

Fourth Grade Reading List 2021

**All incoming 4th graders are encouraged to read 3 books over the summer from this list.
Guided Reading Level Noted in Parentheses -Keep this list handy all year long!**

(P) *Riding Freedom* by, Pam Munoz Ryan: A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance. Parkhurst became a noted stagecoach driver during the Gold Rush era.

(P) *Ruby Holler* by, Sharon Creech: 13-year-old orphan Dallas and his twin sister, Florida, have pretty much given up on ever finding a happy home. So when an eccentric older couple enters their lives, the twins take a while to warm up.

(Q) *Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by, Chris Grabenstein: Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library designed by his hero, the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello. He finds that that he and the other students must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape

(Q) *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by, Judy Blume: Peter, because he's the oldest, must deal with Fudgie's disgusting cuteness, his constant meddling with Peter's stuff, and other grave offenses, one of which is almost too much to bear. Enjoy the whole series!

(Q) *Rickshaw Girl*: In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas. But to help her impoverished family financially, she would have to be a boy, or disguise herself as one.

(Q) *Little House in the Big Woods* by, Laura Ingalls Wilder: Laura Ingalls and her family live deep in the Big Woods of Wisconsin. Their closest neighbors are bears, wolves, and panthers. Based on the real adventures of Laura Ingalls Wilder, this is the first book in the award-winning series.

(Q) *American Tall Tales* by, Mary Pope Osborne: A collection of tall tales about such American folk heroes as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan.

(Q) *Icefall* by, Matthew Kirby: Princess Solveig and her siblings are trapped in a hidden fortress tucked between mountains and a frozen fjord, along with her best friend and an army of restless soldiers. They await news of the king's victory in battle, but as they wait for winter's end and the all-encompassing ice to break, acts of treachery make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst.

(Q) *Fablehaven* by, Brandon Mull: When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that things are not as they seem. Messages appear in diaries and magical creatures abound. Soon they discover a battle between good and evil is looming and they are in the thick of it.

(Q) *Hard Gold: The Colorado Gold Rush of 1859: A Tale of the Old West* by, Avi: Uncle Jesse heads west to Pike's Peak to prospect for gold with the hope of saving the family farm. His 14-year old nephew, Early, joins a family heading west in order to catch up with him to warn him that the law is on his trail! He is wanted for a bank robbery.

(Q) *Tango: The Tale of An Island Dog* by, Eileen Beha: Lost at sea while sailing with his wealthy owners, a Yorkshire terrier washes up, nearly dead, in a village on Prince Edward Island. Nursed back to health by a lonely widow, befriended by a fox while struggling to find a home.

(Q) *The Field Guide* by, Tony DiTerlizzi: When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.

(Q) *Jim Ugly* by, Sid Fleischman: The adventures of 12 -year-old Jake and Jim Ugly his father's part- mongrel, part wolf dog, as they travel through the Old West trying to find out what really happened to Jake's actor father.

(Q) *Homer Price* by, Robert McCloskey: Enjoy six episodes in the life of Homer Price. In one episode he and his pet skunk capture four bandits, and in another a donut machine goes on a rampage.

(Q) *The Big Wave* by, Pearl S. Buck: Kino lives on a farm on the side of a mountain in Japan where everyone has heard of the big wave. No one suspects it will wipe out the whole village. But it is in the presence of danger that one learns to be brave, and to appreciate how wonderful life can be.

(Q) *Beyond the Deepwoods* by, Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell: Thirteen-year old Twig, raised by a woodtroll family does one thing that woodtrolls never do. He strays from the path. This leads him to a breath-taking adventure, but danger lurks in the Deepwoods. One thought alone keeps him going – finding his true identity.

(R) *Tiger Boy*: A tiger cub has escaped from a reserve in the Sunderbans in West Bengal, India. Neel, a poor boy from the islands, is determined to find her in order to save her from being captured and sold on the black market by Mr. Gupta and his men.

(R) *Candymakers* by, Wendy Mass: When four twelve-year-olds, including Logan, who has grown up never leaving his parents' Life Is Sweet candy factory, compete in the Confectionary Association's annual contest, they unexpectedly become friends and uncover secrets about themselves during the process.

(R) *Highway Robbery* by, Kate Thompson: On a cold day in 18th-century England, a poor young boy agrees to watch a stranger's fine horse for a golden guinea but soon finds himself in a difficult situation when the king's guard appears and wants to use him as bait in their pursuit of a notorious highwayman.

(R) *Shredderman: Secret Identity* by, Wendelin Van Draanen: Bubba has been the bane of Nolan's existence for five long years. So when Mr. Green asks the class to become reporters, Nolan decides he'll write an expose on Bubba. He doesn't want to sign his name to it so Nolan creates a secret identity for himself on the Internet. He launches Shredderman.com as a place where truth and justice prevail, and bullies get what's coming to them!

(R) *Midnight Fox* by, Betsy Byars: Tom is horrified when his parents tell him he is to stay on Aunt Millie's farm while they are away on a trip. When he arrives, he finds the farm every bit as strange and uncomfortable as he feared. That is, until the appearance of the black fox.

(R) *Ghost Knight* Cornelia Funke: 11-year-old Jon Whitcroft and new friend Ella summon the ghost of Sir William Longspee, who may be able to protect Jon from a group of ghosts that threatens him

harm from the day he arrives at Salisbury Cathedral's boarding school. Includes historical notes.

(R) *Honey Cake* by, Joan Betty Stuchner: In this Holocaust rescue story where the camps remain a distant but scary threat, a young Jewish boy in Copenhagen tells of the Nazi invasion of Denmark. 10-year-old David knows that the adults around him have secrets and that his sister is part of the resistance. Then David himself becomes involved; he's drawn into tricking the soldiers and delivering an important message that helps the resistance derail a German supply train.

(S) *Emily's Fortune* by, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor: When unexpectedly orphaned, Emily Wiggins is left alone with her turtle, Rufus. Emily must travel by stagecoach to honorable Aunt Hilda. But Miss Catchum of the Catchum Child Catching Services will get a big bonus for making Emily live with her next of kin, vicious Uncle Victor. It will take all the gumption and cunning of fellow orphan and traveler, Jackson, to help Emily find her confidence, conniving spirit, and the truth behind why Uncle Victor wants to claim her. How in will Emily outsmart Uncle Victor?

(S) *The One and Only Ivan* by, Katherine Applegate: Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. He meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home, and his own art, through new eyes. When Ruby arrives at the zoo, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

(S) *Horten's Miraculous Mechanisms* by, Lissa Evans: Stuart is on a quest to find his great-uncle Tony, a famous magician who literally disappeared off the face of the earth, and Tony's marvelous, long-lost workshop. Along the way, Stuart reluctantly accepts help from the triplets next door and encounters trouble from another magician who's also desperate to get hold of Tony's treasures.

(S) *Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin as Written by His Good Mouse*, Amos by, Robert Lawson: Ever wonder where inventors get their ideas? As it turns out, the great inventor Benjamin Franklin got his best ideas from a mouse named Amos! Funny, interesting and wise, this classic tale has been a favorite for generations.

(S) *The Name of this Book is Secret* by, Pseudonymous Bosch: Adventurous detectives, Cass and Max-Ernest, discover the Symphony of Smells, a box filled with smelly vials of colorful ingredients. They then realize that they have accidentally stumbled upon a mystery surrounding a dead magician's diary and the hunt for immortality.

(S) *Boys Start the War* by, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor: Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, 9-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a practical joke war on the girls.

(S) *Kensuke's Kingdom* by, Michael Morpurgo: It starts out as the perfect family sailing adventure—until Michael is swept overboard. He's washed up on an island, where he struggles to survive. Then he discovers that he's not alone. His fellow castaway, Kensuke, and he develop a close understanding in this remote place, but the question of rescue continues to divide them.

(S) *The Journal of Wong MingChung: A Chinese Miner, California, 1852* by, Yep: A young Chinese boy nicknamed Runt records his experiences in a journal as he travels from southern China to California in 1852 to join his uncle during the Gold Rush.

(S) *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by, E.L. Klonigsburg: When Claudia decides to run away, she wants to run a place that is comfortable and preferably elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her brother has money she invites him along. But soon they find themselves caught up in a mystery surrounding an angel statue.

(S) *The Salamander's Spell* by, ED Baker: Grassina has always lived in the shadow of her perfect older sister, Chartreuse. But when a terrible spell leaves the Kingdom of Greater Greensward in great danger, it is Grassina who finds the magic to set things right. This hilarious story is the prequel to *The Tales of the Frog Princess*.

(S) *Honus and Me* by, Dan Gutman: Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card. Then he travels back in time to meet Honus Wagner in person!

(T) *Bliss* by, Kathryn Littlewood: 12-year-old Rose Bliss wants to work magic in her family's bakery as her parents do, but when they are called away and Rose and her siblings are left in charge, the magic goes awry and a beautiful stranger tries to talk Rose into giving her the Bliss Cookery Booke.

(T) *Remarkable* by, Lizzie Foley: Everyone in Remarkable is remarkable. Everyone except Jane, that is. When Jane finds herself in school with the mischievous Grimlet twins, and her life suddenly gets interesting. And when a strange pirate captain appears in town it's up to Jane to save the day. Jane might just find that she can be pretty remarkable after all.

(T) *The Great Brain* by, John D. Fitzgerald: The best con man in the Midwest is only 10 years old. Tom, a.k.a., the Great Brain, is a genius with a knack for turning a profit. When the Jenkin's boys get lost in Skeleton Cave, the Great Brain saves the day. Whether it's saving the kids at school, or helping out Peg-leg Andy, or Basil, the new kid at school, the Great Brain always manages to come out on top-and line his pockets in the process.

(T) *One White Dolphin* by, Gill Lewis: When a baby dolphin caught in a fishing net washes ashore, Paralympics sailing hopeful Felix and English school girl Kara work with specialists and vets to reunite the dolphin with her mother. This sets off a chain of events that might just save the reef from the environmental effects of proposed dredging.

(U) *I Lived On Butterfly Hill* by, Marjorie Agosin: When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety and her parents must go into hiding.

(V) *When Mischievous Came to Town* by, Katrina Nannestad: In 1911, when orphaned ten-year-old Inge comes to live with her stern grandmother in a remote island village in Denmark, she ends up changing the climate of the town, bringing joy and laughter to her grandmother's life and finding a new family for herself to help grieve over losing her mother.

(V) *The Captain's Dog* by, Roland Smith: Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

(W) *The War that Saved My Life* by, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley: A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

(W) Echo by, Pam Munoz Ryan: Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later 3 children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in a thread of destiny -tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

Nonfiction

***What Was The Gold Rush?* by, Joan Holub:** In 1848, gold was discovered in California, attracting over 300,000 people from all over the world, some who struck it rich and many more who didn't. Hear the stories about the gold-seeking "forty-niners!" With black and white illustrations and sixteen pages of photos, a nugget from history is brought to life! Read more in this series!

***If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon* by, Ellen Levine:** Would you ride in the wagon for the whole trip? How would you cross rivers when there were no bridges? Without road signs, how would you know where you were? This book tells you what it was like to be a pioneer and travel west to Oregon in the 1840s.

***If You Lived With the Sioux Indians* by, Ann McGovern:** Would you hunt for food? What kind of home would you live in? What would be the bravest thing you could do? This book tells you what it was like to live as a Sioux Indian in North and South Dakota during the years 1800 to 1850.

***Rachel's Journey: The Story of a Pioneer Girl* by, Marris Moss:** Traveling by covered wagon, young Rachel and her family follow the Oregon Trail from Illinois all the way to California. The terrain is rough and the seven-month trip is filled with adventure. Rachel's own handwritten journal chronicles every detail and features cherished "pasted-in" mementos gathered along the way.

***The Buffalo Are Back* by, Jean Craighead George:** The buffalo, an American icon once nearly extinct, has made a comeback. This stirring picture book tells the dramatic story, following bison from the Plains Indians to the cowboys, Teddy Roosevelt to the Dust Bowl, and from the brink of extinction to the majestic herds that now roam our national parks.

***Animals of the Edge: Science Races to Save Species Threatened With Extinction* by, Sandy Pobst:** The informed and educational narrative examines threats to animals in the wild

***The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* by, Jen Bryant:** For shy young Peter Mark Roget, books were the best companions -- and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time.

***A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by, Jen Bryant:** An inspiring story of a self-taught painter from humble beginnings who despite many obstacles, was ultimately able to do what he loved, and be recognized for who he was: an artist.

***Look Up! BirdWatching in Your Own Backyard* by, Annette LeBlanc Cate:** You don't have to own binoculars and know a bunch of fancy Latin names to watch birds! No matter where you live, they're in your neighborhood — just look up. This conversational, humorous introduction to bird-watching encourages kids to get outdoors with a sketchbook and really look around.

***Locomotive* by, Brian Floca:** It is the summer of 1869, and trains, crews, and family are traveling

together, riding America's brand-new transcontinental railroad. These pages come alive with the details of the trip and the sounds, speed, and strength of the mighty locomotives; the work that keeps them moving; and the thrill of travel from plains to mountain to ocean.

***Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* by, Robert Byrd:** In pictures and text, master artist Robert Byrd documents Franklin's diverse accomplishments, from framing the Constitution to creating bifocals. The witty, wise, and endlessly curious Franklin is the perfect subject for Byrd's lively style and vibrant art.

***Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by, Deborah Hopkinson:** Hear the voices and stories of real Titanic survivors and witnesses to the disaster. This book is packed with heartstopping action, devastating drama, fascinating historical details, loads of archival photographs on almost every page, quotes from primary sources, and painstaking back matter.

***Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* by, Jennifer Armstrong:** In 1914, Ernest Shackleton and 27 men sailed from England in an attempt to become the first team of explorers to cross Antarctica from one side to the other. Five months later and still 100 miles from land, their ship, Endurance, became trapped in ice, survived on ice floes, and journeyed to the remote and unvisited Elephant Island.

***Black Elk's Vision: A Lakota Story* by, SD Nelson:** From recounting the visions Black Elk had as a young boy, to his involvement in the battles of Little Big Horn and Wounded Knee, as well as his journeys to New York City and Europe with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, this account of Black Elk, an Oglala Lakota medicine man who lived from 1863 to 1950, follows him from childhood through adulthood.

***We Are the Ship: The Story of the Negro League Baseball* by, Kadir Nelson:** The story of the Negro Leagues is about hundreds of unsung heroes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do the one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball.

***Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History* by, Don Brown:** Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton were both fierce patriots during the Revolutionary War, but the politics of the young United States of America put them in constant conflict. Their extraordinary story of bitter fighting and resentment culminates in their famous duel.

Sharon Ryan LaCrosse, Wood