Summer Reading
(For reading aloud and independent reading)

2019

Children Entering Fourth Grade

Additional Websites for Suggested Book Titles


http://www.readingrockets.org/books/summer/2019

http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

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Revised June 2019 by Joanne Shulman, K-4 Reading Coordinator
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Pass Go and Collect $200: The Real Story of How Monopoly was Invented by Tanya Lee Stone, 2018. “The surprisingly complex history of one of America’s favorite board games...Stone delivers a winner.” ~ Kirkus

Merci Suarez Changes Gear by Meg Medina. Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award. “Merci navigates the challenges of being a scholarship kid at a posh South Florida private school and the expectations of and responsibilities to her intergenerational family.” ~ Kirkus

The Friendship War by Andrew Clements, 2019. “Andrew Clements, the beloved author of Frindle, returns with a deliciously entertaining and deeply satisfying story that will resonate with anyone who’s ever been in a classroom...or been a kid. A fad is a tough thing to kill, but then again, so is a friendship.” ~ Penguin Random House

Max and the MidKnights by Lincoln Pierce, 2019. “Join Max's quest to become a knight in this laugh-filled, New York Times bestselling adventure from the author of the Big Nate series!” ~ Indie Bound

Dragons in a Bag by Zetta Elliot, 2019. “When nine-year-old Jaxon is left in the care of an eccentric old witch, he begins training as her new apprentice by leaving Brooklyn to return three dragons to a magical world.” ~ ALA Notable Children’s Books 2019

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech, 2018. “Perfect for fans of Charlotte’s Web and The One and Only Ivan, Saving Winslow is an uplifting modern classic in the making about a young boy who befriends an ailing newborn donkey and nurses him back to health...” ~ Harper Collins

Thirty Minutes over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot’s World War II Story. By Marc Tyler Nobleman, 2018. “This is the little-known story of a Japanese WWII pilot who unsuccessfully attempted to bomb the Oregon coast, and years later reconciled with Oregonians he had targeted.” ~ ALA Notable Children’s Books 2019

Favorites from Past Summers

Word of Mouse by James Patterson
“…a long tradition of clever mice who accomplish great things.”

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mallaly Hunt
“Fans of R.J. Palacio’s Wonder will appreciate this feel-good story of friendship and unconventional smarts.” — Kirkus Reviews

Secret Sisters of the Salty Seas by Lynne Rae Perkins
“Perkins’ charming black-and-white illustrations are matched by gentle, evocative language that sparkles like summer sunlight on the sea…The novel’s themes of family, friendship, growing up and trying new things are a perfect fit for Perkins’ middle grade audience.” — Book Page

Dash (Dogs of World War II) by Kirby Larson
“Historical fiction at its best.” — School Library Journal

The Penderwicks at Last by Jean Birdsall
“The finale you’ve all been waiting for…the final, flawless installment in the modern classic series…”

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold
“Comfortably familiar and quietly groundbreaking, this introduction to Bat should charm readers, who will likely look forward to more opportunities to explore life from Bat’s particular point of view.” — Kirkus Reviews

Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World by Susan Hood
“Each poem and illustration shines with a personality all its own.” — Shelf Awareness
Favorites from Past Summers
(all reviews quoted from Amazon)

**The Candy Smash by Jacqueline Davis**

“Jessie and Evan Treski have waged a lemonade war, sought justice in a class trial, and even unmasked a bell thief. Now they are at opposite ends over the right to keep secrets. Evan believes some things (such as his poetry) are private. Jessie believes scandal makes good news. When anonymously sent candy hearts appear in Class 4-O, self-appointed ace reporter Jessie determines to get the scoop on class crushes.”

![Image of The Candy Smash book cover]

**The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate**

“Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he’s seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it’s up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.”

![Image of Ivan and Ruby]

**Who Could that Be at this Hour? By Lemony Snicket**

“Lemony Snicket began his apprenticeship in an organization nobody knows about. He started by asking questions that shouldn't have been on his mind. Now he has written an account that should not be published, in four volumes that shouldn't be read. This is the first volume.”

![Image of Who Could that Be at this Hour? book cover]
**Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made** by Stephan Pastis

“Take Timmy Failure — the clueless, comically self-confident CEO of the best detective agency in town, perhaps even the nation. Add his impressively lazy business partner, a very large polar bear named Total. Throw in the Failuremobile — Timmy’s mom’s Segway — and what you have is Total Failure, Inc., a global enterprise destined to make Timmy so rich his mother won’t have to stress out about the bills anymore.” (There are other books in this fun series.)

