

SUMMER READING LISTS

AWARD-WINNING BOOKS

(4th Grade reading level)

Beautiful blackbird by Bryan – c2003 – Coretta S. King winner in 2004 - In a story of the Ila people, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew."

Because of Winn-Dixie by DiCamillo – 2004, c2000 – Newbery honor book in 2001 - 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.

Charlotte's web by White – 1980, c1952 - Newbery honor book in 1953 - Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

Composition, The by Skarmeta – c2000 – America's Award for Children's literature winner in 2001 - When nine-year-old Pedro goes to school, a soldier from his country's dictatorship orders the students to write a composition about the nighttime activities of their families.

From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by Konigsburg – 2002, c1967 – Newbery winner in 1968 - Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Grandfather's journey by Say – c1993 - Caldecott winner in 1994 - A Japanese-American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America, which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.

Jumanji by Van Allsburg – 1981 - Caldecott winner in 1982 - Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle adventure board game.

Kira-kira by Kadohata – 2006, c2004 - Newbery winner in 2005 - Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Man who walked between the towers by Gerstein - c2003 - Caldecott winner in 2004 - A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

Mirette on the high wire by McCully – c1992 - Caldecott winner in 1993 - Mirette learns tightrope walking from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house, not knowing that he is a celebrated tightrope artist who has withdrawn from performing because of fear.

Number the stars by Lowry – c1989 – Margaret Edwards Award 2008 - Newbery winner in 1990 - In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Polar express, The by Van Allsburg – c1985 - Caldecott winner in 1986 - A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

Sarah, plain and tall by MacLachlan – 1987, c1985 - Newbery winner in 1986; Scott O’Dell award for historical fiction – A mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother & hope that she will stay.

Strawberry girl by Lenski – 1995, c1945 - Newbery winner in 1946 - Birdie Boyer and her hard working family raise strawberries in Florida, but have to face the dislike of their neighbors.

Tale of Despereaux by DiCamillo – 2006, c2003 - Newbery winner in 2004 - The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Visit to William Blake’s inn, A : poems by Willard – 1981 - Newbery winner 1982 – Caldecott honor book - A collection of poems describing the curious menagerie of guests who arrive at William Blake’s inn.

Whipping boy, The by Fleischman – 2003, c1986 – Newbery winner in 1987 - A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Wish giver, The by Brittain – c1983 - Newbery honor book in 1984 - When a strange little man comes to the Coven Tree Church Social promising he can give people exactly what they ask for, three young believers-in-magic each make a wish that comes true in the most unexpected way.

OTHER GREAT BOOKS to READ (4th Grade reading level)

18th Emergency by Byars – 1981, c1973 - Twelve-year-old Mouse, finding little help from his friends, prepares to face disaster on his own when the toughest boy in school vows to kill him.

Alvin’s swap shop by Hicks – c1976 - While running a swap shop, a group of youngsters become involved in the mystery of a sunken ship.

American girls series by Tripp (historical fiction) – a series of books containing various titles which depict a young girl’s life during her pre-teen years. The various titles use girls living in different time periods in American history from the 1700’s through the early 1900’s.

Ancient Greece by Klingel – 2003 - An introduction to the history, government, culture, people, and aspects of daily life of ancient Greece and its pervasive and enduring influence on western civilization.

Be a perfect person in just three days by Manes – 1996, c1982 - Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library which promises to make him perfect in just three days.

Best bad thing, The by Uchida – 1986, c1983 - At first dismayed at having to spend the last month of her summer vacation helping out in the household of recently widowed Mrs. Hata, Rinko discovers there are pleasant surprises for her, but then bad things start to happen.

BFG, The by Dahl – 2007, c1982 - Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

Big wave by Buck – 1986, c1976 - His family and village swept away by a tidal wave, Jiya learns to live with the ever-present dangers from the sea and volcano.

Blossoms meet the vulture lady by Byars – 2008, c1986 - When Junior accidentally gets caught in his own coyote trap deep in the woods, he is rescued by the reclusive woman known as Mad Mary and begins an unforgettable adventure.

Bunnacula by Howe – 2004, c1979 - Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Charlie and the chocolate factory by Dahl – 2007, c1964 - Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

Chocolate fever by Smith – 1989, c1972 - From eating too much chocolate, Henry breaks out in brown bumps that help him foil some hijackers and teach him a valuable lesson about self-indulgence.

Chocolate touch by Catling – 2006, c1952 - A boy acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

Class President by Hurwitz – c1990 - Julio hides his own leadership ambitions to help another candidate win the nomination for class president.

Dear America: A line in the sand: the Alamo diary of Lucinda Lawrence by Garland – c1998 – a description of the hardships that the residents of the “Texas colonies” endure when they decide to fight for freedom at the Alamo.

Dew drop dead by Howe – 2000, c1990 - While setting up a homeless shelter at the church, Sebastian and his friends solve the mystery of a dead man found in an abandoned inn.

Dog called Kitty, A by Wallace – c1980 - Afraid of dogs since he was attacked by a mad one, Ricky resists taking in a homeless pup that shows up at the farm.

Fantastic Mr. Fox by Dahl – 2007, c1970 - Three farmers, each one meaner than the next, try all-out warfare to get rid of Mr. Fox and his family.

