



Dear Future Fourth Grader and Parents:

Congratulations on finishing third grade successfully! It is with great pleasure for us to be your teachers next year. Mrs. Young in Language Arts and Mrs. Brackett for all other subjects! We look forward to helping you continue to grow as a successful and confident reader. Get ready for an amazing year full of new adventures and journeys through literature and life.

Speaking of journeys, summer reading will focus on all kinds of different journeys. There are stories that tell of journeys through difficulties, changes, or new experiences. Each of the books involves character(s) that will go on a journey to discover who they are. It is your job to keep track of who, what, when, where, why, and how things change over the story. We suggest you keep a stack of post-its nearby (or write directly in the books) to write notes about your thoughts and feelings regarding the reading and what you are learning from it.

The reading list has two portions: fictional and informational. Your goal for this summer is to read 5 books total. The required reading *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume and **four additional** books; two fictional and two non-fictional. If you choose other books not on the list, please include it in the reading log.

The other part of your journey will be to finish your path on education.com. The website is www.learn.education.com and enter the class code is .

Have a wonderful summer!

Warmly,
Mrs. Young & Mrs. Brackett
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Reading Guidelines

Tales of A Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume

- Living with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing smashed potatoes on walls at Hamburger Heaven, or scribbling all over Peter's homework, he's never far from trouble. He's a two-year-old terror who gets away with everything--and Peter's had enough. When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge too long. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?
(excerpt from inside flap of book)

You will need a spiral notebook (single subject) to glue the chapter summaries and activities from this packet into. NO packet pages will be accepted UNLESS it is in a notebook.

Required Reading Summaries and Activities:

- Complete the chapter summaries for each chapter
- Complete the reading activities

- ❑ Be prepared for a test and a project to complete in the Fall on the book

Additional Reading Assignment:

- ❑ Complete the Reading log (follow all directions) for 4 additional books of your choice.

READING LIST

Fiction

Animal Tales

Carris, Joan. *Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit*. A mini-pig, a Vietnamese mynah bird, and a young cat have many conversations and adventures in this warm story about family, friendship, and new arrivals. A quick, clever, and humorous summer read!

Cleary, Beverly. *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling. Also try the Ramona & Beezus series and Henry Huggins by the same author. Classics!

Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot, Flush, and Scat*. These three stand alone novels can be read in any order. All are realistic fiction books containing fast paced action, themes of environmental stewardship, and surprise twists in the plot. Great summer read!

Smith, Alexander McCall. *Akimbo and the Elephant*; Akimbo and the Lion; Akimbo and the Crocodile Man. Wonderfully engaging realistic fiction about a young boy helping his father on a game preserve in Africa. Alexander McCall Smith is an author some adult readers might recognize from his Lady Detective series.

Westera, Marleen. *Sheep and Goat*. You will never drive by a field of farm animals again and not wonder “What are they thinking?!” The book is the humorous and philosophical daily exchanges between a sheep and a goat who occupy the same pasture. This book is ideal for reading one chapter a night aloud -- it is a great spring board discussion and inquires.

White, E.B. *Stuart Little*. Don't leave SFS Lower School without reading this classic adventure! Include Charlotte's Web and Trumpet of the Swan, both by E.B. White, on your list as well if you haven't already visited those tales.

Fantastic Adventures

Barry, Dave & Ridley Pearson. *Peter and the Star Catchers*. Yes, the same Dave Barry from the humorous newspaper columns of the past! The funny back story of how Peter became Peter Pan and how Capitan Hook lost his hand. A long and satisfying summer read.

Edwards, Julie Andrews. *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*. A classic fantasy tale of determination and perseverance told by none other than the famous actress from Mary Poppins, The Sound of Music, and now The Princess Diaries. How can one person be so talented? An amazing book, even for those who don't normally prefer this genre.

Funke, Cornella. *Igraine the Brave*. A story of castles, knights, magicians, and a girl whose “boring” life is about to be propelled into action and acts of bravery. A great early reader introduction to this well known author.

Blabey, Aaron. *The Bad Guys* (series) Mr. Wolf is on a mission to change his reputation and convinces his fellow reprobates, Mr. Snake, Mr. Piranha and Mr. Shark to join him in the Good Guys Club. Their first mission is to free 200 dogs from the Maximum Security City Dog Pound!

Holm, Jennifer. *Babymouse* (series). Graphic novel about an intrepid mouse.

Velde, Vivian. *8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel + 1 Dog = Chaos* The story begins when a dog chases a squirrel into a nearby elementary school. The squirrel runs from classroom to classroom leaving chaos in its wake. Each chapter is narrated in the first person by the various class pets that inhabit the classrooms. The pets range from hamsters to snakes to fish to birds and getting their different perspectives on the ruckus is extremely entertaining to say the least. There's now a sequel! *Squirrel in the House*.

Doyle, Roddy. *The Giggler Treatment*.

Keller, Laurie. *The Scrambles States of America*. The states are bored at always being in the same place all the time on the map so they decide to have a party and mix things up a bit. A funny picture book that is also a great way to learn about the 50 states. (There is a board game by the same name).

Stories about Friends and Families

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks*. In this tender tale the characters deal with the loss of a parent, sisterhood, and friendship all woven into a fast paced adventure that is both humorous and poignant. Claimed to be "My favorite book ever!" by many readers.

Blume, Judy. *Fudge-a-Mania*. (series) Farley Drexel Hatcher, more commonly known as Fudge, is a definite source of amusement and annoyance to his older brother, Peter. A classic that a lot of the parents may remember from their own childhood reading!

