

## FANTASY, MYSTERY, AND POETRY (continued)

- Liz Kessler. *The Tail of Emily Windsnap*. After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.
- Gail Carson Levine. *Ella Enchanted*. Based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order.
- J. Patrick Lewis. *Wing Nuts: Screwly Haiku*. Covers a wide range of subjects, including baby-sitters, jumping rope, snoring parents, and spoiled pets.
- Kristin Wolden Nitz. *Saving the Griffin*. When Kate and her brother Michael encounter a baby griffin in an Italian garden, they vow to help the creature find its way back home and to keep Grifo's existence a secret.
- Brian Selznick. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. An orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931 has his life changed by a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter.
- Nancy Springer. *Rowan Hood: Outlaw Girl of Sherwood Forest*. In her quest to connect with Robin Hood, the father she has never met, Rosemary disguises herself as a boy.
- Vivian Vande Velde. *Smart Dog*. Amy finds her life growing complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent, talking dog who has escaped from a university lab.
- *Opening Days: Sports Poems*. A collection of poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, focusing on a variety of athletic endeavors.
- Jules Verne. *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. While exploring marine disturbances, a group of explorers is captured by Captain Nemo.
- Ian Whybrow. *The Unvisibles*. After 12-year-old Oliver recites an ancient Indian magical spell and becomes invisible, he enlists the aid of his classmate, Nicky, to help him undo the damage.

## TRUE LIFE ADVENTURES

- Loree Griffin Burns. *Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam and the Science of Ocean Motion*. Describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents.
- James Giblin. *Secrets of the Sphinx*. Discusses some of Egypt's most famous artifacts and monuments.
- Charlotte Foltz Jones. *Accidents May Happen*. Describes accidents that had fortuitous outcomes such as ice cream sodas, the yo-yo, cellophane, liquid paper, and dynamite.
- Peg Kehret. *Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays*. Tells the stories of eight stray dogs that were adopted from animal shelters and went on to become service dogs, actors, and heroes.
- Kathleen Krull. *Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)*. Home runs, touchdowns and world records take a back seat to information about what athletes liked to wear, eat, and drink.
- Sandra Markle. *Animal Heroes*. Contains true accounts of animals who have protected or rescued their owners from dangerous situations.
- Alice B. McGinty. *Darwin*. Contains the hopes, fears and private thoughts of Charles Darwin as he develops his idea of survival of the fittest.
- Mitali Perkins. *Rickshaw Girl*. In her Bangladesh village, Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to disguise herself as a boy.
- Alex Rodriguez. *Alex Rodriguez Hits a Grand Slam*. The superstar shortstop for the Seattle Mariners discusses how education, hard work, and doing the right thing helped him become a Major League All Star.

- Susan Goldman Rubin. *Andy Warhol: Pop Art Painter*. An illustrated biography discussing Andy Warhol's early life, his family, his school, and fame as a pop artist.
- Janet Schulman. *Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City*. Recounts the true story of a red-tailed hawk living in New York City who has become one of the city's most watched celebrities.
- David M. Schwartz. *G is for Google*. Explains the meaning of mathematical terms which begin with different letters of the alphabet.
- Uusma Schyffert. *The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon*. A biography of the astronaut Michael Collins who circled the moon in Apollo 11.
- Bailly Sharon. *Pass It On!: All about Notes, from Secret Codes and Special Inks to Fancy Folds and Dead Man's Drop*. Decode and enjoy this one.
- Siena Cerson Siegel. *To Dance: A Memoir*. Follows the career of a ballerina, detailing her dance school experiences, performances and personal life.

### Readings on the Web

#### **KidsLit: Books and More for Kids and Teens**

<http://kidslit.menashalibrary.org/>

- Updated and informative children's literature blog written by Tasha Saecker, director of the Menasha Public Library.

#### **Kids Read:**

[www.kidsreads.com](http://www.kidsreads.com)

- Reviews of new titles, interviews with the coolest authors, trivia games, and other special features on great books.



## Winchester Thurston School

# SUMMER READING Requirements and Recommendations



For students entering

**GRADE 4**

**2009- 2010**

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

## Required Reading for Fourth Graders

**These books must be read before school starts on August 27, 2009:**

**Riding Freedom - Pam Munoz Ryan**

**Dear Levi: Letters from the Overland Trail - Elvira Woodruff**

## Further Fun Reading for Fourth Graders

### THE HERE AND NOW

- Steve Atinsky. *Tyler on Prime Time*. While visiting his uncle, a writer on the most popular show on television, 12-year-old Tyler auditions for a part on the show..
- Kate Banks. *Lenny's Space*. Lenny gets in trouble and has no friends because he cannot control himself in school and his interests are not like those of his classmates, until he starts visiting a counselor and meets a boy his own age who has leukemia.
- Jeanne Birdsall. *The Penderwicks*. Four sisters are faced with the prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him.
- Fred Bowmen. *T.J.'s Secret Pitch*. In his determination to pitch for his neighborhood baseball team, T.J. adopts the unorthodox style of the legendary Rip Sewell.
- Andrew Clements. *The Landry News*. A fifth grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out teacher to enjoy teaching again.
- Roald Dahl. *Matilda*. Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull and to restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

