

June 2025

Dear Fourth-Grade Parents,

My name is Alissa Goulet, and I am your child's fourth-grade teacher for the upcoming school year. This will be my eighth year at the Academy of St. Joseph, and I look forward to being a part of this great community and teaching this wonderful grade again. Before working here, I taught first grade at Success Academy and taught for three years in South Carolina as I was receiving my Master's degree in Literacy.

Teaching is my absolute passion, and it's my mission to integrate joy and engagement into each of my lessons. To be successful and effective each day, I look forward to working with you and your child to ensure they achieve their potential. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success, and I am very hopeful for your support and continued communication throughout this school year.

Along with this letter, you will also find a letter to your child outlining their summer assignments for Reading, Math, and Typing. You are welcome to read the required book as well. Your child can complete the questions and assignments independently. All this work should be completed and turned in on the first day of school. Thank you for your help with this.

I am thrilled to be your child's teacher next school year. This year will be rigorous, memorable, and full of joy. I am confident that with your support, we can truly make this year wonderful! I hope you and your families have a great summer, and I look forward to working with you and your child this school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Goulet

agoulet@aosj.us

June 2025

Dear Students,

4th Grade Summer Homework 2025

This summer, you will complete one reading assignment, practice math facts, and complete typing practice. In this document, I outline the reading assignment and suggest helpful websites and resources as we prepare for fourth grade. **You will turn in your reading assignment on the first day of school.** Remember to write in full sentences, with capital letters and punctuation, using your best handwriting.

Reading Assignments

Attached you will find a summer reading project that you should complete alongside your required reading. The required book is *Wishtree* by Katharine Applegate. This book is told from the perspective of an ancient oak tree, named Red. On May 1, Wishing Day, people from the town make a pilgrimage to Red to tie their wishes to Red's branches. All the animals and people depend on Red. Red has been rooted there since before 1848, when many immigrants arrived in town. A young woman named Maeve tied her wish, which began this long-lasting tradition. Red has seen it all until a new family moves into the neighborhood, and more than ever, Red's job as a wishtree is important for the community and to protect a young girl.

This project consists of three parts. Before you read the text, you will read an informational text about trees. You will read the text several times and use the text to help you answer literal questions. As you read, you will complete several assignments. You will complete a character trait chart on people and animals in the story. Describe each character using character traits and evidence from the text to support your descriptions. You will also read a poem called "Be Different to Trees," located early in the book, and you will make connections to the Wishtree. You should not need help answering these questions. After you read, you will respond to several Writing Prompts. **The first and second parts of the reading assignment will be completed on the pages in the packet. The third part can be typed or written neatly on a lined piece of paper.** The description of both parts can be found below.

I hope that you will thoroughly enjoy reading this summer. I encourage your parents to read with you as well. This will be counted as a grade. We will begin with a discussion of the novel, as well as an extension project, when we return to AOSJ in the fall.

Additional Assignments (Choice Reading, Math, Typing, Optional Reading)

In addition to reading the required reading book, you also need to read two other books from the Choice Reading list and complete Khan Academy Math practice and Typing practice. It is imperative that you complete the required reading and project, read three

books, and complete practice for Math and Typing. I am very excited for the year to come and hope you are as well!

In total, you have four required assignments:

1. Required Reading (*Wishtree*)
2. Choice Reading (Choose two books from the list)
3. Math Practice (Khan Academy)
4. Typing Practice

Sincerely,

Ms. Goulet

Assignment One: *Wishtree* by Katharine Applegate (Required Reading)- Before, During, and After

Before Reading

Before reading, please read the following passage about trees and answer questions using the text.

Name _____

All About Trees

The novel *Wishtree*, written by Katherine Applegate, tells the story of a talking tree named Red. Red is an important part of his community by sheltering animals, providing comfort, and inspiring hope to not just people but also animals in that town. In our world, trees are *essential* for many reasons. They help cool down the climate and take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. They provide us with shade, timber, fuel for heating and cooking, and food.

Trees need their roots and leaves to stay awake. Underneath the soil, the roots of a tree can grow deep and far underground. Roots have many purposes. First, they anchor the tree into place. Second, they help the tree gather nutrients and water. Leaves take the energy from the sun and convert this energy into sugars, which feed the tree. This process is called **photosynthesis**. In the fall, as sunlight hours begin to get shorter and temperatures drop, the chemical called chlorophyll that gives leaves their green color starts to break down. This causes the leaves to change colors from green to brighter colors, like orange and yellow.

