



2019 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.

The Wakefield Public Schools invites students to participate in Beebe Library's 2019 Summer Reading Program, *A Universe of Stories*. Check out the summer activities calendar at www.wakefieldlibrary.org.

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

Dinnerstein, Eric. **What Elephants Know**

Abandoned in the jungle at two years old, Nandu falls into the care of Subba-Sahib, the wise head of the King's elephant stable, and Devi Kali, an affectionate female elephant. When the government threatens to close the elephant stable, Nandu makes a risky plan to save his unusual family.

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.

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.

Sepahban, Lois **Paper Wishes**

Manami lived a very peaceful life with her family on Bainbridge Island in Washington State before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Then the US government ordered all families of Japanese heritage to pack one suitcase per person and to relocate into the desert to live in makeshift housing surrounded by high fences and guards. She lost her home, her friends, and her freedom, but the most difficult loss was her beloved dog, Yujuin.





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, 9/11, and the sinking of the Titanic.

Mystery and Adventure

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.

Moon Base Alpha series

Dash Gibson, his sister, and scientist parents are part of the first human colony on the moon. It sounds exciting being one of the first Moonies, but Dash is bored. Between not being able to leave the tiny moon base, very few other kids to hang with, and only school and videogames to keep him busy, Dash needs something. But, he never expected the murder of one of the world's most prominent scientists inside the base would throw him into the role of detective!

Gutman, Dan.

Mission Unstoppable

Twins Coke and Pepsi McDonald are off on a summer road trip from California to Washington, D.C with their family. While their mom visits unusual sites like the Yo-yo Museum and the Worlds' Largest Ball of Twine, the twins spend their trip dodging poison darts from blowguns, being thrown into pits of sand, and strange guys wearing bowler hats. Why don't their parents notice? And what's with their crazy health teacher who keeps showing up?

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.

Stewart, Trenton Lee.

The Mysterious Benedict Society series

A newspaper runs an ad asking "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" Of all the children who show up and take the series of extremely challenging tests, only four succeed. Their "special opportunity" is a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at a boarding school where they will have to use all their intelligence, creativity, and courage just to survive and save humankind.





Swanson, Matthew.

The Real McCoys series

Meet Moxie McCoy, the world's most opinionated and self-confident fourth-grade detective. Her best friend and crime-solving partner has moved away, so how will she solve the mystery of the kidnapped school mascot, Eddie the Owl, by herself. Enter Milton McCoy, Moxie's little brother, who is as cautious, quiet, and boring as Moxie is outgoing and loud. Together can they solve the case?

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. The surprising fact 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.

Clements, Andrew.

The Loser's Club

Alec loves to read! When he gets in trouble for reading, and not paying attention, in class, he decides to start an afterschool club so he can get in all the reading time he wants. But, he doesn't want others to join, so he named it "The Loser's Club." Who would want to join that club! No one, right? Wrong! Clements does it again with this funny take on school life.

Connor, Leslie.

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook

Perry lives quite happily with his mother on Cell Block C of the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility where he was born. All was well until a new District Attorney discovers Perry's living arrangement and forces him into a foster home on the "outside." Desperate to be back with his mother, he goes on a quest to try to get his mom out by investigating her crime.

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.





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 spends most of her day in the office, 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.

Khan, Hena. **Amina's Voice**

A Pakistani-American girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. After the vandalizing of her local mosque, she is devastated. Does Amina need to become more "American," or embrace her true self?

Medina, Meg. **Merci Suarez Changes Gears**

Eleven-year-old Merci struggles with her beloved grandfather's health problems, heavy family obligations at home, and finding her way at an expensive private school where, as a scholarship student, it is difficult to find her place.

Rodkey, Geoff. **The Tapper Twins** series

The Tapper Twins take sibling rivalry to the next level! Follow their hilarious exploits 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 becomes a town hero, so she finds solace in the poetry and the reclusive lifestyle of the poet Emily Dickinson.

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror

Angleberger, Tom. **Return of the Jedi: Beware the Power of the Dark Side**

A retelling of *The Return of the Jedi* with snappy dialogue and scenes that are true to the movie. For both Star Wars fans and fans of Angleberger's Origami Yoda series.

Applegate, Katherine. **Wishtree**

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

Bracken, Alexandria. **A New Hope: The Princess, the Scoundrel and the Farm Boy**

Star Wars: A New Hope, is told in alternating chapters by Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and Han Solo. It is perfect for the Star Wars fan and newcomers who want a preview before watching the movie.





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.

Dahl, Roald.

The BFG

Kidnatched 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.

Gidwitz, Adam.

Empire Strikes Back: So You Want To Be a Jedi?

Gidwitz re-tells the story of *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* infusing this classic story of Good vs. Evil with humor told through the eyes of Luke Skywalker.

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.

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.

Lee, Yoon Ha.

Dragon Pearl

Part of the Rick Riordan Presents series, *Dragon Pearl* takes Korean mythology into outer space as Min, descended from a long line of fox spirits, sneaks aboard a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet to find her brother who has gone missing in action.