- Jacqueline Davies. *The Lemonade War*. Evan and his younger sister, Jesse react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade; they battle it out through lemonade stands.
- Louise Fitzhugh. *Harriet the Spy*. Harriet seeks and records the worst and best about her friends.
- Jessie Haas. *Beware the Mare*. Gramps gets a good bargain on an apparently perfect mare for Lily. However, he suspects that there may be something wrong with her because the horse is named Beware.
- Polly Horvath. *Everything on a Waffle*. Primrose lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia and recounts her experiences and all she learns about human nature in the months after her parents are lost at sea.
- Katie Klise. *Trial by Jury (Journal)*. The story is told through journal entries, news clippings, and letters. Lily finds herself on the jury of a murder trial while conducting her own undercover investigation of the case.
- Lois Lowry. *Anastasia Krupnik*. Fourth-grader Anastasia experiences the rejection of a poem, fights acceptance of a baby sibling, has a crush, learns to understand her senile grandmother, and grows and matures.
- Wendy Mass. *11 Birthdays*. Peculiar things begin to happen as the birthday of Amanda and Leo begins to repeat itself over and over again.
- Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. *Shiloh*. Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home and tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner.
- Barbara O'Connor. *How to Steal a Dog*. Georgina persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward.
- Linda Sue Park. *Project Mulberry*. Julia and Patrick learn about silkworms and tolerance while working on a project for an after school club.

- Katherine Paterson. *The Bridge to Terabithia*. The life of a 10-year-old boy in rural Virginia is enriched when he befriends a newcomer.

### THE WAY WE WERE

- Dan Gutman. *Jim and Me*. Joe and his longtime enemy, Bobby Fuller, use a vintage baseball card to travel in time, hoping to stop Jim Thorpe from participating in the 1912 Olympics and losing his medals.
- Joanna Hurwitz. *Faraway Summer*. In the summer of 1910, Dassi, a poor Russian immigrant from the tenements of New York, spends two weeks with the Meade family on their Vermont farm.
- Kathleen Karr. *The Great Turkey Walk*. In 1860, a somewhat simple-minded boy attempts to herd one thousand turkeys from Missouri to Denver, Colorado, in hopes of selling them at a profit.
- Vaunda Nelson. *Mayfield Crossing*. Meg and her friends, confronted with racial discrimination, combat prejudice through a ball game.
- Mary Pope Osborne. *One-Eyed Giant*. A retelling of the battle between Odysseus and Cyclops in Homer's ancient epic.
- Gary Paulsen. *Mr. Tucket*. In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, Francis is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a trapper who teaches him how to survive.
- Mildred Taylor. *The Gold Cadillac*. An African American family takes off in its new car for a dangerous journey south in 1950.
- Sydney Taylor. *All-of-a-Kind Family*. Five Jewish girls grow up in New York's Lower East Side in a happy home atmosphere before World War I.

### FANTASY, MYSTERY, AND POETRY

- Mary Amato. *The Word Eater*. Lerner finds a worm that magically makes things disappear.

- Georgia Byng. *Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism*. Orphan Molly Moon discovers a hidden talent for hypnotism and hypnotizes her way to stardom in New York City.
- Sally Pomme Clayton. *Persephone*. An illustrated retelling of the story of the Greek goddess Persephone.
- Cynthia DeFelice. *The Ghost of Fossil Glen*. Allie knows it's not her imagination when she hears a voice and sees in her mind's eye the face of girl who seems to be seeking Allie's help.
- Ann Downer. *Hatching Magic*. When a 13th century wizard confronts 21st century Boston while seeking his pet dragon, he is followed by a rival wizard and a very unhappy demon.
- Salamandra Drake. *Dragonsdale*. Cara loves taking care of the dragons in her father's stable even though she has been forbidden to ride since the accident that caused her mother's death.
- Edward Eager. *Half Magic*. Jane finds a magic charm that grants half of any wish.
- Douglas Florian. *Bing Bang Boing*. Drawings and poems explore the comic potential in each combination of words.
- Bruce Hale. *The Mystery of Mr. Nice*. When the principal of his school begins acting nice to him, Chet Gecko realizes that he is an imposter.
- Luli Gray. *Falcon's Egg*. Falcon discovers a red, hot egg in Central Park. She enlists the help of an older friend and neighbor to hide it until it hatches.
- Lucy & Stephen Hawking. *George's Secret Key to the Universe*. George and his friend Eric travel through a computer portal into outer space.
- Erin Hunter. *Into the Wild (Warrior Series)*. Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by ThunderClan, the group of feral cats who are threatened by the enemy ShadowClan.
- Eva Ibbotson. *The Secret of Platform 13*. Ode Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel.