

Summer Reading List for Rising Fourth Graders

Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer* 770L

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Bridsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy* 800L

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

Butler, Amy. *Virginia Bound* 700L

Thirteen-year-old orphaned beggar Rob Brackett is kidnapped from the streets of London and taken to the New World for a cruel tobacco farmer master, who also owns a Pamunkey Native American girl named Mattoume.

Byars, Betsy. *The SOS File* 600L

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.

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda* 840L

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War* 630L

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand. Winner of the 2009-2010 Virginia Readers' Choice Award.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Phineas L. MacGuire-- Erupts!* 810L

Fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning. Sequel: *Phineas L. MacGuire-- Gets Slimed!*

Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses* 870L

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

Fleming, Candace. *Lowji Discovers America* 510L

A nine-year-old East Indian boy tries to adjust to his new life in suburban America.

Funke, Cornelia. *Igraine the Brave* 900L

The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight; and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.

Gifford, Peggy. *Moxy Maxwell Does Not Like Stuart Little* 890L

With summer coming to an end, about-to-be-fourth-grader Moxy Maxwell does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Say What?* 740L

When their parents begin saying the wrong thing every time six-year-old Sukey and her older brothers misbehave, the children discover that it is a plot and fight back with their own wrong phrases. Virginia Readers' Choice Award 2005-2006.

Horvath, Polly. *The Pepins and their Problems* 920L

The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow who creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted* 670L

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.

Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho : Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* 600L

Alvin loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors. He wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. Sequel: *Alvin Ho --Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters*,

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Word After Word After Word*

A visiting author teaches five friends in fourth grade about the power of words and writing. Writing helps the children make sense of their lives. This is a beautiful story you will treasure.

Singer, Marilyn. *Mirror Mirror*

This clever collection of short poems provides new perspectives on the fairy tale characters they feature. Poems, called reversos, are read up and down and work equally well in both directions.

Singh, Vandana. *Younguncle Comes to Town* 920L

Set in India, this is a collection of hilarious stories about an eccentric young man who comes to live with his brother's family. Although each story can stand on its own, details from each will play in the final chapter making for a very clever ending.

St. George, Judith. *The Ghost, the White House and Me*. 800L

Shortly after their mother takes the office of president, KayKay Granger and her sister begin to suspect that Abraham Lincoln's ghost is haunting the White House and begin to investigate.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House in the Big Woods* 930L

A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions when they get together with relatives or neighbors. Series.

Wiles, Deborah. *Each Little Bird that Sings* 760L

Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events that begins on the first day of Easter vacation with the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto.

You may also read a biography about any of these famous people who helped to shape our nation.

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

Thomas Jefferson

Robert E. Lee

James Madison

George Mason

Pocahontas

John Smith

George Washington

Arthur Ashe

Harry F. Byrd, Sr.

Patrick Henry

Abraham Lincoln

Nat Turner

Maggie L. Walker

L. Douglas Wilder

Christopher Columbus

Ulysses S. Grant

Harriet Tubman

John Brown

James Armistead Lafayette

Lexile Levels

To help in choosing books that can promote reading growth, this year each child's 2009 English SOL score will include a Lexile Level. The Lexile Level is based on a student's SOL score on the English portion of the SOL and approximates his/her reading level. This means a child should be able to read and understand books in a Lexile range of approximately 100 points below to 50 points above the designated score. Knowing a child's Lexile range can help to locate books that he/she might enjoy reading. Student interest and motivation for reading books that are age appropriate are critical factors to consider as book choices are made. Remember that nothing replaces conversation with the student, his teachers, and librarians in making great choices. It is important to note that the Lexile measure does not address the content or quality of the book. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile measure is a good starting point in the book-selection process, but parents should always consider these other factors when making a decision about which book to choose.

SUMMER BOOK PROJECT

BOOK JACKET DESIGN

FOURTH GRADE

1. Take a look at the book jacket on a book. You will see that it has two flaps on the ends.
2. Get a sheet of paper about the same size (8 1/2 x11). Fold it to make flaps on each end.
3. Draw an illustration on the front of the jacket. Print the title and the author's name.
4. On the flaps, tell some of the interesting things in the book. Do not give the whole story away, though.
5. Write your name on the bottom of the back flap.

