo in the care of Alice. Now the whole town is wondering how you leave a recipe to a cat and just how can they discover the secret ingredients?

***Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs**

Ben Ripley may only be in middle school, but he's already pegged his dream job: C.I.A. or bust. So he's thrilled when he's recruited to the C.I.A.'s top secret Academy of Espionage.

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume**

Whether Fudge is throwing a tantrum in a store or scribbling all over Peter's homework, he's never far from trouble. He's a two-year-old terror—and Peter's had enough. When Fudge walks off with Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?

Also recommended: *Fudge-a-Mania*, *Otherwise Known As Sheila the Great*, and *Superfudge*.

NONFICTION

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

***Favorite Norse Myths* by Mary Pope Osborne**

From the creation of the universe, to its heroic battles for order, the fourteen intriguing myths in this collection come together to tell one powerful story.

***One Day in the Tropical Rain Forest* by Jean Craighead George**

The future of the rainforest and the Macaw depends on a scientist and a young Venezuelan Indian boy, as they search for a nameless butterfly during one day in the rainforest.

***The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney**

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

REALISTIC FICTION

***Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar**

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

***Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry (or any other book by Henry)**

Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

***Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan**

Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common, but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

***Pie in the Sky* by Remi Lai**

When Jingwen moves to a new country, school is torture, making friends is impossible, and he's often stuck looking after his little brother. To distract himself, Jingwen dreams of making the cakes from the bakery his father had planned to open before he passed away. The only problem is his mother has laid down one rule: the brothers are not to use the oven while she's at work. As Jingwen and Yanghao bake elaborate cakes, they'll have to cook up excuses to keep it a secret from Mama.

SPORTS

Any sports books by Matt Christopher

***Comeback Kid* series by Mike Lupica (any in the series)**

Series featuring young athletes dealing with challenging situations, both in and out of the sports they play.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

***Bug Boys* by Laura Knetzger**

Rhino-B is a brash, but sweet guy. Stag-B is a calm and scholarly adventurer. Together these two young beetles make up the Bug Boys, best friends who spend their time exploring the world of Bug Village and beyond, as well as their own -- sometimes confusing and complicated -- thoughts and feelings.

***Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte and Ann Xu**

Twelve-year-old Cici has just moved from Taiwan to Seattle, and the only thing she wants more than to fit in at her new school is to celebrate her grandmother, A-má's, seventieth birthday together. Since she can't go to A-má, Cici cooks up a plan to bring A-má to her by winning the grand prize in a kids' cooking contest to pay for A-má's plane ticket!

***Power Up* by Sam Nisson and Darnell Johnson**

Miles and Rhys know each other only as Gryphon and Backslash, and in the video game Mecha Melee they're an unstoppable team. But real-life wrongdoing blasts their duo into a crater the size of Arcticon. With life online and off a complete mess and BattleCon just weeks away, can the boys play their way back to each other?

***The Secret Garden on 81st Street* by Ivy Noelle Weir and Amber Padilla**

Mary Lennox is a loner living in Silicon Valley. When her parents pass away in a tragic accident, she moves to New York City to live with her uncle who she barely knows. Looking for comfort in this strange, new reality, Mary discovers an abandoned rooftop garden and an even bigger secret.