

GSB summer reading suggestions for children entering fourth grade 2009

We hope that you will spend many pleasant hours this summer lost in a book. Use this list to give you ideas of what you might enjoy reading, but feel free to read books that are not on the list as well. Many of these authors have written other titles which you may also enjoy. Please keep a record of what you have read on the enclosed reading log. We are looking forward to seeing it and you in September.

Fiction

Alcock, Vivien. **The Cuckoo Sister.** A scruffy, undernourished teenager appears at the door of Kate's parents' London home bearing a note that says she is their long-lost child, stolen from her pram as a baby.

Armstrong, Alan. **Whittington.** Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.

Armstrong, Jennifer. **Black-eyed Susan.** Susie and her father love living on the South Dakota prairie with its vast, uninterrupted view of land and sky, but Susie's mother greatly misses her old life in Ohio.

Steal Away. Susannah, an orphan, and Bethlehem, a slave, are runaways. They are traveling from Virginia to Vermont in hope of a new life of freedom.

Avi. **Crispin: Cross of Lead.** Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Ayres, Katherine. **Stealing South: A Story of the Underground Railroad.** Sixteen-year-old Will Spencer leaves home to become a peddler, but gets more than he bargained for when he agrees to go to Kentucky, steal two slaves, and help them reach their brother in Canada.

Banks, Lynne Reid. **The Fairy Rebel.** A rebellious fairy named Tiki, already in trouble for breaking the rule against wearing jeans, risks the further wrath of the Fairy Queen by trying to fulfill a human's special request for help.

Baskin, Nora. **What Every Girl (Except Me) Knows.** Twelve-year-old Gabby feels that she needs a mother to help her grow into a woman, so when things between her father and his latest girlfriend do not work out, Gabby set off for the last place she remembers seeing her own mother.

Bauer, Marion Dane. **Runt.** Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father King and the rest of the pack and to earn a new name.

Bellairs, John. **Figure in the Shadows.** Sequel to **The House with a Clock in its Walls.** A painfully overweight sixth-grade boy receives a magic amulet which

brings him luck, but also terrifying side effects.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks.** While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Brink, Carol Ryrie. **Baby Island.** Mary and Jean Wallace survive the wreck of an ocean liner on its way to Australia and manage to make it to a seemingly deserted island in a lifeboat with four babies.

Byars, Betsy Cromer. **Wanted .. Mud Blossom.** Convinced that Mud is responsible for the disappearance of the school hamster that was his responsibility for the weekend, Junior Blossom is determined that the dog should be tried for his "crime."

Byng, Georgia. **Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism.** Living in a bleak orphanage in England, young Molly discovers she has a talent for hypnotism. Her newfound skill leads to fame and fortune in New York City. Though long, this fantasy novel is entertaining and contains humor, larger-than-life characters, and scenes of suspense.

Christopher, Matt. Many sports related stories with well developed characters.

Cleary, Beverly. **Strider.** In a series of diary entrees, Leigh tells how he comes to terms with his family's divorce, acquires joint custody of an abandoned dog, and joins the track team at school.

Clements, Andrew. **The Janitor's Boy.** Fifth grader Jack finds himself the target of ridicule at school when it becomes known that his father is one of the janitors, and he turns his anger onto his father.

The Landry News. A fifth grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary actions as a result.

Colfer, Eoin. **Half Moon Investigations.** Twelve-year-old Fletcher Moon, the youngest qualified private detective in the world, receives a diploma and gold-plated detective's shield after completing an Internet course, and sets out to solve petty crimes at school, but he forced to go on the run when, while investigating the town's biggest crime family, his badge is stolen and he is framed for several crimes he did not commit.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy.** Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father - the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Dahl, Roald. **The Enormous Crocodile.** The enormous crocodile devises secret plans and a few clever tricks to secure his lunch only to have them foiled by his neighbors.

Esio Trot. Shy Mr. Hoppy devises a plan to win the heart of his true love by teaching her a spell to make her tortoise grow bigger.

Danziger, Paula. **Snail Mail No More.** A sequel to **P. S. Longer Letter Later**, Elizabeth and Tara still share long distance adventures.

DiCamillo, Kate

Because of Winn-Dixie. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Eager, Edward. **Magic or Not.** When the family moves to Connecticut, twins James and Laura make new friends and begin a series of unusual adventures after discovering an old well that seems to be magic in their backyard.