**Terrible Two** by Mac Barnett

“When you move to a new school, you get to decide who you want to be: front-row kid, kid with cool shoes, or smart kid. Miles Murphy has moved to a new town and a new school, but he doesn’t want to reinvent himself. He wants to be who he has always been; a prankster. The problem is, that role has already been taken by a troublemaker who is even better than Miles, Niles Sparks, masquerading as a do-gooder. Niles respects Miles’ skills and suggests they join forces as The Terrible Two.”

**Hit & Miss** by Derek Jeter

“Like his first foray into middle grade sports fiction, *The Contract*, Jeter presents a fictionalized story from his own childhood. Each title in the series is based on the principles of Jeter’s Turn 2 Foundation. *Hit & Miss* revolves around the maxim ‘Think Before You Act.’ Though the moralizing can veer a bit close to didactic, the sharp baseball action keeps the plot moving. This series will have no trouble finding an appreciative audience.”
NARRATIVE NONFICTION/PICTURE BOOK BIOGRAPHIES

Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson’s Super Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark

Ordinary, Extraordinary Jane Austen by Deborah Hopkinson

Joan Proctor, Dragon Doctor by Patricia Valdez

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin by Julia Finley Mosca

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus by Jen Bryant

Dumpling Dreams: How Joyce Chen Brought the Dumpling from Beijing to Cambridge by Carrie Clickard

The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibb, the First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon by Frances Poletti

Schomburg - The Man Who Built a Library by Carol Boston Weatherford

Vincent Can’t Sleep: Van Gogh Paints the Night Sky by Barb Rosenstock
Tony Abbott  THE SECRETS OF DROON series
- Very popular and accessible series for boys and girls. Watch for #32, The Treasure of the Orkins. The coming to bookstores in June!

Holly Black/Tony DiTerlizzi  THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES series
- This series has three siblings as the main characters, a bit like the Series of Unfortunate Events. It’s not hard to read, and it’s very suspenseful!
  1. The Field Guide
  2. The Seeing Stone
  3. Lucinda’s Secret
  4. The Ironwood Tree
  5. The Wrath of Mulgarth
- NEW! “Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles”
  1. The Nixie’s Song

Michael Buckley  THE SISTERS GRIMM series
- NEW! Magic and Other Misdemeanors

Georgie Byng  MOLLY MOON series
- Molly is a down and out orphan who hypnotizes her way to adventure.

Bruce Coville  THE MAGIC SHOP series
- These are little gems. They are not too long and not too hard to read, although they do make great read-alouds.
  The Monster’s Ring  Jennifer Murdley’s Toad
  The Skull of Truth  Juliet Dove, Queen of Love
  Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher

Stacia Deutch/Rhody Cohan  Blast to the Past series
- This series combines fantasy (time travel) with historical fiction, as children travel back to different periods in history. It is very accessible for all levels of readers.

Cornelia Funke  Dragon Rider
- This is another wonderful fantasy by the author of Inkspell and Inkheart.
  It is an easier book for children to read independently. All three are terrific.

Dan Gutman  BASEBALL CARD ADVENTURE series
- Abner and Me
- Shoeless Joe and Me
- Honus and Me
Ursula LeGuin  CATWINGS series
  • Wonderful stories of four cats with wings!
    Catwings
    Catwings Return
    Wonderful Alexander and the Catwing
    Jane on Her Own

Kate McMullen  THE DRAGONSLAYERS’ ACADEMY series
  • These books are easy, humorous spoofs of the Arthurian legend.

Jenny Nimmo  THE CHARLIE BONE series

Kenneth Oppel  Silverwing
  Sunwing
  Firewing

Ellen Potter  Olivia Kidney
  Olivia Kidney and the Exit Academy
  Olivia Kidney Stops for No One
  These stories have been compared to Alice in Wonderland.

Emily Rodda  DELTORA QUEST series
  There are monsters and magic in this series, as well as lots of action and the powerful conflict between good and evil.

Jon Scieszka  THE TIME WARP TRIO series
  • Guys love these goofy books, where kids have funny adventures when they go back in time. They are easy and absorbing summer reads. Start with the first in the series, Knights of the Kitchen Table, and you’ll be hooked. There are quite a few of these—at least 12.

