

POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fourth Grade Summer Reading List

Works Arranged by Author

The Elementary School faculty has selected the following titles as recommended summer reading. Please see the Summer Reading Letter for more information about Summer Reading.

Arnosky, Jim. Secrets of a Wildlife Watcher

Explains the techniques used in finding wild animals such as owls, turtles, foxes, beaver, and deer, and in getting close enough to study their behavior.

Atwater, Richard and Florence. Mr. Popper's Penguins

Mr. Popper, a mild little painter and decorator with a taste for books and movies on polar exploration, was presented with an Antarctic penguin which he named Captain Cook. Mr. Popper and his family exerted themselves to make the new pet happy, but the poor bird grew so lonely that they appealed to an aquarium and got another penguin named Greta. From that moment life was changed for the Popper family.

Avi. The Barn.

In an effort to fulfill their dying father's last request, 9 year old Ben and his brother and sister construct a barn on their land in Oregon Territory.

Babbit, Natalie. Tuck Everlasting

An adventure story involving the magical Tuck family, whose members never get old.

Baylor, Byrd. Desert Voices

Ten desert creatures speak for themselves about their quiet but meaningful lives in the desert.

Blume, Judy. Fudge-a-Mania

Peter Hatcher's summer is not looking good. Peter's parents rent a summer house next door to the Tubmans, which means Peter will be stuck with Fudge and Sheila the Cootie Queen for three whole weeks!

Carrick, Carol. Whaling Days

This informative, dramatic, and visually striking picture book for older children describes the history of whaling from ancient times.

Charlip, Remy & Mary Miller. Handtalk! An ABC of Finger Spelling and Sign Language

An introduction to two kinds of sign language, finger spelling and signing.

Cherry, Lynne. River Ran Wild: An Environmental History

Keeping with the environmental theme, Cherry explores the Nashua River, which runs through New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Cleary, Beverly. Socks

The Brickers' kitten is jealous when they bring a new baby home.

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Clifford, Eth. Help! I'm a Prisoner in the Library

Mary Rose and Jo-Beth are accidentally locked into an old library during the worst blizzard in Indiana history.

Cohen, Barbara. Carp in the Bathtub

Two children try to rescue the carp their mother plans to make into gefilte fish for the Seder.

Curtis, Patricia. Cindy, a Hearing Ear Dog

Describes the training of young dogs, selected from pounds and humane shelters, to help deaf masters by alerting them to sounds they cannot hear and providing companionship.

Dahl, Roald. James and the Giant Peach

James drops a bag of green things under an old peach tree and a most extraordinary peach grows.

Darling, Kathy. Manatee: On Location

This book covers the life cycle, physical characteristics and behavior of the manatee.

Estes, Eleanor. Rufus M.

Rufus Moffat is the hero of a series of adventures. He finds money just when his family needs it, has a dearest friend, and believes there is an invisible piano player in his home! Sequel to: The middle Moffat.

Fitzgerald, John. Great Brain

Thomas D. Fitzgerald is the Great Brain to his younger brother, J.D., for Tom can turn any situation into a profit for himself.

Fitzhugh, Louise. Harriet the Spy

The story of 11-year-old Harriet, who is a spy with plans to be a writer, as she keeps a secret notebook on her schoolmates.

Foreman, Michael. Boy Who Sailed with Columbus

The perilous journey with Columbus and life in the New World are told from the viewpoint of Leif, a young orphan. His growth from boy to man, from European to simple native, is powerful and thought-provoking.

Gelman, Rita Golden. Monsters of the Sea

Readers see similarities and differences between mysterious animals looming in the depths of the sea. Descriptions of 12 extinct sea creatures along with present-day sharks, manta rays, and others provide intriguing information.

George, Jean Craighead. My Side of the Mountain

A young boy runs away from home to live in the wild on what used to be his grandfather's farm.

