

Suggested Summer Reading List for Incoming 4th Grade

Babylon Memorial Grade School 2010

- Avi** *The End of the Beginning: Being the Adventures of a Small Snail* (sequel)
Avon the snail and Edward, a take-charge ant, set off together on a journey to an undetermined destination in search of unspecified adventures.
- Babbitt, Natalie** *Jack Plank Tells Tales*
A failed pirate looking for a new career, Jack turns down every job proposed with a tall tale about that occupation.
- Baretta, Gene** *Now and Ben: the Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin*
The impact that Benjamin Franklin's numerous inventions still have on our world today are recounted in an informative, entertaining picture book format.
- Barrows, Annie** *Ivy & Bean* (series)
When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.
- Barshaw, Ruth McNally** *Ellie McDoodle: New Kid in School* (series)
Armed only with humor, a pen, and a sketchbook, eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle chronicles her adventures and mishaps as the "new kid" in her new school.
- Barton, Chris** *The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-new Colors*
Brothers Bob and Joe Switzer had different interests and ambitions but worked together on the dazzling creation of fluorescent colors.
- Birney, Betty** *Surprises According to Humphrey* (sequels)
While continuing to help his classmates solve their problems, Humphrey, pet hamster of Longfellow School's Room 26, faces many surprises, like rolling in a hamster ball, a substitute janitor who might be an alien, and the possibility of Mrs. Brisbane retiring.
- Blume, Judy** *Double Fudge* (series)
His younger brother's obsession with money and the discovery of long-lost cousins, Flora and Fauna, provide many embarrassing moments for twelve-year-old Peter.

Brown, Don*Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein*

Albert Einstein, a subject uncommon to young readers, is introduced in this picture book that portrays how his brilliance often caused him to be the odd boy in school and in life.

Byars, Betsy*The SOS File*

The students in Mr. Magro's class submit stories for the SOS file about their biggest emergencies, and then they read them aloud for extra credit.

Child, Lauren*Clarice Bean Spells Trouble (series)*

Clarice Bean, aspiring actress and author, unsuccessfully tries to avoid getting into trouble as she attempts to help a friend in need by following the rules of the fictional, "exceptionordinarily" spy, Ruby Redfort.

Christopher, Matt*The Extreme Team (series)*

When his family moves into his recently deceased grandmother's house, ten-year-old Charlie meets a boy who also likes to skateboard, but then finds that his own special skateboard is missing.

Clements, Andrew*No Talking (series)*

The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a "no talking" contest.

Dahl, Roald*The Magic Finger*

Angered by a neighboring family's sport hunting, an eight-year-old girl turns her magic finger on them.

Danziger, Paula*Amber Brown is Green with Envy (series)*

Fourth-grader Amber Brown must make some important decisions when her mother and Max move their wedding date up and prepare to buy a house together, while her father makes some bad choices of his own.

Dennis, Brian*Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle*

Heartwarming true tale of a United States Marine and his canine friend as they met and bonded in Iraq, and how Nubs came to America.

Fleming, Candace*The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School*

Mr. Jupiter becomes the 4th grade teacher of an unruly class with surprising results.

Friedman, Laurie B. *Honestly, Mallory!* (series)
When Mallory cannot decide what to be on Career Day, it makes her feel like she is not good at anything and she ends up telling a lie.

Gardiner, John R. *Stone Fox*
Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters.

Gibbons, Gail *Galaxies, Galaxies* (and others)
Galaxies are cloudy bands of light that stretch across the night sky. The Milky Way is one (our planet, Earth is in it), but we know that there are billions of galaxies. This book talks about their shapes and sizes, and what they consist of.

Gutman, Dan *Nightmare at the Book Fair* (series)
Fifth-grader Trip Dinkelman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a bookfair case and becomes a character in a series of different books including a horror story, an adventure, and a fantasy.

Haddix, Margaret *The Girl with 500 Middle Names*
Janie's parents move to the suburbs so she can go to a better school, but when she discovers that all the other students are richer than she is, she feels out of place-until she realizes that there are more important things than money.

Hatkoff, Isabella *Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*
Baby hippo Owen and 130 year-old giant tortoise Mzee bond and become unlikely, but fast friends at Haller Park in Kenya.

Hopkinson, Deborah *Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend)*
In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend, Austin Gollaher.

Howe, James *Bunnicula: A Rabbit -Tale of Mystery* (sequels)
Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Jenkins, Emily *Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic* (sequels)
Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.

Jenkins, Steve *Living Color* (and other nonfiction titles)
Boldly colored gold fish, scarlet ibis, pink flamingos, and more are introduced in this illustrated picture book that examines how their unique feathers, shells, scales, and skin keep them alive in their natural habitats.

Krull, Kathleen *Houdini: World's Greatest Mystery Man and Escape King*
A biography that includes Houdini's sense of commitment, determination, and dedication to his family. His belief in hard work, self-education, and the value of books is emphasized.

Levine, Ellen *Henry's Freedom Box*
A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Look, Lenore *Alvin Ho, Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters* (sequel)
Laugh as you read about young Alvin Ho, anxious about almost everything, as he experiences his first family camping trip.

Lubar, David *Punished!*
Because he was playing tag in the reference section of the library, Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth, who puts a spell on him that is broken only by finding anagrams, palindromes, and oxymorons.

McDonald, Megan *Judy Moody Goes to College*
When her substitute teacher realizes she is struggling in math, Judy is sent to a math tutor at the local college and soon is completely into the spirit of college life.

MacLachlan, Patricia *Grandfather's Dance* (sequels)
Cassie shares the love and comfort of family as the several generations of the Witting family gather for Anna's wedding in this conclusion to the popular Sarah Plain and Tall series.

Pennypacker, Sara *Clementine* (series)
Clementine is funny and energetic, with a talent for getting in trouble and a heart of gold.

Prelutsky, Jack *Good Sports: Rhymes About Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More*
Jack Prelutsky includes in this collection poems about baseball, soccer, football, skating, swimming, gymnastics, basketball, karate, and more.

Roy, Ron*A to Z Mysteries (series)*

Elementary schoolers Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose work together to solve mysteries.

Scieszka, Jon*Marco? Polo! (series)*

The Time Warp Trio find themselves in a desert in China, and in order to retrieve their magical book from the corner of Kublai Khan, they pose as astrologers and join the caravan of Marco Polo and his father.

Shulevitz, Uri*How I Learned Geography*

As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life. Based on the author's childhood in Kazakhstan, where he lived as a Polish refugee during World War II.

St. George, Judith*So You Want to Be an Explorer?*

From mountain climbers to astronauts, ship captains to arctic adventurers, missionaries to presidents, to the just plain curious, there are all kinds of explorers -- and just think, one of them could be you.

Truss, Lynne*Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!*

Forgetting to include a comma or placing one in the wrong spot can completely change the meaning of a sentence with hilarious consequences.

VanDraanen, Wendelin*Secret Identity (Shredderman series)*

Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman!

Warner, Gertrude*The Boxcar Children (series)*

Because they do not want to be separated, four orphaned children run away and live in an old abandoned boxcar.

