

Incoming 4th Grade Summer Reading

Please enjoy this list of books to read and share together as a family this summer.

Realistic Fiction

***Blended* by Sharon Draper**

Eleven year old Isabella is a piano prodigy who struggles with her parents shared custody, her interracial identity, her feelings of inadequacy and racial tensions in her school. When both of her parents become engaged she thinks about the different ways she can fit into the world.

***The Comeback* by E.L. Shen**

Twelve-year-old Maxine Chen dreams of being a figure skating champion, but a remarkably talented new girl at the arena and a racist classmate at school test her resolve.

***Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros**

While his father works two jobs, seventh-grader Efrén Nava must take care of his twin siblings, kindergartners Max and Mia, after their mother is deported to Mexico.

***How to Win a Slime War* by Mae Respicio**

After moving to Sacramento to take over his grandparent's Filipino market, sixth-grader Alex seeks popularity by selling homemade slime at school, while his father insists he join a soccer team.

***Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee**

Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota; as her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself.

***Once Upon an Eid* Edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed**

A collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid!

***The One Thing You'd Save* by Linda Sue Park**

When a teacher asks her class what one thing they would save in an emergency, some students know the answer right away. Others come to their decisions more slowly. And some change their minds when they hear their classmates' responses. A lively dialog ignites as the students discover unexpected facets of one another--and themselves.

***Operation Sisterhood* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich**

Eleven-year-old Bo is used to it being just her and her mom in their cozy New York apartment, but when her mom gets married, Bo must adjust to her new sisters and a music-minded blended family that is much larger, louder, and more complex than she ever imagined.

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

After an injury sidelines her dreams of becoming a ballet star, Maisie is not excited for her blended family's midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up.

***Stargazing* by Jen Wang**

Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.

***Twins* by Varian Johnson**

Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. A girl who seems happy to share only two classes with her sister! Maureen and Francine are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

Historical Fiction

***A Place to Hang The Moon* by Kate Albus**

In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.

***A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen**

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic were in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

***Front Desk* by Kelly Yang**

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason. (Sequels: *Three Keys*, *Room to Dream*, *Key Player*)

***How to Find What You're Not Looking For* by Veera Hiranandani**

Middle schooler Ariel Goldberg must find her own voice and define her own beliefs after her big sister elopes with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage.

***Ophie's Ghosts* by Justina Ireland**

Discovering her ability to see ghosts when a cruel act ends her father's life and forces her to move in with relatives in 1920s Pittsburgh, young Ophelia forges a helpful bond with a spirit whose own life ended suddenly and unjustly.

***Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park**

In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, Hanna, who is half Asian, deals with racism to Asians and resistance to change by the local townspeople as she and her father try to make a home for themselves.

***Red, White and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca**

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma, although their names are linked--Reha means 'star' and Punam means 'moon'--but they are a universe apart. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving Amma's life.

***Show Me a Sign* by Anne Clare Lezotte**

It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but recent events have shattered her life; her brother George has died, land disputes between English settlers and the Wampanoag people are becoming increasingly bitter, and a "scientist" determined to discover the origins of the islands' widespread deafness has decided she makes the perfect "live specimen"--and kidnapped her.

***This is Just a Test* by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang**

In 1983 seventh-grader David Da-Wei Horowitz has a lot to worry about--his bar mitzvah is coming soon; his Jewish and Chinese grandmothers argue about everything; his teammates for the upcoming trivia contest, Scott and Hector, do not like each other; he is beginning to notice girls; and Scott has persuaded him to begin digging a fallout shelter just in case the Cold War heats up.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

***Amari and The Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston**

Thirteen-year-old Amari discovers her missing brother was actually part of the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs when he went missing and has now been recruited to the Bureau herself. She must compete for a spot with other kids who have known about magic their whole lives while also trying to defeat an evil magician and save her brother. (Sequel: *Amari and the Great Game*)

***Amira and Hamza: The War to Save the Worlds* by Samira Ahmed**

A genie informs twelve-year-old Amira and her younger brother Hamza that they are the chosen ones who must defeat a monstrous demon of Islamic folklore to save the Earth and a parallel dimension. (Sequel: *The Quest for the Ring of Power*)

***Black Bird, Blue Road* by Sofiya Pasternak**

Ziva will do anything to save her twin brother Pesah from his illness--even facing the Angel of Death himself.

***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. (Sequels: *Rise of the Jumbies*, *The Jumbie God's Revenge*)

***The Last Mapmaker* by Christina Soontornvat**

Joining an expedition to chart the southern seas, twelve-year-old mapmaker's assistant Sai, posing as a well-bred young lady with a glittering future, realizes she's not the only one on board harboring secrets when she discovers the ship's true destination.

***Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun (Series)* by Tola Okogwu**

When twelve-year-old Onyeka discovers that she has psychokinetic powers, her mother reveals that she is Solari, part of a secret group of Nigerian mutants that trains at the Academy of the Sun.

***Root Magic* by Eden Royce**

It's 1963, and things are changing for Jezebel Turner. Her beloved grandmother has just passed away. The local police deputy won't stop harassing her family. With school integration arriving in South Carolina, Jez and her twin brother, Jay, are about to begin the school year with a bunch of new kids. But the biggest change comes when Jez and Jay turn eleven, and their uncle, Doc, tells them he's going to train them in rootwork. Jez and Jay have always been fascinated by the African American folk magic that has been the legacy of their family for generations--especially the curious potions and powders Doc and Gran would make for the people on their island. But Jez soon finds out that her family's true power goes far beyond small charms and elixirs, and

not a moment too soon. Because when evil both natural and supernatural comes to show itself in town, it's going to take every bit of the magic she has inside her to see her through

***Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carolos Hernandez**

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. (Sequel: *Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe*)

***Sisters of the Neversea* by Cynthia Leitich Smith**

In this magical, modern twist on Peter Pan, stepsisters Lily and Wendy are spirited away to Neverland by a mysterious boy and must find a way back to the family they love.

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

When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni.

***The Year I Flew Away* by Marie Arnold**

After moving from her home in Haiti to her uncle's home in Brooklyn, ten-year-old Gabrielle, feeling bullied and out of place, makes a misguided deal with a witch.

Mystery & Adventure

***Charlie Thorne and The Last Equation* by Stuart Gibbs**

The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy. (Sequels: *The Lost City*, *The Curse of Cleopatra*)

***Greenglass House* by Kate Milford**

At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests arrive with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure. (Sequels: *Ghosts of Greenglass House*, *BlueCrowne*, *The Thief Knot*, *The Raconteurs Commonplace Book*)

***Masterminds* by Gordon Korman**

A group of kids discovers their perfect town and perfect lives are not exactly what they seem. (Sequels: *Criminal Destiny*, *Payback*)

***Northwind* by Gary Paulsen**

When sickness decimates his fishing village, an orphan named Leif flees north in a cedar canoe, journeying along a brutal but beautiful coastline.

A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

Built to explore Mars, Resilience begins to develop human-like feelings as he learns from the NASA scientists who assembled him, and as he blasts off and explores Mars, Resilience must overcome different obstacles as he explores the red planet.

Rez Dogs by Joseph Bruchach

Twelve-year-old Malian lives with her grandparents on a Wabanaki reservation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Soft Place to Land by Janae Marks

Twelve-year old Joy dreams of writing music for the movies, but first she has to survive her family's move into a small apartment when her father loses his job.

Stuntboy in the Meantime by Jason Reynolds, Illustrated by Raúl the Third

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower to keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot he feels the responsibility to save them.

NonFiction

Abandon Ship! By Michael J. Tougias and Alison O'Leary

A true WWII account of the maritime attack on the RMS Laconia off the West African coast

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by

Christina Soontornvat

Looks at the cave rescue of the twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach in northern Thailand.

Deadliest: Diseases Then and Now (Series) by Deborah Hopkinson

Filled with facts, pictures, and diagrams about diseases--from plague to smallpox to polio to flu brings voices from the past to life in this exploration of the deadliest diseases of then and now.

History Smashers: The American Revolution by Kate Messner, Illustrated by Justin Greenwood

A book that explores the hidden truth about the American Revolution featuring sidebars, illustrations, photos, and graphic panels

It's a Numbers Game - Soccer: The Math Behind the Perfect Goal, The Game Winning Save, and So Much More! By James Buckley (Series)

Information about soccer and soccer players incorporating math into the game.

Kid Scientists: True Tales of Childhood From Science Superstars by David Stabler, Illustrated by Anoosha Syed (Series)

A collection of anecdotes from the childhoods of famous scientists, including Jane Goodall, Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, and Benjamin Franklin.

Race to the Bottom of the Earth: Surviving Antarctica by Rebecca Barone

In 1910, Captain Robert Scott prepared his crew for a trip that no one had ever completed: a journey to the South Pole. Not long before he set out, the telegram arrived: 'Proceeding to Antarctic - Roald Amundsen.' What was to be an expedition had become a race. One hundred and eight years later, Captain Louis Rudd readied himself for a similarly grueling task: the first solo crossing of treacherous Antarctica. Then came the Instagram message: 'On Nov. 1, I depart for the ice - Colin O'Brady.' What was to be a journey had become a race . . .

The Next President by Kate Messner

An exploration of the presidents before they were presidents--as kids, adventurers, journalists, prospectors, gun-slingers, TV hosts, and more!

Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of Our Enslaved History by Schele Williams, Illustrated by Tonya Engel

Your story begins in Africa. Your African ancestors defied the odds and survived 400 years of slavery in America and passed down an extraordinary legacy to you. Beginning in Africa before 1619, 'Your Legacy' presents an accessible, empowering, and proud introduction to African American history for children.