Forgotten door, The by Key – c1965 - After falling through a forgotten door and ending up on the strange planet Earth, Jon is befriended by a family and soon realizes his presence has put their lives in danger and he must find the secret passage quickly or he may never get home.

Further adventures of Hank the Cowdog, The by Erickson – 1999, c1983 - The 2nd book in the Hank the Cowdog series. Hank the Cowdog almost loses his job as Head of Ranch Security when he develops a case of Eye-crosserosis.

Girl who loved the wind, The by Yolen – 1987, c1972 - Though her father seeks to protect her from all unpleasant things, a young princess is intrigued by the voice of the wind that tells her of worlds beyond the palace walls.

Girl who owned a city, The by Nelson – 1977, c1975 - When a plague sweeps over the earth killing everyone except children under twelve, ten-year-old Lisa organizes a group to rebuild a new way of life.

Great brain by Fitzgerald – 2004, c1969 - The exploits of the Great Brain of Adenville, Utah, are described by his younger brother, frequently the victim of the Great Brain's schemes for gaining prestige or money.

Hello, my name is scrambled eggs by Gilson – 2003, c1985 - When his parents host a Vietnamese family that has come to settle in their town, Harvey enjoys Americanizing twelve-year-old Tuan.

Help! I'm a prisoner in the library by Clifford – c1979 - Two girls spend an adventurous night trapped inside the public library during a terrible blizzard.

Howliday Inn by Howe – 2006, c1982 – While their family is away, Harold and Chester, a dog and a cat, are boarded at Chateau Bow-Wow where Chester becomes increasingly alarmed by the strange behavior of his fellow guests and the sudden disappearance of one of them.

In-between days by Bunting – c1996 - Reluctant to see any changes in his life on Dove Island, eleven-year-old George tries to get rid of his father's new girlfriend.

Jeremy Thatcher, dragon hatcher by Coville – 2007, c1991 - In a dark and eerie magic shop, Jeremy finds a multicolored ball containing a dragon--a tiny thing that speaks through mental telepathy. Soon, it will begin to grow, and grow, and grow.

Journey by MacLachlan – 1993, c1991 - Left by their mother with their grandparents, two children feel as if their past has been erased until Grandfather finds a way to restore it to them.

Little house in the big woods by Wilder – 2007, c1953 - A year in the life of two 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.

Little house on the prairie by Wilder – 2007, c1935 - The Ingalls family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie, where they build a house, encounter Native Americans, dig a well, and fight a prairie fire.

Mrs. Piggle Wiggle by MacDonald – 1987, c1947 - Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle loves children, both good and bad. She never scolds, but has positive cures for children with special problems such as answering back or never wanting to go to bed.

Night of the twisters by Ruckman – 1986, c1984 - A fictional account of the night freakish and devastating tornadoes hit Grand Island, Nebraska, as experienced by a twelve-year-old, his family, and friends.

Nothing's fair in fifth grade by DeClements – 1990 - Initially repelled by an overweight new student who has serious home problems, the fifth grade class finally learns to accept her.

Original adventures of Hank the Cowdog, The by Erickson – 1991, c1983 - Hank the Cowdog, Head of Ranch Security, is framed for the murder of a chicken and becomes an outlaw with the coyotes.

Shh! We're writing the Constitution by Fritz – 1998, c1987 (nonfiction) - Describes how the Constitution came to be written and ratified. Also includes the full text of the document produced by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Sidewalk story by Mathis – 1986, c1971 - When her best friend's family is evicted from their apartment, a nine year-old black girl decides to do something about the situation.

SOS file, The by Byars – c2004 - 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.

Soup by Peck – 2000, c1974 - The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town.

Staying nine by Conrad – 1990, c1988 - Nine-year-old Heather doesn't want to turn ten until wacky Rosa Rita shows her that growing up isn't so bad.

Stone fox by Gardiner – 2003, c1980 - Little Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters.

Taste of blackberries by Smith 1988, c1973 - A young boy recounts his efforts to adjust to the accidental death of his best friend.

Turn homeward, Hannalee by Beatty – 1999, c1984 - Twelve-year-old Hannalee Reed, forced to relocate to Indiana along with other Georgia millworkers during the Civil War, leaves her mother with a promise to return home as soon as the war ends.

Velveteen Rabbit by Bianco – 2005, c1922 - By the time the velveteen rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real.

War with Grandpa by Smith – c1984 - Upset that he has to give up the room he loves to his grandfather, Pete decides to declare war in an attempt to get it back.

Well, The by Taylor – 1995 - In Mississippi in the early 1900s, ten-year-old David Logan's family generously shares their well water with both white and African-American neighbors in an atmosphere of potential racial violence.

Where was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May? by Fritz – 1997, c1975 - A brief biography of Patrick Henry tracing his progress from planter to statesman.

Whipping boy, The by Fleischman – 2003, c1986 - A bratty prince & his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Why don't you get a horse, Sam Adams? by Fritz – 1996, c1974 (nonfiction) - A brief biography of Samuel Adams, describing his activities in stirring up the revolt against the British and how he was finally persuaded to learn to ride a horse.

Willie Mays, young superstar by Sabin – 1990 - A brief biography, emphasizing the early life, of the record-setting baseball player who is one of three in the game's history to hit 600 home runs.