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George, Jean Craighead. On the Far Side of the Mountain

Sequel to the classic My Side of the Mountain. Introduces Sam's sister, Alice who has joined him on the mountain. A mystery, involving the loss of Sam's falcon and the seemingly unrelated disappearance of Alice.

George, Jean Craighead. Moon of the Alligators

Describes an alligator's desperate search for food in the Florida Everglades during the month of October.

George, Jean Craighead. Moon of the Gray Wolves

This is one for the animal lover. Children enjoy the author's storylike way of describing the life of the gray wolf in Alaska.

George, Jean Craighead. Moon of the Mountain Lions

Patterned after a Native American folktale of night animals, this story shows us the mountain lion in Washington State but describes many animals of that region and their habits. An easy narrative style incorporates ecology and the balance of nature.

Gilson, Jamie. 4B Goes Wild

Fourth graders on a three-day camping trip with their teachers experience frights and delights.

Graham-Barber, Lynda. Gobble! The Complete Book of Thanksgiving Words

Learn how the Thanksgiving customs we take for granted - parades, turkey and pumpkin pie, football games - got started?

Greer, Gery and Bob Ruddick. Max and Me and the Time Machine

Steve brings home a time machine and he and his best friend end up in 1250.

Hartman, Victoria. Westward Ho Ho Ho! Jokes from the Wild West

"What do you call a rush to the post office? A stamp-edel!" Vocabulary and humor are challenged as children read and interpret these jokes, puns, and plays on words. Funny illustrations provide clues for those who need a hand.

Hiser, Constance. No Bean Sprouts

When James receives a plain red lunch box as a present, he is disappointed until the first time he opens it at school and finds that it is a magic box.

Howe, Deborah and James. Bunnacula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery

Chester tries to warn his family that their rabbit must be a vampire.

King-Smith, Dick. Babe, the Gallant Pig

A piglet destined for eventual butchering arrives at the farmyard, is adopted by an old sheep dog, and discovers a special secret to success.

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Kline, Suzy. Orp

Orp (Orville Rudemeyer Pygenski) hates his name as does his sister and friend so they start an "I Hate My Name Club" which attracts unexpected members with hilarious results.

Kline, Suzy. Orp and the Chop Suey Burgers

The engaging hero of Camelot's Orp is back, in a laugh-provoking new adventure for middle-grade readers.

Konigsburg, E. L.. From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Claudia runs away to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Konigsburg, E. L.. Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley and Me, Elizabeth

Elizabeth is a lonely girl until she meets Jennifer who claims to be a witch.

Lenski, Lois. Strawberry Girl

Birdie Boyer and her hard working family raise strawberries in Florida, but have to face the dislike of their neighbors.

Lindgren, Astrid. Pippi Longstocking

A little Swedish girl lives alone with her horse and monkey and foils all attempts to make her conform to the accepted social pattern.

MacDonald, Betty. Mrs. Piggle Wiggle's Magic

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's magical cures for children's bad habits include such things as the tattletale cure and bad table manners cure.

MacLachlan, Patricia. Missing May

After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

Maestro, Giulio. What's a Frank Frank? Tasty Homograph Riddles

A collection of riddles making use of homographs, words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.

Manes, Stephen. Make Four Million Dollar\$ by Next Thur\$day!

Sequel to the award-winning Be A Perfect Person In Just Three Days. Dr. K. Pinkerton Silver-Fish now professes to be the world's leading authority on money.

McKissack, Patricia and Frederick. Jesse Owens: Olympic Star

Born a sharecropper's son, J.C. Owens grew up as a sickly child and youth. Through perseverance he blossomed into an Olympic jumping and running star, challenging Hitler's dream of German superiority.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Shiloh

When Marty finds a mistreated puppy, he knows he should return it to the rightful owner, but struggles with this as he knows the puppy will be abused again.

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Paterson, Katherine. The Flip-flop girl

Uprooted following the death of her father, 9 year old Vinnie and her 5 year old brother cope in different ways, both with the help of Lupe, the flip-flop girl.