L’Engle, Madeleine.

Wrinkle in Time

Meg Murry, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O’Keefe become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg’s father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

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 an attack 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.

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

Brooks, Molly. **Sanity and Tallulah** series

Living inside a beat-up space station, friends Sanity Jones and Tallulah Vega use their creativity to keep busy. Sanity, who is a science prodigy, creates a three-headed cat, named Princess Sparkle Destroyer of Worlds. She has enlisted Tallulah to help her keep PSDW hidden from her mom. What could go wrong?

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.

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 a flea market, Maddy does talk -to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best, or worst, 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 and, on one moonlit night something that changes everything... a dragon.

Brown, Jeffrey and Jarrett Krosoczka. **Star Wars Jedi Academy** series

Jedi Academy will take you to a school in a galaxy far, far away. Roan wants to attend Pilot Academy, but for a mysterious reason he ends up in the Jedi Academy as a student of Master Yoda. All the other students have been practicing Jedi skills for years and Roan, who cannot master "Using the Force" questions why he was chosen to attend. Does Master Yoda see more than Roan can see about himself?

Marsden, Mariah **Anne of Green Gables**

The classic tale of the red-headed, freckled, very talkative orphan living with an elderly brother and sister has been made into a beautiful graphic novel with illustrations by Brenna Thummler.

Miller, Kayla. **Camp**

Olive is excited because she's off to summer camp for the first time and her best friend, Willow, is going with her. But, when they arrive, Olive easily made friends, while Willow just latched on to Olive and refuses to mix with the other girls. A battle to save their friendship ensues. Will they return home as best friends or new enemies?

Sutherland, Tui. **Wings of Fire** series

The first two books in the popular series Wings of Fire are now graphic novels. Follow Clay, a young dragonet, chosen with three others to fulfill a mysterious prophecy to end war between the dragons of Pyrrhia, as he leaves the mountain that has been his home to fulfill his destiny.

Various. **Science Comics** series

In glorious detail and great humor, 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, the Solar System, the Brain, and Sharks.

Nonfiction

Acevaedo, Sylvia. **Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist**

Sylvia's family was rocked by the devastating illness of her little sister. During this time, Sylvia joined the Girl Scouts and she was encouraged to take control of her world and to explore her love of science and numbers. Her hard work helped her become one of the first Latinx to graduate from Stanford University with a master's in engineering and later become a rocket scientist at NASA





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.

Becker, Helene.

Everything Space

A photo-filled introduction to our universe.

Dyer, Alan.

Mission to the Moon

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 with *Mission to the Moon*. Lots of fascinating information about the moon and moon space exploration, including 200 NASA photos and a DVD that contains actual footage from the first moon landing as well as later Apollo missions.

DeCristofano, Carolyn.

Ultimate Space Atlas

The Ultimate Space Atlas takes you on a journey from Earth to the farthest reaches of our Galaxy and beyond with photos, maps, games and activities.

Discovery.

Spaceopedia

Discover planets, stars, space junk, space travel, space mysteries, and more in this photo-filled Spaceopedia.

Jennings, Ken.

Ken Jennings’ Junior Genius Guides series

Jeopardy champion Ken Jennings created a 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.

Kelly, Scott.

Endurance: My Year in Space and How I Got There

Find out how a boy who couldn’t sit still and pay attention in school became a commander of both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station.

Macauley, David.

The Way Things Work

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

Meyerwitz, Joel.

Seeing Things: A Kid’s Guide to Looking at Photographs

Meyerwitz’s introduction to photography for kids explores how a photograph is more than just a picture. It offers the gift of being able to transform a seemingly ordinary thing into an image that





captivates the imagination and opens up viewers to new worlds of wonder. Readers learn the skills to think about composition, light, gesture, and other tools in creating art from a seemingly simple image.

Nardo, Don.

The Blue Marble: How a Photograph Revealed Earth's Fragile Beauty

In 1972, when the astronauts of Apollo 17 traveled to the moon to collect soil and rock samples, one of the crew members took a photograph that became one of the most reproduced and recognized photos of all time. Nardo's *Blue Marble* discusses the power of an image, and how it captured the imagination of people on Earth.

Paquette, Amimi-Joan.

Two Truths and a Lie : It's Alive

Challenge yourself by reading three stories about living things. Two are true and one is the lie. Can you guess the false one? A fun way to help you develop skills to evaluate the difference between fact and fiction.

Rusch, Elizabeth.

The Planet Hunter: The Story Behind What Happened to Pluto

The fascinating story of how Mike Brown's determination to discover another planet turned out to be the demise of Pluto's planethood.

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!"

Young, Karen Romano.

Space Junk: The Dangers of Polluting Earth's Orbit

We hear about the pollution of our seas, ground, and atmosphere, but what about all the discarded space crafts, satellites, and the more than 100 million other pieces of junk that orbit the Earth? What future problems could they cause?

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