If you cut a tree down and look at the stump, you will see the circular rings inside. These tree rings are created as the tree grows thicker and taller. You can tell how old a tree is by counting the number of rings. One of the biggest types of trees is the giant sequoia. The American Museum of Natural History holds an exhibit with a slice of this type of tree that was cut down in 1891. The rings of the tree go back more than a thousand years.

In many parts of the world, forests are being cut down in order to create more land for farming. This can harm the many animals that make trees their home.

Name _____

Answer the questions using the text.

1. In paragraph one, what does the word essential mean? Use the context to help you make meaning.

2. What is photosynthesis?

3. What would be another good title for this article?

4. In your own words, explain how trees make energy and collect nutrients to survive.

5. How can you tell a tree's age?

6. How does cutting down trees impact the environment?

Name _____

During Reading

As you read, record details about each character in the box. Refer back to the text to help you include text evidence.

Character Chart- People and Animals

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Samar | |
| Francesca | |
| Stephen | |
| Maeve | |
| Samar's parents | |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Stephen's parents | |
| Max | |
| Sandy | |
| Amadora | |
| Red | |
| Bongo | |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| FreshBakedBread | |
| RosePetal | |
| Harold | |
| HairySpiders | |
| Flashlight | |

Name _____

During Reading

Poetry Connection

Be Different to Trees by Mary Carolyn Davies

The talking oak

To the ancients spoke.

But any tree

Will talk to me.

What truths I know

I garnered so.

But those who want to talk and tell,

And those who will not listeners be,

Will never hear a syllable

From out the lips of any tree.

This poem appears at the beginning of the book. How does this poem relate to *Wishtree*? Explain several reasons.

Name: _____

After Reading

Choose five of the following questions. You can write out your responses neatly on a lined piece of paper or type out your responses. Each response should be at least three or four sentences.

1. When Red goes through hard times, he says the only thing he can do is “stand tall and reach deep.” What does this mean for a tree? What does this mean for a human? (p. 34)
2. Red keeps saying this is not a fairy tale. In what ways is it similar to a fairy tale? In what ways is it different?
3. Would you describe yourself as more of an optimist or a pessimist? Explain why?
4. If you had one wish for a wishtree, what would you ask for? Why is this your wish?
5. “Hollows are proof that something bad can become something good with enough time and care and hope”(p.25). React to this quotation. How can this relate to life?
6. “We grow as we must grow, as our seeds decided long ago.” In what ways is this true, and in what ways is this not true in the story? In what ways is this true/not true in life?
7. What did you think of the ending? Was it realistic/believable?
8. Would you recommend Wishtree to a friend? Why or why not?
9. What are themes, or life lessons, you can draw from the book?

Assignment Two- Choice Reading

Choose two of the following books to read over the summer.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

A gorilla named Ivan lived for more than 25 years in captivity off a freeway, and he grew accustomed to people watching him every day through the glass of his domain. His friends Stella, an aging elephant; Bob, a feisty stray dog; and Ruby, a curious and inquisitive baby elephant, all taught Ivan to see his life differently. Stella's last wish is to see Ivan escape and find a better domain for him to live in.

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold

A third-grade boy wants to convince his veterinarian mom to let him keep the baby skunk she brings home one day. While the boy Bat is particular about his likes and dislikes, he wants to raise the skunk. Bat has one month to convince his mom that he is the perfect parent for this young animal.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume

Two is a crowd when Peter and his four-year-old brother, Fudge, are in the same room. Grown-ups think Fudge is absolutely adorable, but Peter and his pet turtle, Dribble, know the truth. Fudge is actually a tiny terror in disguise, causing mischief everywhere he goes.

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech

Louie doesn't have the best luck raising animals, so when his father brings home a newborn mini-donkey, he is determined to raise it. He names this animal Winslow, and though everyone worries this small donkey won't make it, Louie is determined to take care of and raise it. No one would have predicted that this newborn donkey is stronger than anyone would have thought.

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

Twelve-year-old Claudia decides to leave home with the help of her brother Jamie. They decide to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They explore and wander around the museum daily. One day, they come across a statue that was carved by Michelangelo, which gets sold. Claudia and Jamie decide to investigate who sold the statue. When the siblings contact Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, she agrees to work with them under a few conditions.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

August or “Auggie” Pullman is a ten-year-old born with a facial deformity. He lives with his parents, his sister Olivia, and his dog Daisy. Up until fifth grade, he was homeschooled, but this year his parents want to send him to school. As he adjusts to school, he feels left out and made fun of for his looks. August learns the true meaning of friendship when he finds a companion that year, Jack.

The Train of Lost Things by Ammi- Joan Paquette

Marty loses one of his favorite objects, his jean jacket that his father gave to him as a gift. His father is sick and does not have much time to live, so finding this jacket means a lot to Marty. His father tells Marty about this mysterious train that collects lost objects, so Marty decides to find his meaningful jacket on this train. Along his journey, he befriends Dina, who is also finding something that means a lot to her. This story is about the power of memories and the message of hope and love.

A Wolf Called Wonder- Rosanne Perry

Swift, a young wolf, lives with his pack in the mountains and learns how to hunt and live with his siblings. When a rival pack comes, Swift and his pack decide to move elsewhere. As Swift tries to find a new home, he and his pack experience a journey full of adventure.

George Washington’s Socks by Elvira Woodruff

This historical fiction, a time-traveling book, transports five adventurous kids back to the night before the Battle of Trenton. The children get transported back to the events of the American Revolution and experience the history firsthand.

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street- Karina Yan Glaser

The Vanderbeekers have always lived in a brownstone on 141st Street, so when their landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five children have eleven days to save their home. These children try everything to persuade their grumpy landlord to help them stay.

Assignment Three: Math

Summer is a great time to keep working on your multiplication, division tables, and to review Math skills that were taught in 3rd grade. **This summer, you will complete a Getting Ready for 4th Grade Course at Khan Academy.** The course should be completed before the first day of school. Here is how to sign in for the course:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/join/KVFH264W>

Here are the steps to create an account if your child is not signed up:

- **Go to Khan Academy:** Visit the Khan Academy website at [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org).
- **Click "Sign up":** Locate the "Sign up" button, usually in the top right corner, and click it.
- **Choose "Learner":** Select the "Learner" option, indicating that you're signing up as a student.
- **Select your preferred method:** Choose how you'd like to sign up:
 - **Continue with Google:** Sign up using your Google account. (Students will use their Google classroom and Chromebook username- (initial of first name and last name) Ex. agoullet@aosj.us)
- **Once signed up, students select their grade in school(4th) and Getting Ready for 4th Grade Course at Khan Academy.**

You should be practicing multiplication and division fast facts daily. Through daily practice, it will make those facts more fluent and automatic. You can practice by using flashcards with a family member or using any of the websites listed below:

- Scholastic Flashcard Games- This PDF has a variety of multiplication and division games. This would be perfect for your child to review with an older sibling or relative, and it gives your child the opportunity to review their fast facts. At the end of the PDF are the flashcards, which are needed to play the games.
http://www.alyciazimmerman.com/uploads/3/0/7/3/3073052/flashcard_math_games.pdf
- Khan Academy video: Review 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication by watching this video:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic-home/multiply-divide/multi-digit-multiplication-5-2-digit-times-a-2-digit-number/v/multiplication-5-2-digit-times-a-2-digit-number>
- Math drills- This website has a variety of 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication problems:
https://www.math-drills.com/multiplication2/multiplication_long_no_tseparator_0202_001.php
- Khan Academy video- Review long division steps
<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic-home/multiply-divide/multi-digit-division-2/v/division-2>

- Home School Math- This website has many worksheets that review long division (focus on one-digit divisor)
https://www.homeschoolmath.net/worksheets/long_division.php
- ABCya- This website has a variety of Math games. Students can practice skills in second grade to review the skills and strategies they learned this year. They can also practice some new concepts in third grade.
<https://www.abcya.com/grades/3/numbers>

Assignment Four: Typing

In fourth grade, you will continue to use Chromebooks to share your learning with others, as well as turn in assignments and projects. It's important that we type on the keyboard to practice learning the keys, so it becomes more automatic. When we have more practice with typing, we will focus more on what we are writing, rather than where all the keys are. I have listed several websites you can use over the summer.

- Typing club- This website teaches you the fundamentals of typing. You can click on different lessons and activities to practice your typing skills.
<https://www.typingclub.com>
- ABCya Typing Games- This website has ten typing games in a range of levels. If you are fairly new to typing, you may want to begin with the K-2 games and then work your way up. https://www.abcya.com/games/kids_typing_game
- Learning without Tears- This program has keyboarding lessons and digital citizenship lessons. <https://www.lwtears.com/kwt>