

SUMMER READING

As **Third Grade** comes to a close, we want to stress the importance of summer reading. Charlotte Mason reminds us that, “It is in the lap of the parent that a child first explores the universe of the printed page. Children of all ages must be immersed in the world of literature.” -*When Children Love to Learn*

Your soon to be fourth grader may be getting too big for your lap, but they are not too big to share special moments reading together. Parents and children have a multitude of enticements competing for their attention today. All too often, children plead for access to the digital market with its adrenal boosting sights and sounds. The challenge is guiding children to recognize the life-giving beauty of a story. In order to cultivate character, build background knowledge, and nurture a love of reading, we must spend time in rich literature. Finding precious time to snuggle up and read to and with your child, or listen to them read a book to you, creates the perfect pathway to enter the world of living books.

Consider what you wish to instill in your child this summer. What habits of the good life do you wish to practice? What habits of thinking and acting will influence a summer of wonder? What ideas will be cultivated through the books they read? How will you build a desire to escape into a book and relish its mysteries and surprises?

Our choices change who we are and how we live. How we spend our time influences our character. Open the books, read beyond just this list, and let us give to our children one of the best gifts they could receive—time spent with you, cultivating a life-long love of reading. Review the suggested choices and discuss with your child which books might be the best book choices and then enjoy the reading journey by asking lots of questions about the ideas each book presents.

Rising 4th Graders: Summer Reading List

Please have your child read widely and often both with you and independently! Students are required to read a **minimum of two fiction books** from the following list, but we encourage them to read more. The non-fiction suggestions provide inspiration and background knowledge for upcoming science and history topics.

Fiction: (Choose a minimum of two)

The Reluctant Dragon by Kenneth Grahame (read aloud)
Guns for General Washington by Seymour Reit
Can't You Make Them Behave, King George? by Jean Fritz
The Horse and His Boy by C. S. Lewis
Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet by Eleanor Cameron
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
Poppy by Avi

Non-Fiction Suggestions:

energy, structures and functions of living things, human respiratory and circulatory systems, Middle-Ages, The Constitution, The American Revolution



“But in **reading** great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself. Like a night sky in the Greek poem, I see with a myriad eyes, but it is still I who see. Here, as in worship, in love, in moral action, and in knowing, I transcend myself; and am never more myself than when I do.”

– **C.S. Lewis**