

2021 SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 4

The recommended 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.

Join us for our 2021 Summer Reading Program, Tails and Tales! Learn more at wakefieldlibrary.org.

Your librarians are happy to help and can be reached at wakyouth@noblenet.org.

Happy reading! Your Youth Librarians,
Casey, Amanda, Annie, Heidi, & Holly

REALISTIC FICTION

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume**

Living with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. 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?

Call #: *Children's Fiction Blume*

***The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davis**

Siblings Evan and Jesse face off at opposing lemonade stands, as each tries to earn \$100 before the other. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.

Call #: *Children's Fiction Davis*

***The Sea in Winter* by Christine Day**

After hurting her leg and ruining her chances at ballet auditions, Maisie Cannon is anything but excited for her family's winter trip along the coast, along the Makah community. How is Maisie expected to go back to normal after a life-changing injury?

Call #: *Children's Fiction Day*

***You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P.* by Alex Gino**

When her new baby sister is born deaf, Jilly makes an online connection with a fellow fantasy fan, who is Black and deaf, and begins to learn about the many obstacles that exist in the world for people who are different from her.

Call #: *Children's Fiction Gino*



***The Boys in the Back Row* by Mike Jung**

Best friends Matt and Eric are hatching a plan for one big final adventure together before Eric moves away: during the marching band competition, they will sneak away to a comics convention and meet their favorite comic creator. Without cell phones. Or transportation. Or permission.

Call #: Children's Fiction Jung

***Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan**

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?

Call #: Children's Fiction Khan

***Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* by Jessica Kim**

When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part, but how long can she keep up the act?

Call #: Children's Fiction Kim

***Book Uncle and Me* by Uma Krishnaswami**

Every day, nine-year-old Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, a retired teacher who set up a free, lending library next to her apartment building. So when the mayor orders Book Uncle to shut down his stand, Yasmin rallies her classmates and neighbors to help save Book Uncle's library.

Call #: Children's Early Fiction Krishnaswami

***Pie in the Sky* by Remy Lai**

Knowing very little English, eleven-year-old Jingwen feels like an alien when his family immigrates to Australia, but copes with loneliness and the loss of his father by baking elaborate cakes.

Call #: Children's Fiction Lai

***Rules* by Cynthia Lord**

Twelve-year-old Catherine shares her experience of growing up with an autistic sibling and wishing for a "normal" life, but two new friendships makes Catherine begin to question what "normal" even is anyway.

Call #: Children's Fiction Lord

***What Lane?* by Torrey Maldonado**

Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends.

Call #: Children's Fiction Maldonado

***Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina**

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.

Call #: Children's Fiction Medina



***Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Call #: Children's Fiction Naylor

***Simon B. Rhyming* by Dwayne Reed**

Fifth-grader Simon, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, discovers ways he can use his rhymes to bring his community together.

Call #: Children's Fiction Reed

***The Tapper Twins* series by Geoff Rodkey**

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!

Call #: Children's Fiction Rodkey

***Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar**

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

Call #: Children's Fiction Sachar

***Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renée Watson**

The Hart family faces setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but, no matter what, Ryan is determined to bring sunshine to her loved ones.

Call #: Children's Fiction Watson

***Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan**

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems. In the first week of fifth grade, Joe and Ravi are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

Call #: Children's Fiction Weeks

ADVENTURE & MYSTERY

***Inspector Flytrap* by Tom Angleberger**

Hoping to become the greatest detective that ever grew, Inspector Flytrap, a Venus Flytrap, and his assistant, Nina the Goat, investigate "big deal" mysteries at an art museum, a cookie shop, and a garden.

Call #: Children's Early Chapter Angleberger



***Race the Wild* series by Kristin Earhart**

Russell had been studying up on the Amazon's animals and culture forever, but nothing could prepare him for the race through the rainforest. Can Russell and his team make it to the finish line in one piece?

Call #: Children's Early Chapter Earhart

***Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh**

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.

