



## St. John's Episcopal School

### 4th Grade Summer Reading 2022

During the summer, each 4<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to read the following book:

***The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*** by Kate DiCamillo

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.

Paperback copies are widely available for each of these titles or electronic versions are available through Amazon or iBooks. We will be using this book for our first unit of study in the fall, so you may want to read it close to the beginning of school. You will also select additional reading choices so that the total summer reading (**not** including the required book) equals a **minimum of 250 pages**. Of course, you may read more! For your convenience, I have included a list of titles suggested by our librarian, Ms. Powers. You are not limited to books from the list.

**On the first day of school, you will turn in a complete log of books read over the summer.** Please use the attached form for your reading log.

Choose **one** favorite book from your summer reading (other than the required reading) and be prepared to discuss your choice with your classmates during the first week of school. The idea will be to share a wonderful reading experience and try to get your classmates excited about reading a book that you enjoyed. *No project is required.*

The most important thing is to read, read, read! Enjoy the time you spend reading and enjoy your summer! I am looking forward to sharing your 4<sup>th</sup> grade year with you!

Happy Reading,  
Ms. Laura May  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts  
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## Entering 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Suggested Summer Reading

(These are **optional** titles selected by our librarian, Ms. Powers.)

Alexander, Kwame. ***The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life.***

(Nonfiction)

Kwame Alexander shares poetry and inspiring lessons about the rules of life, as well as uplifting quotes from athletes such as Stephen Curry and Venus Williams and other exemplars like Sonia Sotomayor and Michelle Obama in this motivational and inspirational book just right for students of any age and anyone needing a little encouragement.

Alston, B. B. ***Amari and the Night Brothers.*** (Chapter Book) (2022 \*Texas Bluebonnet Book)

Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. Not even when the police told her otherwise, or when she got in trouble for standing up to bullies who said he was gone for good. So when she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, containing a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton--if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.

Applegate, Katherine. ***Willodeen.*** (Chapter Book) (2022 Texas Bluebonnet Book)

When a handmade birthday gift brings unexpected magic to Willodeen and her new friend, Connor, she's determined to speak up for the animals she loves, and perhaps even uncover the answer to the mystery of the missing hummingbirds.

Bell, Cece. ***El Deafo.*** (Graphic Novel)

Funny and deeply heartfelt, *El Deafo* chronicles the author's hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a powerful and very awkward hearing aid. The Phonic Ear allows her to hear but it also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a friend.

Birdsall, Jeanne. ***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy.*** (Chapter Book (first in series))

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.

Brown, Peter. ***The Wild Robot.*** (Chapter Book)

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Davies, Jacqueline. ***The Lemonade War.*** (Chapter Book)

The summer before starting 4th grade, Evan finds out that his younger sister has skipped 3rd grade; they will now be starting 4th grade together. Catastrophe! Thus starts the lemonade war as each sibling tries to out-sell the other and prove they belong in 4th grade the most.

George, Jessica Day. ***Tuesdays at the Castle.*** (Chapter Book (first in series))

Princess Celie loves Tuesdays at Castle Glower because every Tuesday the castle adds a new room, a turret, or sometimes a whole new wing, and Celie likes to map the changes to the castle, but when her parents, King and Queen Glower, are taken captive, it falls to Celie and her knowledge of the castle to defend their home and save the kingdom.

Grabenstein, Chris. ***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library***. (Chapter Book (first in series))

Class clown and game lover Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that, come morning, he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Holm, Jennifer L. ***Lion of Mars***. (Chapter Book) (2022 Texas Bluebonnet Book)

Bell has spent his whole life--all eleven years of it--on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid--he loves cats, any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why don't have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell--a regular kid in a very different world--to uncover the truth and save his family--and possibly unite an entire planet.

Merrit, Kory. ***No Place for Monsters***. (Chapter Book) (2022 Texas Bluebonnet Book)

In this spellbinding, lavishly illustrated story that Diary of a Wimpy Kid author Jeff Kinney calls "wildly imaginative and totally terrifying," two unlikely friends face down their worst fears in order to stop their small town—and themselves—from disappearing.

Park, Linda Sue. ***The One Thing You'd Save***. (Chapter Book in Verse) (2022 Texas Bluebonnet Book)

When a teacher asks her class what one thing they would save in an emergency, some students know the answer right away. Others come to their decisions more slowly. And some change their minds when they hear their classmates' responses. A lively dialog ignites as the students discover unexpected facets of one another—and themselves.

Rhodes, Jewel Parker. ***Black Brother, Black Brother***. (Chapter Book)

Award-winning, bestselling author Jewell Parker Rhodes brings us the powerful and unforgettable story of two brothers with very different experiences in their predominantly white prep school. Donte, the darker skinned brother, faces daily discrimination based on his skin color while Trey, who is lighter skinned, is accepted by both teachers and students effortlessly. Suspenseful and inspiring, readers will root for Donte as he finds his voice and struggles to turn his anger into positive action.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. ***The Mysterious Benedict Society***. (Chapter Book (first in series))

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Yang, Kelly. ***Front Desk***. (Chapter Book)

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a mean man who exploits them. While her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.

\*The Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA) reading program was established in 1979 to encourage children to read more books for pleasure, to explore a wide variety of titles, and to develop powers of discrimination. A list of twenty books, both fiction and nonfiction, is chosen by Texas librarians each year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Title of Book	# of Pages	Did you like this book? What was your favorite part?	Parent's initials

Each student should read **a minimum of 250 pages of text.** Enjoy!