Seven Day Magic. A seven-day book of magic proves to be fractious for five children, who must learn the book's rules and tame its magic.

Fleischman, Sid. **The Whipping Boy.** A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Loses Control.** Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

Gutman, Dan. **Honus and Me.** Joe, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus.

Henry, Marguerite. **Misty of Chincoteague.** The determination of two youngsters to win a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

Ibbotson, Eva. **Secret of Platform 13.** A forgotten door on an abandoned railway is the entrance to a magical island where humans live in happy harmony with all sorts of wonderful creatures. The island is only accessible when the door opens for nine days every nine years. When the beastly Mrs. Trottle kidnaps the prince of the island, it's up to a strange band of rescuers to save him.

- Which Witch.** When Arriman the Awful announces a contest to choose his bride every witch in town is aflutter. The meanest, most powerful witch will wed the wizard. But little Belladonna is dismayed, because as hard as she tries, her spells, conjure up begonias and baby birds, and not a single viper or bloodshot eyeball. She just has to do something seriously sinister in time for the contest.
- Korman, Gordon. **No More Dead Dogs.** Eighth-grade football hero, Wallace Wallace, is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life.
- Levine, Gail Carson. **Ella Enchanted.** In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.
The Wish. Wilma, granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, forgets that she will graduate from eighth grade in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.
- Lindgrin, Astrid. **Pippi Longstocking.** Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey, but without any parents, at the edge of a Swedish village.
- Lowry, Lois. **Anastasia Absolutely.** Anastasia finds herself in another hilarious and embarrassing mess when she accidentally puts her dog's droppings into a mailbox.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh.** Marty finds a lost beagle and tries to hide it from his family as well as the owner, who is known to be mean spirited and mistreat animals.
- Norton, Mary. **The Borrowers.** Adventures of a family of leprechaun-like creatures forced to flee their country house for the wild world.
- O'Brien, Robert C. **Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH.** Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.
- Paulsen, Gary. **Brian's Return.** After having survived alone in the wilderness, Brian finds that he can no longer live in the city but must return to the place where he really belongs.
- Polacco, Patricia. **The Butterfly.** During the Nazi occupation of France, Monique's mother hides a Jewish family in her basement and tries to help them escape to freedom.
- Rockwell, Thomas. **How to Eat Fried Worms.** Billy makes a bet with his friends that he can eat 15 worms in 15 days. Even with a free choice of condiments - from peanut butter to horseradish - Billy wonders if he can really do it.

Rodgers, Mary. **Freaky Friday.** A 13-year-old girl awakens one morning in her mother's body and spends a day seeing herself as others see her.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes.** The story follows the internment of a boy in a juvenile detention camp. Forced to dig holes by the warden to uncover a Wild West outlaw's hidden treasure, the boy ends up discovering his future and past as he unravels a generations-old family curse.

Scieszka, Jon. **The Good, the Bad, and the Goofy.** Time travelers Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves in the rowdy Wild West of, meeting cowboys and friendly Indian chiefs.

Knights of the Kitchen Table. One minute they're looking at pictures of knights in the book, a birthday gift from Joe's magician uncle, the next minute they're battling fire-breathing dragons. Will Joe, Fred, and Sam escape death?

Smith, Robert Kimmel. **Bobby Baseball.** Ten-year old Bobby is passionate about baseball and convinced that he is a great player. The only problem is to get a chance to prove his skill, especially to his father.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac Magee.** After his parents die, Jeffrey Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Townley, Roderick. **The Great Good Thing.** Twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie's storybook kingdom really is a storybook, where nothing ever changes, even the characters' mad scramble to reach their places whenever the book is opened, until Sylvie discovers she can enter new worlds with the Reader and find new adventures.

Waugh, Sylvia. **The Mennymys.** The Mennymys - mother, father, grandparents, and five children - live at Number 5 Brocklehurst Grove. There's a secret at Number 5, and it isn't Miss Quigley lurking in the cupboard or the mystery of Pilbeam in the attic. There is a startling deception that, if exposed, would threaten the family's very existence.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. **Farmer Boy.** Nine-year-old Almanzo lives with his family on a big farm in New York State at the end of the nineteenth century. He raises his own two calves, helps cut ice and shear sheep, and longs for the day he can have his own colt.

The Long Winter. After an October blizzard, Laura's family moves from the clam shanty into town for the winter, a winter that an Indian has predicted will bring seven months of bad weather.

Non-fiction, biography, poetry

Bryan, Mike & Ripken, Cal, Jr. **Cal Ripken, Jr. My Story.** Tells, in his own words, the story of the personal life and career of the star player for the Baltimore Orioles.

Collard, Sneed. **Teeth.** Offers detailed information about how people and various species of animals use their teeth.

Forten, Charlotte, L. **A Free Black Girl Before The Civil War: The Diary of Charlotte Forten, 1854.** The diary of a sixteen-year-old free African American who lived in Massachusetts in 1854, records her schooling, participation in the anti-slavery movement, and concern for an arrested fugitive slave.

Gherman, Beverly. **Norman Rockwell: Storyteller with a Brush.** Describes the life and work of the popular American artist who depicted both traditional and contemporary subjects, including children, family scenes, astronauts and presidents.

Goodall, Jane. **The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours.** Dr. Goodall's account of her life with the chimpanzees and serves as a story of achievement, a compelling call to action, and a message of hope to all.

Krull, Kathleen. **Houdini : world's greatest mystery man and escape king.** In a uniquely designed picture book biography, an exploration of the life and motivation of the renowned escape artist is periodically interspersed with depictions of his most famous stunts, narrated by a spirited impresario.

Kudlinski, Kathleen. **Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!** Information is presented which examines how different the facts often are from what scientists have believed to be true.

Parry-Jones, Jemina. **Eagle and Birds of Prey.** Describes the anatomy, hunting techniques, mating, nesting and eating habits of birds of prey.

Pringle, Laurence. **An Extraordinary Life: the Story of a Monarch Butterfly.** Introduces the life cycle, feeding habits, migration, predators and mating of the monarch butterfly through the observation of one particular monarch named Danaus.

Rau, Dana Meachen. **Black Holes.** Explains what black holes are, how they are formed, and how scientists study them, discussing such concepts as gravity and event horizons.

Rice, Melanie and Christopher. **Pompeii: The Day a City was Buried.** Describes the life and people of Pompeii, a city in southern Italy destroyed during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. **George vs George: the American Revolution as Seen From Both Sides.** Explores how the characters and lives of King George III of England and George Washington affected the progress and outcome of the American Revolution.

Severance, John B. **Einstein: Visionary Scientist.** This detailed and well-balanced biography identifies Einstein's complex theories and makes clear why his ideas are still the basis of work by today's top physicists.

Settel, Joanne. **Exploding Ants.** Describes examples of animal behavior that may strike humans as disgusting, including the "gross" ways animals find food, shelter and safety in the natural world.

Sidman, Joyce. **Song of the Water Boatman and other pond poems.** From a spring peeper's first call to a painted turtle's hibernation, these eleven poems celebrate the northern pond. An energetic black woodcut line bathed in subtly modulated watercolor evokes the pond's species. Sidebars add intriguing facts.

Stanley, Jerry. **Hurry Freedom.** Recounts history of African Americans in California during the gold rush while focusing on the life and work of Mifflin Gibbs.

Sullivan, George. **Quarterbacks!** Profiles some of the top-rated quarterbacks of all time, including Sammy Baugh, Bart Starr, Fran Tarkenton, Dan Marino, Steve Young and Troy Aikman.

Tanaka, Shelley. **Secrets of the Mummies.** Describes the ancient Egyptian practice of preserving the dead through the process of mummification and explains what scientists have learned from unwrapping and examining mummies.

Urbigkit, Cat. **Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs: How They Guard Sheep.** Guardian dogs are trained to guard farm animals and protect them from outside dangers.

The following books were read in Grade 3. New students may enjoy selecting several for summer reading.

MacLachlan, Patricia **Sarah, Plain and Tall**
Miles, Miska **Annie and the Old One**
Stoutenburg, Adrien **American Tall Tales**
White, E.B. **Charlotte's Web**

Please avoid reading any of the following titles as they may be used for instructional purposes in fourth grade:

Babbitt, Natalie **Search for Delicious**
Bishop, Claire **Twenty and Ten**
Butterworth, Oliver **The Enormous Egg**
Dahl, Roald **Matilda**
Dahl, Roald **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**
Fitzgerald, John **The Great Brain**
Gardiner, John **Stone Fox**
Gregory, Kristiana **The Legend of Jimmy Spoon**
Lord, Bette Bao **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson**
Lowry, Lois **Number the Stars**
Selden, George **Cricket in Times Square**
White, E.B. **Trumpet of the Swan**