Call #: Children's Fiction Fitzhugh

***Moon Base Alpha* series by Stuart Gibbs**

Living on the moon isn't as exciting as you think, according to Dash Gibson. But Dash starts thinking differently when he's thrown into the role of detective.

Call #: Children's Fiction Gibbs

***Mission Unstoppable* by Dan Gutman**

A summer road trip takes a turn for the weird when twins Coke and Pepsi McDonald suddenly find themselves under attack.

Call #: Children's Fiction Gutman

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

Seeking answers about a mysterious statue in their new home (the Metropolitan Museum), Claudia and Jamie search for the statue's former owner: the reclusive and mischievous Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.

Call #: Children's Fiction Konigsburg

***The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart**

Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities? What about if the "special opportunity" is a secret mission? Four children must go undercover at a boarding school where they will have to use all of their intelligence, creativity, and courage to survive and save the world.

Call #: Children's Fiction Stewart

***The Real McCoys* series by Matthew Swanson**

Loud, outgoing fourth grader Moxie McCoy and her quiet and cautious little brother Milton must put aside their differences and work together to figure out who kidnapped their school mascot, Eddie the Owl.

Call #: Children's Fiction Swanson

FANTASY, SCIENCE FICTION, & HORROR

***Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate**

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



Call #: Children's Fiction Applegate

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste

Eleven-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home as the spine-tingling Haitian folklore of “the jumbies” comes to life.

Call #: Children's Fiction Baptiste

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

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.

Call #: Children's Fiction Brown

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

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.

Call #: Children's Fiction Cleary

Bunnica by Deborah Howe

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Call #: Children's Fiction Howe

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar Giles

When adventurous cousins Otto and Sheed Alston accidentally extend the last day of summer by freezing time, they find the secrets between the unmoving seconds are not as much fun as they expected.

Call #: Children's Fiction Giles

The 13-Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths

Life would be perfect for Andy and Terry if it wasn't for the fact that they have to write their next book, which is almost impossible with so many distractions in their treehouse, including flying cats, giant bananas, mermaids, sea monsters pretending to be mermaids, and burp gas-bubblegum bubbles!

Call #: Children's Fiction Griffiths

Warriors series by Erin Hunter

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest, but the warrior code has been threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. In the midst of turmoil appears an ordinary house cat named Rusty...who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.

Call #: Children's Fiction Hunter



***When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller**

Long ago, Lily's grandmother stole something from the tigers. Now the tigers want it back and they've come to Lily with a deal: return what her grandmother stole and, in exchange, her sick grandmother will get well. But deals with tigers are never what they seem...

Call #: Children's Fiction Keller

***That Thing About Bollywood* by Supriya Kelkar**

When Sonali gets upset during a field trip, she can't bury her feelings like usual—instead, she suddenly bursts into a Bollywood song-and-dance routine about why she's upset. The next morning, Sonali's world has been given a Bollywood makeover - outfits, songs, and all. Sonali knows something has gone wrong, and she suspects it has something to do with her own mismanaged emotions...

Call #: Children's Fiction Kelkar

***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia**

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

Call #: Children's Fiction Mbalia

***Whatever After* series by Sarah Mlynowski**

Siblings Abby and Jonah have a magic mirror that leads them into different fairy tales, from Snow White to Rapunzel to the Little Mermaid. In each fairy tale, Abby and Jonah accidentally mess up the story — and hilarity and hijinks ensue!

Call #: Children's Fiction Mlynowski

***You're Invited to a Creepover* series by P.J. Night**

Go to sleep if you dare because you are invited to a Creepover. Check out the Creep-o-meter on the back of the book to find out the level of creepiness. Will you sleep like a baby or never sleep again?

Call #: Children's Fiction Night

***The Magnificent Monsters of Cedar Street* by Lauren Oliver**

Guided only by a cryptic note, Cordelia Clay sets off in search of her disappeared father with the help of her friend Gregory, Iggy the farting filch, a baby dragon, and a small zuppy (zombie puppy, that is).