Patterson, Dr. Francine. Koko's Kitten

The real life experience of Koko, a gorilla who uses sign language, and a young kitten.

Peck, Robert Newton. Soup

The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town.

Pinkwater, Daniel Manus. Fat Men from Space

William has a one-in-a-million tooth that receives radio programs. Then he begins to receive bulletins about an invasion from outer space.

Pinkwater, Daniel Manus. Hoboken Chicken Emergency

Arthur goes to pick up the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, but comes back with a 260 pound chicken.

Powzyk, Joyce. Animal Camouflage: A Closer Look

This beautifully illustrated book describes six types of camouflage, an important factor in providing animals with security in their environments. An index and information glossary are included.

Prelutsky, Jack. My Parents Think I'm Sleeping

A collection of humorous poems about bedtime.

Robinson, Barbara. Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Herdman family discovers Christmas and helps everyone else rediscover its meaning.

Robinson, Barbara. The Best school year ever

The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

Rockwell, Thomas. How to Eat Fried Worms

Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.

Ruckman, Ivy. Night of the Twisters

A family experiences a freakish and devastating tornado.

Selden, George. Cricket in Times Square

A musical cricket and his friends take up residence in a Times Square newsstand.

Sharmat, Marjorie W. Maggie Marmelstein for President

Maggie decides to manage Thad Smith's campaign for class president, but when he turns her down, she decides to run against him.

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Simon, Seymour. Our Solar System

In over 50 dramatic full-color photographs and an easy-to-read text, Simon takes you on a sweeping tour of the planets, moons, asteroids, meteoroids and comets that travel around the sun.

Simon, Seymour. Snakes

What animal can smell with its tongue, swallow an animal larger than its own head, and grow to be longer than a school bus?

Slote. My Robot Buddy

Jack is given a robot for his birthday.

Smith, Trevor. Amazing Lizards

This book is packed with concise information about the habits, appearance, and unique qualities of ten amazing lizards, from the giant dragon lizard to a gecko so small it wouldn't wrap around an adult's thumb.

Spere, Elizabeth. Sign of the Beaver

Matt awaits the return of his father in the Maine wilderness and becomes friends with an Indian chief and his grandson.

Stanley, Fay. Last Princess: Story of Princess Ka'ulani of Hawaii

The story of Princess Kī'ūlani of Hawaii with notes on the Hawaiian language. Bibliography and map included.

Staub. America's Prairies

Describes the ecology and biology of the three different types of North American prairie –tall grass, mixed-grass, and short grass.

Stolz, Mary. Noonday Friends

Story of the friendship of Fanny and Simone, both from poor families, who cope with their situations in different ways.

Terban, Marvin. Hey, Hay! A Wagonful of Funny Homonym Riddles

"These riddles are fun!" exclaimed a third grader when this homonym riddle book was read aloud. The answers are all homonyms-sometimes 2, 3, and even 4 words that sound the same.

Terban, Marvin. Mad as a Wet Hen! and Other Funny Idioms

Illustrates and explains over 100 common English idioms.

Thomas, Margaret. Volcano!

This well written nonfiction book describes some famous volcanic eruptions. Actual photographs and maps enhance the text.

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Turvey, Peter. Inventions: Inventors & Ingenious Ideas

From catapults and magnificent inventions like the steam engine, rocket locomotive, and transistor to futuristic inventions like virtual reality arcade games, these dramatic illustrations "wow" the reader with man's creativity and genius.

Uchida, Yoshiko. Magic Listening Cap: More Folk Tales From Japan

Fourteen Japanese folk tales retold and illustrated by the author.

Van Allsburg. Jumanji

Two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle-adventure board game.

Warner, Gertrude. Boxcar Children Series

Four orphans discover an old, red boxcar and make it into their home.

White E. B. Charlotte's Web

Story of a girl who could talk to animals, and of a pig's friendship with a spider who could talk and write.

White, E. B. Trumpet of the Swan

The adventures of a swan that actually played a trumpet.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Little House in the Big Woods

A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier.