

# Books for Summer Reading

**READ everything.**

**READ anything.**

**READ to enjoy.**

**READ to learn.**

**READ to learn how to write.**

**Dear Parents,**

**Welcome to Summer Reading! Research shows that summer setback in reading skills occur when students fail to read over the three month summer vacation. Students can begin school in the fall three months BEHIND where they were when they left school in June, if they do not read.**

**In contrast, students who complete a summer reading program can gain skills and start the next school year ahead of where they were when summer began. The evidence suggests that reading 4 or 5 books largely eliminates summer setback. There exists a powerful relationship between the volume of reading and achievement in reading. (Think sports and the need to practice the skills.) Children whose reading development lags behind their peers engage in far less reading than their higher achieving peers.**

**Research also shows that student choice in reading results in greater motivation enhancing academic engagement and reading achievement. This summer 4th and 5th graders should read at least 2-3 intermediate novels and non-fiction selections as well. Attached are two book observations, one for a fiction novel and one a non-fiction book. Students should complete both based on the books they choose to read. These are due the first week of school. Some suggested books are listed below. This is NOT an inclusive list and students should self-select the books they want to read. Have a happy, safe, and well read summer!**

**Best,**

**Mrs. Holly Oszakiewski, Reading Specialist**

**ASSIGNMENT : Hello 4th and 5th graders. Here is your challenge.**

**Read as many books as you can.**

**Keep a reading log in a notebook.**

**Include Title, Author. Why did you like it? Jot down a few sentences about the book and why you thought it was a good one.**

**Then choose one fiction novel and one nonfiction selection to complete the attached book observations.**

**Remember to choose books that interest you. Have fun reading!**

**Check out the reading programs at your local library.**

(in case you need few suggestions)

**1. *Flora and Ulysses* - Kate DiCamillo**

If you enjoyed the Humphrey series, you will love this book.

Get ready to laugh! “Holy Bagumba!” Read the book!

**2. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* - Meg Medina**

Winner of the 2019 Newberry Medal, this realistic fiction book tells the story of middle school adventures and challenges.

**3. *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing* - Shelia Turnage**

A mystery that is a sequel to *Three Times Lucky*, a Newberry Honor winner.

**4. *The Losers Club* - Andrew Clements**

Would you join? Maybe you just might.

**5. *New Kid* - Jerry Craft**

Middle School is hard enough, but what if you are the new kid?

**6. *Don't Check Out This Book*-Kate Klise**

Is the town of Appleton ready for a scandal?

**7. *My Life as a Potato* - Arianne Costner**

“Life as a Potato is all about not getting mashed.”

**8. *Love that Dog/Hate that Cat* - both written by Sharon Creech.**

Both novels in verse? You will laugh and you might cry, but you will love them!

**9. *nine, ten* - Nora Baskin**

Read about the impact of Sept 11 on the lives of three middle-schoolers.

**10. *The Friendship War* - Andrew Clements**

Fads at school? Really?

**11. *Song for a Whale* - Lynne Kelly**

Would you go on a cruise looking for a whale with your grandma and NOT tell your parents?

**12. *Class Act* - Jerry Craft**

Companion book to *New Kid*, this graphic novel continues the story of the kids at Riverdale Academy.

**13. *I Survived Series* - Lauren Tarshis**

Interested in history? Take a dive into some of the world’s most important events, from shark attacks to erupting volcanoes to revolutions and more.

**14. *The Lightning Thief : Percy Jackson and the Olympians* - Rick Riordan**

If you like fantasy, this might be the book for you. Mythical creatures and lots of adventure in this book, the first in a series of five.

**15. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* - Chris Grabenstein**

First in a series, you can solve puzzles alongside the characters as you read.

**16. *The 39 Clues Series*-Various authors**

Your family is one of the most powerful in history. Your power is hidden around the world in the form of 39 clues. Will you or your family's enemies find them first?

**17. *The Last Kids on Earth* series - Max Brallier**

From Zombies to forbidden fortresses, the Last Kids will take you on some wild adventures with lots of thrills and lots of laughs.

**18. *The Magic Misfits* series - Neil Patrick Harris**

The sleepy New England town of Mineral Wells is in danger from B.B.Bosso and his crew in the first of four books. This villain and his crew will steal anything and everything. Can they be stopped? Six friends will try their very best.

**19. *The Unteachables* - Gordon Korman**

A group of notorious students and a teacher with a bad attitude try to survive the academic year. The school superintendent has a plan to make them all fail. Will they?

**20. *Graphic novels* — various authors**

Enjoy both fiction and nonfiction. Appreciate the illustrations. You might be inspired to draw your own.

**Book Observation  
Fiction**

**Title**

**Author, Copyright**

**Complete the following:**

**a. Setting (s)**

**b. Characters/short descriptions/traits**

**c. Conflict(s) (problem in the story)**

**(For incoming 5th graders-identify type of conflict)**

**d. Resolution(s) (how was the problem solved)**

**Short essay. Choose ONE to complete.**

- Identify one of the problems in the story. Explain how the problem was solved. Use details from the novel.**
- How does the character in the novel change. What happens to make this change? Use quotes from the character (if you can).**

## **Book Observation**

### **Non- Fiction**

**Title**

**Author/Copyright**

**Topic**

**New Words I learned more about/Definitions (3 minimum)**

**Write a few sentences about what you already knew about this topic. If the topic is completely new to you, skip this question.**

**Write a short paragraph about what you learned. Did anything surprise you? Did the information confirm what you already knew? Will you continue to read more about this topic? Explain.**