Call #: Children's Fiction Oliver

***Voyagers* series by various authors**

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

Call #: Children's Fiction Voyagers



HISTORICAL FICTION

***Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome**

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

Call #: Children's Fiction Cline-Ransome

***Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis**

In the midst of the Great Depression, ten-year-old Bud escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway.

Call #: Children's Fiction Curtis

***Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo**

After leaving her Florida home in the middle of the night like eccentric Granny insisted on doing, Louisiana finds herself in a small Georgia town, seeking a way home. As her life becomes entwined with the townsfolk, she starts to worry that she is destined only for good-byes.

Call #: Children's Fiction DiCamillo

***What Elephants Know* by Eric Dinnerstein**

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

Call #: Children's Fiction Dinnerstein

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper**

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.

Call #: Children's Fiction Draper

***It Ain't So Awful, Falafel* by Firoozeh Dumas**

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

Call #: Children's Fiction Dumas

***Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm**

Jobs are scarce in 1935, so when Turtle's mama is hired as a housekeeper for a lady who doesn't like kids, Turtle is sent to Florida to stay with relatives she's never met. In a new world full of ragtag cousins, family secrets, scams, and even buried pirate treasure, Turtle finds herself coming out of her shell.

Call #: Children's Fiction Holm



***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly**

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

Call #: Children's Fiction Kelly

***Planet Earth is Blue* by Nicole Panteleakos**

Autistic and nearly nonverbal, twelve-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return.

Call #: Children's Fiction Panteleakos

***Paper Wishes* by Lois Sepahban**

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the US government ordered all families of Japanese heritage to be sent to internment camps. Forced into a camp, Manami lost her home, her friends, and her freedom, but the most difficult loss was her beloved dog, Yujuin.

Call #: Children's Fiction Sepahban

***I Survived...* series by Lauren Tarshis**

In these fictional accounts, kids survive different disasters throughout history including the destruction of Pompeii, the San Francisco Earthquake, the Japanese Tsunami, 9/11, and the sinking of the Titanic.

Call #: Children's Fiction Tarshis

GRAPHIC NOVELS

***Sanity and Tallulah* by Molly Brooks**

Living inside a beat-up space station, science prodigy Sanity Jones, creates a three-headed cat named Princess Sparkle Destroyer of Worlds, and enlists her friend Tallulah Vega to help hide PSDW from her mom. What could go wrong?

Call #: Children's Comics Sanity

***Star Wars Jedi Academy* series by Jeffrey Brown**

Roan 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?

Call #: Children's Comics Star

***Rutabaga the Adventure Chef* by Eric Colossal**

Bored of cooking with ordinary ingredients, Rutabaga sets off to travel the world in search of unusual and magical ingredients to add to his cookbook.

Call #: Children's Comics Rutabaga



***Mighty Jack* by Ben Hatke**

Jack dreads summer; his single mom takes a second job and Jack has to watch his non-verbal autistic sister, Maddy. But summer takes a turn when Maddy suddenly speaks up, encouraging Jack to get a mysterious box of beans at the market.

Call #: Children's Comics Mighty

***Twins* by Varian Johnson**

Twins and best friends Maureen and Francine Carter participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But when the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran and wants to do things solo. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

Call #: Children's Comics Twins

***Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel* by Mariah Marsden**

A graphic novel retelling of L.M. Montgomery's classic tale of smart, imaginative, and very talkative orphan Anne Shirley, as she finds family, friends, plenty of misadventures, and a home at Green Gables.

Call #: Children's Comics Montgomery

***Camp* by Kayla Miller**

Olive makes friends easily at summer camp, but, to Olive's dismay, her best friend, Willow, latches onto Olive, refusing to make other friends. Will they end the summer as best friends or new enemies?

Call #: Children's Comics Miller

***Wings of Fire* series by Tui Sutherland**

The story of Clay, a young dragonet, is retold as a graphic novel. Clay is chosen with three others to fulfill a mysterious prophecy to end war between the dragons of Pyrrhia and must leave the mountain that has been his home to fulfill his destiny.

Call #: Children's Comics Wings

***Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier**

Catrina and her family have moved homes for the sake of her little sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis. Cat is even less happy about moving when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts, but Maya sets her heart on meeting one.

Call #: Children's Comics Telgemeier

BIOGRAPHIES & NONFICTION

***Stephan Hawking: Breaking the Boundaries of Time and Space* by John Bankston**

Discover the life and work of the brilliant physicist who has overcome the challenges of ALS to become one of the foremost scientists of the twentieth century.

Call #: Children's Biography Hawking



Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement as a six-year-old in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

Call #: *Children's Biography Bridges*

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series by Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale, the author's namesake, was a Revolutionary War hero. In this series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories.

Call #: *Children's Comics Nathan*

Unusual Creatures by Michael Hearts

Which animal can be found at the top of Mount Everest, 10,000 feet under the sea, and in your backyard? Which animal poops cubes? *Unusual Creatures* includes these answers plus hundreds more fascinating facts for curious minds, amateur zoologists, and anyone who has ever laughed at a funny-looking animal.

Call #: *Children's 590 Hearst*

***We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson**

50 children's authors and illustrators answer the question, "In this divisive world, what shall we tell our children?" Featuring poems, letters, personal essays, art, and more, this anthology empowers the nation's youth to listen, learn, and build a better tomorrow.

Call #: *Children's 810.803 We*

Ken Jennings' Junior Genius Guides by Ken Jennings

In this interactive, trivia series, *Jeopardy* champion Ken Jennings makes you an expert on geography, U.S. presidents, outer space, the human body, Greek mythology, Ancient Egypt, and dinosaurs.

Call #: *Children's 932 Jennings*

First People: An Illustrated History of American Indians by David C. King

First People tells the story of Native Americans—from their arrival on the continent 10,000 years ago to their search for identity in the modern world.

Call #: *Children's 970.004 King*

The Way Things Work Now by David Macaulay

This illustrated guide teaches readers all about the different machines and forces in our lives, from levers to lasers, from windmills to WiFi: discover how it all works.

Call #: *Children's 600 Macaulay*

The Magnificent Migration: On Safari with Africa's Last Great Herds by Sy Montgomery

Explore the wonder of migration and answer questions like, how do migration patterns sculpt the environment? Why do animals migrate? And how do they know where to go?

Call #: *Children's 591.568 Montgomery*



The Manatee Scientists: Saving Vulnerable Species by Peter Lourie

Meet three scientists working in different parts of the world to save the manatee. Get an eye-opening, close-up view of their far-flung expeditions to Brazil, Senegal, and Florida.

Call #: Children's 599.55 Lourie

The Creativity Project: An Awesomtastic Story Collection edited by Colby Sharp

More than 40 children's authors and illustrators create and respond to creative storytelling prompts to make a collection of words, art, poetry, and more. Readers are invited to get creative and respond to the prompts themselves—great for story lovers and creators alike!

Call #: Children's 810.8 Creativity

Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall by Anita Silvey

Jane Goodall made scientific breakthroughs thought impossible by more experienced field observers when she was only in her twenties. Jane fought to protect the environment so that chimpanzees and other animals will continue to have a place and a future on our planet.

Call #: Children's Biography Goodall

I Survived True Stories: Five Epic Disasters by Lauren Tarshis

From a group of students surviving the 9.0 earthquake that set off a historic tsunami in Japan, to a boy nearly frozen on the prairie in 1888, these kids lived to tell tales of unimaginable destruction and, against all odds, survival.

Call #: Children's 363.34 Tarshis

Science Comics series by various authors

In great detail and humor, explore a variety of science topics like plagues, volcanoes, dinosaurs, coral reefs, animals, machinery and robots, the solar system, and the human body.

Call #: Children's Comics Science

Animal Stories: Heartwarming True Tales from the Animal Kingdom by Jane Yolen

Discover the Capitoline geese who saved the Roman empire, Balto the Alaskan sled dog, Smoky the Bear, the passenger pigeon of WWI Cher Ami, internet sensation Christian the lion, and many more.

Call #: Children's 590 Yolen