Danzinger, Paula. *Amber Brown is not a Crayon*. (series) Amber Brown has just entered third grade only to find that her best friend is moving away! Sweet series about the ups and downs of school and childhood friendships.

Look, Leonore. *Alvin Ho*. An boy who suffers from anxiety but his family

Horvarth, Polly. The Trolls. Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history. Also try Everything on a Waffle by the same author.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody*. (series) Judy, her friends, and her little brother, Stink, have lots of fun times together during her third grade year. Be prepared to read the whole collection- once you get started it is hard to not know what happens next to crazy Judy Moody! And now Stink has his own series as well!

Nonfiction: Informational

Bryant, Jen *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* Born in Pennsylvania in 1888, Horace Pippin loved to draw and paint as a child. When he was in eighth grade, his father left the family. Horace quit school and worked to support them. Later wounded as a soldier in WWI, he never regained full use of his right arm. Back home, Pippin began painting again, using his left arm to guide his right. Painting subjects drawn mainly from observation, memory, family stories, and the Bible, this self-taught African American artist was eventually discovered by the art community.

Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes*. Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960. The authenticity of Ms. Bridges' voice is marked with understated charm and heroism.

Brown, Don. *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein*. A picture book biography of Albert Einstein, focusing on his oddness throughout his childhood, his disinterest in school, and discussing the significance of his discoveries in physics.

Bryant, Jen. *Abe's Fish*. This picture book is classified as historical fiction, but contains an astounding author's note on the final pages that explains the extensive research of Abraham Lincoln's early years and boyhood. Fascinating!

Demi. *Muhammad, Gandhi, and Mary*. Are just a few titles by this prolific author and illustrator that explore world figures in a manner of great detail that is informative, yet very accessible to young readers. Demi is also retells and illustrates many traditional tales from around the world in her books *The Hungry Coat* and *The Empty Pot*. This author is not to be missed!

Jenkins, Steve. *Actual Size*. This inventive, startling paper collage gallery allows readers to view almost twenty creatures (or as much of them that will fit on the page) at actual size. Also by the same author: *Prehistoric Size* and his newest *Living Color*.

Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. A biography of Cesar Chavez, from his childhood on his family's ranch in Arizona, to age thirty-eight, when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant worker's miserable working conditions.

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to be President?* Entertaining trivia, intriguing scandals, and thought-provoking lessons embellish an overview of the presidency and the men who lead the country. Great read since this is election year! Be aware this book is dated and doesn't include our last 2 very important presidents who also changed American history.

Ancona, George. *It's Our Garden: From Seeds to Harvest in a School Garden*. Want to grow what you eat and eat what you grow? Visit this lively, flourishing school and community garden and be inspired to cultivate your own.

Chin, Jason. *Island: Story of the Galapagos*. An island is about to be born one that in time will become home to plants and animals that exist nowhere else on Earth.

Poetry

Franco, Betsy. *Mathmatickles!* Word lovers might stand a better chance of becoming math lovers if more math lessons were like these: "apples + worms = sweet tunnels." The four seasons provide the framework for a book made up of equations and graphs, each one encapsulating a seasonal sight or experience. The watercolor and gouache pictures show a little girl styled like a sixties cartoon character; the pages brim with joyfully bright color.

George, Kristine O'Connell. *Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems*. The pleasure and surprises of going camping are conveyed in eighteen brief poems. Familiar camping experiences--including pitching a tent, sleeping in a sleeping bag, and watching a chipmunk--are described, in addition to more unusual experiences like walking through a field of mustard, seeing a moose, and discovering a cave.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*. Make sure and get the copy illustrated by Christopher Bing ISBN#1929766130.

Peters, Lisa Westberg. *Earthshake: Poems for the Ground Up*. Twenty-two clever poem about geology with engaging illustrations—sure to inspire a summer rock hunt in the backyard or local park!

Prelutsky, Jack. *If Not for the Cat*. An all time favorite collection of haikus that are thought provoking and fun to quote—paired with large, colorful illustrations.

Feel free to choose other books outside this list. This is a suggestion only of strong literature to help with keeping your skills fresh! Just READ!

Have a wonderful summer!

Warmly,
Mrs. Atkins Young
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My Reading Log



Become a super reader! **Read 5 books or more (yes your required reading counts too!)** and get extra dojo points and when the summer challenge. You **MUST** document what you've read by filling out the reading log below for each book. For each book, complete a separate log.

Read for at least twenty minutes every day. Once you've completed the book, choose 1 question from the box. Write the number of the question from the box on the line along with the answer to the question.

Reflection Questions for the Book:

Select **One** per book – try to choose a different question for each book.

1. What is the problem and solution in the story?
2. Name the literary elements (setting, plot, theme, point of view, cause & effect, compare & contrast, etc.) in the story?
3. If you were the author, how would you change the ending of the story?
4. Who is your favorite character and why?
5. If you change the setting of the story how would it change the story?
6. How did the main character in the story respond to the problem? How would you have responded to the problem if you were the main character?
7. What is the title of the story (or chapter)? Is this a good title? Why or why not?
8. Who is your favorite character and why? What are their character traits?
9. What is the main idea of the story? What some key details that support this main idea?
10. Is there a lesson in this story? What is it and what did you learn from it?

Book 1

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Question #: _____

Answer: _____

Book 2

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Question #: _____

Answer: _____

Book 3

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Question #: _____

Answer: _____

Book 4

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Question #: _____

Answer: _____

Book 5

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Question #: _____

Answer: _____

Book 6

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

Question #: _____

Answer: _____