Somper, Justin  VAMPIRATES series
  • Blood Captain
  • Tide of Terror
  • Demons of the Ocean
  (Lots of action—recommended for ages 9—12.)

Stanton, Mary  UNICORNS OF BALINOR series
  • Join the princess and her magical unicorn in their adventure as they battle the dark forces to reclaim Balinor. Recommend ages 8—12.

And finally . . . Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick (the author of The Invention of Hugo Cabret)
CLASSIC LITERATURE

Aesop  
*Unwitting Wisdom: An Anthology of Aesop’s Fables*  
Illustrated by Helen Ward

Mary Pope Osborne  
**TALES FROM THE ODYSSEY series**
- These stories are from *The Odyssey*, beautifully adapted for children.
  1. *The One-Eyed Giant*
  2. *The Land of the Dead*
  3. *Sirens and Sea Monsters*
  4. *The Gray-Eyed Goddess*
  5. *Return to Ithaca*
  6. *The Final Battle*

Remember: The very popular Percy Jackson series, by Rick Riordan, is based on Greek mythology. Having some knowledge of the Greek myths will help children enjoy Percy Jackson’s adventures even more!

Children’s classics:

(These are available in libraries as well as book stores!)

Judy Blume  
*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*  
*Superfudge!*  
*Fudge-A-Mania*  
*Double Fudge*

Norton Juster  
*The Phantom Tollbooth*

Louise Fitzhugh  
*Harriet the Spy*  
(from *Harriet the Spy*

C.S. Lewis  
*The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- Share the original version as a read-aloud, or try the new version, abridged and simplified for young readers

Astrid Lindgren  
*Pippi Longstocking*  
(New edition with great illustrations!)

Noel Streatfeild  
*Ballet Shoes*  
*Dancing Shoes*  
*Theater Shoes*
- Meg Ryan mentions these in the movie “You’ve Got Mail.”


**Nutmeg Award Books**

There are two levels that apply to children entering 4th grade:

Elementary Award: Grades 2-4 (15 nominees each year)
Intermediate Award: Grades 4-6 (10 nominees each year)

Both categories have books at a variety of reading (and maturity) levels. Books should be selected with the reader in mind!

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**2017 Nutmeg Intermediate Award Winners**

[www.nutmegaward.org](http://www.nutmegaward.org)

Elementary: *Hilo, the Boy Who Crashed to Earth* by Judd Winnick

Intermediate: *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson

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**2018 Nutmeg Intermediate Award Winners**


Elementary: *Finding Winnie* by Lindsay Mattick

Intermediate: *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
2019 Nutmeg Intermediate Award Winners

http://www.nutmegaward.org/

Elementary: *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey

Intermediate: *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova
2020 Nutmeg Book Award Nominees (Elementary)

**Alfie: (The Turtle That Disappeared)** by Thrya Heder

Hedra has lost interest in her pet turtle, Alfie, until he goes missing on her 7th birthday. Readers then get to follow Alfie on a long journey and find out what he is really up to. When the two are reunited, there are a few surprises in store.

**Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic** by Mara Rockliff

The show must go on! Read the true story of Adelaide Herrmann, one of the first female magicians who shot out of a cannon, managed a magic show, and more. Let the fearless tale of the Queen of Magic shock and dazzle you!

**Bolivar** by Sean Rubin

Syli’s eight-foot tall neighbor with tiny arms and a long tail looks an awful lot like a dinosaur to her. Will any of the busy New Yorkers around her notice?

**Book Uncle and Me** by Uma Krishnaswami

Nine-year-old Yasmin loves to read and Book Uncle, who runs a free lending library, offers her something new each day. When the mayor tries to shut Book Uncle down, can the community come together to save him?

**A Boy Called Bat** by Elana K. Arnold

Baby Alexander, a failure in his name, struggles to make friends, get along with his sister, and make sense of his recently divorced parents with whom he splits his time living. When his mom, a veterinarian, brings home an orphaned newborn skunk, Bat’s world becomes caring for the baby and proving the wild animal would make a good pet.

**The Dinosaur Expert** by Margaret McNamara

When you’re an aspiring paleontologist, what could be better than a field trip to the natural history museum? Kenny is excited to share his knowledge with his classmates until she is told, “Girls aren’t scientists.” With the help of her teacher, Kenny learns an important lesson about herself and about opportunities for women in science.

**Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems / Aleteo Y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales** by Julie Paithkins

Woven in both English and Spanish, this collection of poems accompanied by watercolor paintings describes various animals in their habitats.

**Her Right Foot** by Dave Eggers

Everyday she stands watch in New York Harbor, holding a light that stands for hope, welcome and refuge. But has anyone really stopped to look at her feet?

**If Sharks Disappeared** by Lily Williams

Sharks are the top predators of the ocean, yet are in great danger. What would happen if these ocean hunters were gone?

**Let the Children March** by Monica Clark-Robinson

Children’s voices can change the world! Join thousands of African American children as they courageously march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to protest against racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. Despite many hardships, they learn that their voices and their actions are powerful tools for social change. Inspired by the events surrounding the Children’s Crusade of 1963.

**Lola Levine is not Mean!** by Monica Brown

Lola Levine is writing in her diary, singing her mom’s salsa con lima, eating her dad’s matzo ball soup, and playing soccer with her team, the Orange Smoothies. Get to know this seven-year-old aspiring writer’s family, friends, ups, and downs.

**Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere** by Barb Rosenstock

In 1930, Otis Barton and Will Beebe were determined to be the first pioneers to dive deep in the ocean and catch a glimpse of the unexplored life and landscape. This is the detailed story of the intense preparations, the trials and errors, and the precise calculations and engineering they made as they planned their dangerous mission that could prove deadly if they made mistakes.

**Robins!: How They Grow Up** by Eileen Christelow

A “cheerily cheery” account of little brown facts about our favorite springtime visitors! Follow a robin’s life from that tiny blue egg to an adult on the hunt for worms.

**The Story of Diva and Flea** by Mo Willems

Diva is an arias diva, Diva is a top dog. When their worlds collide in a courtship in Paris their lives are changed forever. Come along on a tale of unexpected adventure and friendship.

**Trombone Shorty** by Troy Andrews

Troy Andrews’ passion for music and practice, practice, practice propelled him from New Orleans to worldwide fame. In this autobiography, Trombone Shorty shares how his hometown influenced him and inspired him to mix different styles to create his own “musical gumbo.”
2020 Nutmeg Book Award Nominees (Intermediate)

2020 Nutmeg Book Award
Intermediate Nominees—Grades 4-6

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor
Perry T. Cook is being raised in a minimum security prison with his mother. When a new district attorney is appointed Perry is forced to live outside for the first time. Perry soon discovers that home is where you are loved, even if it is behind bars.

Ban This Book by Alan Gratz
When Amy Anne discovers her favorite book is missing from her elementary school library because a parent thought it was inappropriate, she fights back by starting an illegal locker library, which turns into a battle over book banning and censorship in her school.

The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding by Alexandra Bracken
From an extraordinary, popular, and powerful family, Prosper Redding is woefully ordinary—until he discovers that a demon coexists inside him and reveals that the Redding family's wealth and influence is due to a contract with this demon.

Estranged by Ethan M. Aldridge
Two babies were switched at birth. Now Childe and his fake double Edmund live in a world where they don't belong. When the fake underworld is taken over by evil sorcerers, Childe and Edmund must go on a quest to restore balance. But in which world will they end up?

Fuzzy by Tom Angleberger & Paul Dellinger
Understanding middle school is hard for humans but for robot, Fuzzy, it's impossible! Vice Principal Barbara is determined to weed out all students who don't measure up and Fuzzy is her number one target. Can Maxine help Fuzzy survive VP Barbara when he can barely navigate the hallways?

Greetings from Witness Protection! by Jake Burt
An expert pickpocket and orphan in foster care, Nicki Demere is placed with a family hiding in Witness Protection where she must learn to fit in as a daughter and sister while protecting her new family.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste
Corinne LaMer is smart, fast, and fearless. It's no surprise she entered the nearby forest to retrieve a cherished item, despite warnings never to enter. Soon a stranger appears in her loving and close knit community, changing her life forever.

Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks
Ravi has only just moved to America from India. Joe has been here his whole life. They are two outcasts who don't agree on anything, until they're shoved together by the universe (and their teacher), and continue to...not get along. Will they ever overcome their differences?

Unbound: A Novel in Verse by Ann E. Burg
Grace is called from the slave cabins to the big house to work for the Master. Grace's Mamma warned her to keep her questions to herself. When Grace is unable to take the injustice, she is forced to run away to the safety of the Great Dismal Swamp.

The Van Gogh Deception by Deron R. Hicks
A boy named "Art" is found with amnesia in the National Gallery in Washington D.C. With help from his friend Camille, Art seeks to solve two mysteries at the same time - who he is and why somebody doesn't want him to remember.
Note to parents:
Eight and nine year olds still enjoy being read to, so please do not stop!
Here is Jim Trelease’s website with information about reading aloud:
http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/

Many suggestions for read-alouds are in The Read-Aloud Handbook, by Jim Trelease.

A wonderful read for parents about reading aloud:
The Reading Promise-My Father and the Books We Shared by Alice Ozma, 2012

“When Alice Ozma was in 4th grade, she and her father decided to see if he could read aloud to her for 100 consecutive nights. On the hundredth night, they shared pancakes to celebrate, but it soon became evident that neither wanted to let go of their storytelling ritual. So they decided to continue what they called ‘The Streak.’ Alice’s father read aloud to her every night without fail until the day she left for college.”—Amazon

Finally, for some information about reading levels for most children finishing third grade, see the following pages.
When your child is reading at an M/N level:

**Characteristics of Level M/N books:**
- Books are lengthy, often chapter books
- Smaller print
- Sophisticated vocabulary
- Child must use what they already know to understand/interpret more abstract concepts
- Story plot is complex

**Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:**
- Uses decoding strategies and background knowledge to decode unknown words
- Reading in a fluent manner, as if talking, over longer stretches of text
- Reading silently
- Able to remember plots and characters over several days
- Demonstrates ability to understand/interpret different characters or plots
- Able to search for and find information in texts

**Here are some examples of M/N level books:**
- *The Teacher From the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler
- *Magic Tree House* books by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
- *Judy Moody Around the World in 8 ½ Days* by Megan McDonald
- *Junie B. Jones* books by Barbara Park
- *Jigsaw Jones* books by James Preller
- *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown

(These titles are provided to be used as a point of reference when picking out books at this level.)

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**Our current thinking about levels:** The leveling system was intended for teachers to use to guide *their* instruction. It isn’t a number or letter to compare one student to another, and it should never be a label used to define your child’s reading identity. The leveling system is not an exact science. Levels are about a set of book characteristics and a text’s complexity. Levels can never capture the unique experiences and abilities that each reader brings to a book. Refer to levels for guidance, but also, please consider your child’s interests, background knowledge, and motivation when selecting books for pleasure.
When your child is reading at an O/P level:

**Characteristics of Level O/P books:**
- Books are lengthy, often chapter books
- Smaller print, less pictures to support text
- Sophisticated vocabulary
- Child must use what they already know to understand/interpret more abstract concepts
- Story plot is complex

**Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:**
- Uses decoding strategies and background knowledge to decode unknown words
- Reading in a fluent manner, as if talking, over longer stretches of text
- Reading silently
- Able to remember plots and characters over several days
- Demonstrates ability to understand/interpret different characters or plots
- Able to search for and find information in texts

**Some examples of O/P level books:**
- *Socks* by Beverly Cleary
- *Captain Underpants* by Dave Pilkey
- *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary
- *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* by Betsy MacDonald
- *Encyclopedia Brown* books by Donald J. Sobol
- *Babysitter’s Club* books by Ann Martin
- *Boxcar Children* books by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *The Haunting of Grade Three* by Grace Maccarone
- *Pony Pals* books by Jeanne Betancourt
- *Ramona Books* by Beverly Cleary

These titles provide a point of reference when choosing books at this level.
When your child is reading at a Q level:

**Characteristics of Level Q books:**
- Lengthier and more complex texts
- Smaller print
- Sophisticated vocabulary and figurative language
- More abstract concepts
- Texts may have multiple meanings
- Diaries and logs are often the format at this level

**Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:**
- Uses decoding strategies and background knowledge to decode unknown words
- Holding on to meaning over longer stretches of text
- Reading silently
- Able to remember plots and characters over several days
- Understand figurative language and more complex vocabulary
- Able to search for and find information in texts

**Some examples of Q level books:**
- *Addy Saves the Day* (American Girl Collection)
- *Amazing But True Sports Stories* by Phyllis and Zander Hollander
- *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary
- *Fourth Grade Celebrity* by Patricia Reilly Giff
- *If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War* by Kazy Moore
- *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing and Superfudge* by Judy Blume

These titles provide a point of reference when choosing books at this level.