



2018 Suggested Reading for Students Entering Grade 4

The suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The books on this list do not indicate reading level or achievement, but will hopefully spark discussion between you and your children and inspire an interest in stories and reading. The titles listed below are samplings of the many works produced by these authors. You can also read other titles by these authors for your suggested reading.

An asterisk (*) indicates a S.T.E.A.M title.

The Wakefield Public Schools invites students to participate in the 2018 Summer Reading Program, *Libraries ROCK!* To participate in the library's Summer Reading Program, check out wakefieldlibrary.org to set up your online account. Earn prizes for reading, take part in activities, and learn how libraries can ROCK your world by making life easier.

For information about the Wakefield Public Schools' Summer Reading initiative and assignment updates, visit wakefieldreads.org.

Fiction

Historical Fiction

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Mighty Miss Malone**

With love and determination befitting the "world's greatest family," twelve-year-old Deza Malone, her older brother Jimmie, and their parents endure tough times during the Great Depression.

Draper, Sharon. **Stella By Starlight**

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change.

Gratz, Alan. **Refugee**

Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

McSwigan, Marie. **Snow Treasure**

In 1940, when the Nazi invasion of Norway reaches their village in the far north, twelve-year-old Peter and his friends use their sleds to transport nine million dollars worth of gold past the German soldiers to the secret harbor where Peter's uncle keeps his ship ready to take the gold for safekeeping in the United States





Tarshis, Lauren. **I Survived** series
In these fictional accounts, kids survive some of the most iconic disasters in world history including the destruction of Pompeii, the San Francisco Earthquake, the Japanese Tsunami, and the sinking of the Titanic.

Mystery and Adventure

*Balliet, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer** series
When strange and seemingly unrelated events happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art mystery.

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. **Book Scavenger**
Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow the clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends.

Fitzhugh, Louise. **Harriet, the Spy**
Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read her notebook, they seek revenge.

Gibbs, Stuart. **Spy School** series
If you met Ben Ripley you would never think of him as potential secret agent material. But, working for the C.I.A. is Ben's greatest dream. When recruited for an elite science magnet school, he is thrilled to find out he will actually be attending a secret training school for spies.

*Konigsburg, E.L. **From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**
Twelve-year-old Claudia and her younger brother run away from home and take up residence at the Metropolitan Museum where they come across a beautiful and mysterious statue. Determined to discover its maker, they first have to find the statue's former owner, the reclusive and mischievous Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, and then sort through her incredibly mixed-up files.

*Orr, Wendy. **Nim's Island**
Nim lives on a beautiful tropical island with just her father and animal friends. Her father's research on glowing plankton sends him out into the ocean alone, sometimes for several days. When he sails out into a storm and Nim loses contact with him, she reaches out to her favorite author, the daring adventurer Alex Rover. She hopes that Alex will come help her rescue her dad, but Alex has a secret that Nim could never have guessed.





Realistic Fiction

*Angleberger, Tom. **Origami Yoda** series

Not a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, a sixth grader named Dwight folded a puppet of Yoda out of origami paper. This was not surprising, since Dwight was considered a rather odd boy. But what was amazing is that his origami Yoda had the power to tell the future like the date of pop quizzes and solve classroom mysteries, as well as keep Dwight and his friends from making popularity-crashing mistakes.

Barber, Tiki and Ronde. **Barber Game Time** series

Football...basketball...baseball... is there any sport twins Tiki and Ronde Barber won't try? Written by real twins Tiki, a record-holding running back for the New York Giants, and Ronde, a record-holding cornerback for the Tampa Buchaneers, they use their knowledge to create exciting, true-to-life sport stories.

Blume, Judy. **Blubber**

Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate only to find out how it feels when she, too, becomes a target.

*Brown, Jennifer. **Life on Mars**

Twelve-year-old Arcturus Betelgeuse Chambers' quest to find life on other planets seems at an end when his parents decide to move to Las Vegas, but while they look for a house he stays with his neighbor, an astronaut, who soon becomes a friend.

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking**

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn Dixie**

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the amazing things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.

*Dowell, Frances O'Roark. **Phineas MacGuire** series

There are three things Phineas MacGuire knows. First, he is allergic to the color purple, telephone calls and girls. Second, his expertise is finding the mold with the highest stink factor. Third, he does not have a best friend and his un-best friend will not be upgraded to bf status. As a highly scientific person he can prove these three things are true.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **Fish in a Tree**

Ally, a great artist and thinker has a secret she would do anything to prevent her classmates from discovering. Even if it means she gets sent to the office most days and she knows her teacher is fed up with her, she must not let people know what she is hiding. All goes well until her class gets a new teacher, one who will not send her out of class or just ignore her.





Jennings, Patrick.

Guinea Dog series

When his mother brings home a guinea pig instead of the dog he has always wanted, fifth-grader Rufus is not happy until the rodent starts acting exactly like a dog.

*Khan, Hena.

Amina's Voice

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. After her local mosque is vandalized, she is devastated. Does Amina need to become more "American" and hide who she really is?

Martin, Ann.

Rain Reign

Rose has a lot of rules and an obsession with homonyms. That's why she named her beloved dog Rain. When Rain goes missing during a storm, she must confront her the discomfort of breaking her rules and routines to save her.

Patterson, James.

Pottymouth and Stoopid

Two bullied underdogs still called by their second grade nicknames finally win the day when their troubles inspire a hit TV show.

Rodkey, Geoff.

The Tapper Twins series

The Tapper Twins take sibling rivalry to the next level! Their hilarious competitions are told through transcribed recordings, text messages, photographs, illustrations, and screenshots. Find out who comes out on top!

Russell, Rachel Renée.

Dork Diaries series

This series of books lets the reader peek into the diary of fourteen-year-old Nikki Maxwell as she strives for popularity at her exclusive new private school.

*Spinelli, Eileen.

Another Day as Emily

Susie is jealous when her brother is declared a town hero, so she finds solace in the poetry and lives the reclusive lifestyle of the poet Emily Dickinson.

Tashjian, Janet.

The My Life series

The My Life series follows twelve-year-old Derek Fallon through his attempts to become a cartoonist, writer, video gamer, stuntboy, YouTube star and ninja and his efforts to stop finding ways to embarrass himself.

Zahr, Paul.

Project Superhero

Join Jessie as she keeps a diary of her project on superheroes! She wants to know what it would take to be Batgirl. Can Jessie prove to her friends that she's more than a sidekick? Will she outwit her nemesis at the school Superhero Slam?





Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror

Anderson, John David. **Side Kicked**

Thirteen-year-old superhero sidekick-in-training Drew "The Sensationalist" Bean must overcome his not-so-superpowers and become the hero everyone needs when a supervillain, The Dealer, returns to Justicia.

*Applegate, Katherine. **Wishtree**

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

Blackwood, Sage. **Miss Ellicott's School for the Magically Minded**

Chantel would much rather focus on her magic than on curtsying, which is why she often finds herself in trouble at Miss Ellicott's School for Magical Maidens. When Miss Ellicott mysteriously disappears, along with all the other sorcerers in the city, Chantel's behavior becomes the least of her problems.

*Brown Peter. **The Wild Robot** series

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. Her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Cowell, Cressida. **The Wizards of Once**

The young wizard Prince Xar, who has no magic, and warrior princess Wish, an outcast, team up on an adventure that brings them to witches long believed to be extinct.

Dahl, Roald. **The BFG**

Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling "cannybull" giants.

*Hawking, Lucy and Stephen. **George's Secret Key to the Universe** series

George and his friend travel through a computer portal into outer space, where they explore such mysteries as black holes and the origins of the universe, while trying to evade an evil scientist.

Healy, Christopher. **Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom** series

The four princes erroneously dubbed Prince Charming and rudely marginalized in their respective fairy tales form an unlikely team when a witch threatens the whole kingdom.

Jacques, Brian. **Redwall** series

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat, Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.





*Juster, Norton.

The Phantom Tollbooth

Milo embarks on a journey through a strange land where he discovers that words and numbers can provide a cure for his boredom.

Lin, Grace.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River

Mass, Wendy.

11 Birthdays

Amanda and Leo, best friends with the same birthday, had a falling out on their tenth birthday and have not spoken since, but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their eleventh birthday repeats itself again and again.

Night, P.J.

You're Invited to a Creepover series

Go to sleep if you dare because you are invited to a Creepover. Each book in this series takes place at a sleepover. Check out the Creep-o-meter on the back of the book to find out the level of each books' "scariness." Will you sleep like a baby or never sleep again?

Perkins, Lynne Rae.

Nuts to You

After surviving being carried off by a hawk, a young squirrel resolves to find his way home, as his best friends begin their search for him.

Selfors, Suzanne.

Imaginary Veterinary series

Spending the summer in his grandfather's rundown town, ten-year-old Ben meets an adventurous local girl and together they learn that the town's veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures.

Selznick, Brian.

Wonderstruck

Rose and Ben each wish for a different life than the one they are living. Rose dreams of a beautiful actress and Ben longs for the father he never knew. When Ben finds a mysterious clue in his mother's room and Rose is intrigued by an article in the newspaper, they both follow their lead to the Museum of Natural History in New York. The catch – their stories are 50 years apart.

*Stead, Rebecca.

When You Reach Me

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Various.

Spirit Animals series

As a dark force engulfs the land, the fate of Erdas has fallen on the shoulders of four young strangers who each have forged a rare bond with their spirit beasts—a bond that gives great powers to all of them.





*Various.

Voyagers series

Eight boys and girls compete for a spot on the space voyage that will search for a source to solve Earth's energy crisis.

Graphic Novels

Colossal, Eric.

Rutabaga the Adventure Chef series

Rutabaga has grown bored with cooking with ordinary ingredients. He now travels the world searching for the unusual and magical ingredients to add to his cookbook.

Hale, Nathan.

Hazardous Tales series

Nathan Hale, the author's historical namesake, was America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format.

Hale, Shannon.

Real Friends

When her best friend Adrienne starts hanging out with the most popular girl in class, Shannon questions whether she and Adrienne will stay friends, and if she is part of the clique. Hale looks back at all the friends she has had and wonders about what is real friendship.

Hatke, Ben.

Mighty Jack series

Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk - to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. What starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everything... a dragon.

Telgemeier, Raina.

Ghosts

Cat's family moves from sunny Southern California to the misty, cool north for her little sister's health. Not just the weather is different, her new neighbors are also strange - they seem to believe ghosts are real. They meet a boy, named Carlos, who offers to take them to meet a ghost. Her sister, Maya, is excited, but Cat is hesitant, worried about her sister's health. Carlos tells them that the day when the dead reunite with their loved ones is approaching and Cat must put aside her fears for herself and her sister.





Nonfiction

*Dlugos, Jenn.

Things that Make You Go Yuck series

This four book series is full of things that will make you go “yuck!” It includes *Mystifying Mutants, Crooked Creatures, Extreme Living* and *Odd Couples*.

*Jenkins, Steve.

Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World

Gorgeous illustration and amazing information on how different animals “see the world.”

*Jennings, Ken.

Ken Jennings’ Junior Genius Guides series

Jeopardy champion Ken Jennings has created this fun, interactive trivia series to make you an expert on maps and geography, U.S. presidents, outer space, the human body, Greek mythology, Ancient Egypt and dinosaurs.

*Macauley, David.

The Way Things Work

Future engineers, inventors and scientist will love discovering how everything from locks, solar cell and refrigerators to computers, virtual reality, and the internet work. Illustrated with Macauley’s detailed drawing, this book offers an amazing amount of knowledge about the machines and forces around all our lives.

Nelson, Kadir.

We Are the Ship

You know about the National League and the American League in baseball, but what do you know about the Negro League? Nelson’s book recounts the history of the gifted athletes who in spite of racial discrimination, overt hatred and low pay, did what they loved most – play baseball.

Tarshis, Lauren.

I Survived True Stories

The author of the popular *I Survived* series turns her attention to five stories of real kids surviving disasters.

*Tyson, Neil deGrasse.

Startalk

If anyone knows about space, it is the brilliant and charismatic astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson! In *Startalk*, he explores “everything you need to know about space travel, sci-fi, the human race, the universe and beyond!”

*Various.

Basher Basics series

Smart, sassy and funny, this series of books will make you an expert in plenty of topics! Included are Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Creative Writing, Engineering, Grammar, Human Body, The Periodic Table, Planet Earth, Punctuation, Rocks and Minerals and more.

*Various.

Science Comics series

In glorious detail, explore cool science topics in the graphic novel series *Science Comics*. The series includes Plagues, Volcanoes, Dinosaurs, Coral Reefs, Bats, Dogs, Flying Machines, Robots and Drones, and Sharks.





Biographies

*Aldrin, Buzz.

Reaching for the Moon

Known for being a crewmember on the first space ship to land on the moon, Edwin Aldrin shares his journey from New Jersey to leaving his footprints on the dust of the moon. Find out how he received the nickname, “Buzz.”

*Barton, Chris.

Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson’s Super-soaking Stream of Inventions

Lonnie Johnson loved experimenting and inventing, so it is no wonder that he became an engineer for NASA. By day, he was working on the Galileo and Cassini space probes, by night he was trying to invent an environmentally safe heat pump that used water rather than Freon. A mishap with his heat pump changed his life.

*Gherman, Beverly.

Sparky: The life and art of Charles Schultz

A look at the life and influences of Charles Schulz, creator of the beloved comic strip Peanuts, this book is filled with his classic drawing.

*Hood, Susan.

Ada’s Violin

Ada lived in a town in desperate need of hope. When a man arrived advertising private music lessons, she jumped at the chance to learn to play an instrument. She was not alone – more children applied than the number of instruments available. Using the ingenious idea of making instruments from the huge landfill in town, children learned to play and formed an orchestra that traveled the world. Based on a true story.

*Lasky, Kathryn.

One Beetle Too Many

Charles Darwin was much more interested in studying beetles and blowing up garden sheds than going to school. When he heard of an expedition going to study the unusual animals and plants of South America, he jumped at the chance to sign on as their naturalist. From his observations of the wide variety of life, he began to form a theory that eventually became his Theory of Evolution.

Leonard, Dion.

Finding Gobi: The True Story of One Little Dog’s Big Journey

Dion Leonard is a marathon runner who races in some of the most extreme environments. He was involved in a 155-mile race across the Gobi Desert in China when he crossed paths with a stray puppy. She ran with him for 77 miles over dunes and mountains, sleeping with him in his tent at night. Leonard named her Gobi. When the race was over, he made plans to bring her with him to Scotland, but before he could take her home, she disappeared into the huge Chinese city he was visiting. He called upon strangers and social media to try to locate his friend. Read this amazing story of how the pair reunited.





*Matthews, Tom L.

Light Shining Through the Mist

Without any formal training, but a love of gorillas, Dian Fossey left home and set up a gorilla observation camp in the Virunga Mountains of Africa to study and photograph these magnificent creatures. No human knew gorillas better than Fossey. What started as a field study morphed into a mission to protect the mountain gorilla from poachers and human interference.

Moss, Marissa.

Barbed Wire Baseball

Growing up in Hawaii, Kenichi Zenimura knew he didn't want to be a lawyer or doctor as his parents wanted. He loved baseball and knew he could play, even though he was barely 5 feet tall. Find out what he did to be inducted into The Shrine of the Eternals, the National baseball organization that elects people on their merits other than just statistic.

*Paul, Miranda.

One Plastic Bag

Most people just ignore a plastic bag blowing in the wind, but not Isatou Ceesey of the Gambia. She saw broken plastic bags that people threw on the ground and thought that they should be used for something good. Find out what she devised!

*Rosenstock, Barb.

The Noisy Paint Box: The Color and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art

Most people hear sounds and see colors, but not artist Vasya Kandinsky. He had a condition called synesthesia that allowed him to hear colors and see music. *The Noisy Paintbox*, through its story and illustration, captures the feeling of an artist discovering and exploring his creativity.

*Rubin, Susan Goldman.

Whaam!: the art & life of Roy Lichtenstein

In Roy Lichtenstein's long career as a teacher, artist, and innovator, he changed the way that people thought about art and how artists thought about their subjects.

*Say, Allen.

Drawing From Memory

Artist and writer Allen Say always knew he loved to draw, something his father never really understood. As a boy, he had the opportunity to apprentice with Japan's leading comic book creator – a man who became his mentor and inspiration. Through photographs, comics, sketches and words, Say shares with the reader his path to becoming an artist.

*Steptoe, Javaka.

Radiant Child

Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City.





Books to Read to Your Fourth Grader

Avi.

Poppy

Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

Babbitt, Natalie.

Search for Delicious

The Prime Minister is compiling a dictionary. When no one at court can agree on the meaning of delicious, the King sends his twelve-year-old messenger to poll the country. He is excited to see the kingdom, but what he finds is the threat of a civil war and a mermaid who holds the key to peace.

Barnett, Mac.

The Terrible Two

Miles Murphy, a master prankster, moves to a new school in Yawnee Valley, a sleepy town that prides itself on its cows. He sees the opportunity to become notorious as the school prankster. When a mysterious kid takes him on, the pair decide to join forces to pull off the biggest prank Yawnee Science and Letters Academy has ever experienced.

Barry, Dave.

Peter and the Starcatchers

Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island

Clements, Andrew.

Frindle

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Ellis, Deborah.

The Breadwinner

Parvanna lives with her family in one room of a bombed out apartment in Kabul, Afghanistan. When her father is arrested by the Taliban for being foreign educated, her family has no one to work to support the family. Only boys can work. Parvanna decides to do something very risky – disguise herself as a boy and become the family's breadwinner.

Palacio, R.J.

Wonder

After being homeschooled because of a rare facial deformity, Auggie's parents feel it is time for him to attend 5th grade at a school. Auggie is a funny and sensitive boy who loves Star Wars and video games, but even with his parents, his new teacher's and the school's careful preparation, Auggie's introduction to his classroom includes bullies and being ostracized.





Ryan, Pam Munoz.

Echo

Weaving a story straight out of a fantastic fairy tale, three children try to keep their families together in intertwined stories all connected by a love of music and a strange harmonica.

Snicket, Lemony.

The Bad Beginning

Not much fortunate happens in the story of the Beaudelaire children, Violet, Klaus, and baby Sunny. Their parents perished in a terrible fire that destroyed their home leaving them orphans. That was very bad. Then, their guardian, Count Olaf, proves to be the most horrible person in the world—only interested in their money. Even worse! If you are looking for a book with a happy-ending—this is not the one. If you want a clever, funny book full of misfortune, misery and despair, read *The Bad Beginning*.

Stead, Rebecca.

Liar and Spy

The first day in his new apartment building, Georges (he is quick to point out that the “s” is silent) sees a sign in the basement announcing the meeting of a spy club that very day. At his father’s urging, Georges reluctantly goes to the meeting. He meets Safer and the pair, with help from Safer’s sister, Candy, become spy-catchers tracking the movements of the mysterious Mr. X, a resident of their building. As their investigation continues, Safer becomes more and more demanding. This makes Georges uncomfortable and he wonders if Safer is a liar or a spy or both!

*The Suggested Reading List was compiled by the Wakefield Public Schools’
Reading Specialists and the Beebe Library’s Children’s Librarians.*

