Summer Reading List

Grade 4

Books about 4th Grade

48 Goes Wild
by Jamie Glenn
Fourth graders are on a three-day camping trip with their teachers experience frights and delights.

Amber Brown Goes Fourth
by Paula Danziger
Amber enters fourth grade in a panic. Her parents are newly divorced and her best friend has moved away. How will she cope?

Also Amber Brown Sees Red and Amber Brown Wants Elsa Cred

Awfully Short for the Fourth Grade
by Alvin Woodruff
Nine-year-old Noah disrupts the school when his wish comes true and he becomes small and his miniature toy men come to life.

The Cybill War by Betty Byars
Valentine’s Day calls for romance but fourth grader Simon, written with closeness Cybill, finds the road to romance is a bumpy one.

Fourth Grade Celebrity
by Patricia Reilly Giff
Tired of feeling merely average and annoyed about the constant comparison with her older sister, Corey searches for a way to become a celebrity in her school.

Fourth Grade Rats
by Jerry Spinelli
Narator Suli is having a hard time giving up “baby” things and trying to be “mädchen.”

The Fourth Grade Wizards
by Barrie deClements
After her mother dies, Marianne becomes a daydreamer and begins to fall behind in her schoolwork.

Ghosts in the Fourth Grade
by Constance Hier
James issmarting from a trip to the dentist, thanks to a bully’s punch. He and his pals plan revenge.

Herbie Jones Moves On
by Suzy Kline
Fourth grader Herbie Jones is very upset that his best friend is moving away. He tries hard to prevent it from happening. Read to see how his plans work out.

Jack Adrift: Fourth Grade Without a Clue
by Jack Gantos
Jack struggles in a new home trying to figure out what he’s supposed to do when his mother says one thing and his father another.

Jake Drake, Class Clown
by Andrew Clements
Read how a student tries to make a “sourpuss” teacher laugh.

Keep Ms. Sugarman in the Fourth Grade
by Elizabeth Levy
Ms. Sugarman, reputedly the toughest teacher in the school, turns out to be the best thing that ever happened to the fourth grade trouble-maker Jackie.

Ramona’s World
by Beverly Cleary
As Ramona enters fourth grade she makes a new best friend, still tries to figure out her big sister Beezus, and still has lots of funny adventures.

Fiction—Realistic

Everything in a Waffle
by Jane Marquart
A very funny book! Eleven-year-old Primrose Square disappears at sea and is then left in the hands of a “dubious cast of characters”. Newbery Honor book.

Fudge series by Judy Blume
Funny stuff that starts with Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, and continues to Super-Fudge, Fudge-A-Mania, and Double Fudge.

Granny Torelli Makes Soup
by Sharon Creech
While Rosie cooks with her

Granny Torelli they each share stories of being 12 years old.

Hank Zipzer series by Henry Winkler
Hank is not the best student in the fourth grade, but he might be the funniest.

Ivy and Bean
by Jean Barrett
Ivy and Bean are very different and each girl thinks the other one is weird and that she could never be friends with the other.

Olive’s Ocean by Kevin Henkes
12 year old Martha receives a journal entry of a deceased classmate, who was killed by a car when riding her bicycle, and learns about their commonalities. Newbery Honor book.

Ruby Lu, Brave and True
by Lenore Look
Ruby Lu would have a great time with Ramona, Judy Moody, Clementine and all the other funny girls of realistic fiction.

My Weird School series by Dan Gutman
At Elli Wenny School all the grownups are quite weird. A.J. is a boy who doesn’t like school and his arch-enemy Andrea Young loves school and everything else A.J. hates...

Fiction—Mystery

A to Z Mysteries series by Ron Roy
This series features three smart kids who solve crimes and mysteries. They live in a small town in Connecticut, and have hobbies and pets and parents, but what they love most is a good mystery. Most kids enjoy reading the 26 books in alphabetical order, but you can skip around without missing anything.

The Dollhouse Murders
by Lucy Re Wright
While visiting her Aunt Clare at the old family home, Amy discovers a haunted dollhouse in the attic—an exact replica of the family home. Whenever she sees it, the dolls, representing her relatives, have moved. Amy re-creates old news reports where she discovers a family secret—the murder of her grandparents.

Meg Mackintosh series
by Lucinda London
In this series Meg Mackintosh and her cousin Peter solve crimes with enough clues presented in the story and illustrations to allow readers to solve the mystery on their own. Meg’s detective work usually comes in exciting places, such as a whole watch, baseball game, medieval castle, or a haunted summer camp.
Fiction — Fantasy

Babymouse series by Jennifer Holm
A great graphic novel featuring a preteen mouse who dreams of glamour and excitement.

Dark Hills Divide by Patrick Cornan
Told from the perspective of its smart, brave, and adventurous heroine, The Dark Hills Divide invites readers on a spectacular and mysterious quest that will appeal to boys, girls, and fans of both fiction and fantasy. This story is full of mysterious plots, hidden passageways, and all manner of destiny, hilarious, and noble characters.

Franny K. Stein by Jim Benton
Franny K. Stein is not your average girl — she's a mad scientist. She prefers posterity to dummies and pinatas to goldfish, and when Franny jumps rope, she uses her pet snake.

Nim's Island by Wendy Orr
Nim lives on the most beautiful island in the world by its location is a closely guarded secret with a marine iguana, a sea lion, and her scientist dad, Jack. When he goes off to explore the world of plankton, the child occupies herself with typical Swiss Family Robinson-like chores and keeping her dad's batteries charged so she can check his e-mail on the laptop computer.

The Twits by Roald Dahl
Mr. and Mrs. Twit become the target of revenge by the Mugglewump monkeys, who hate them had enough.

Spiderwick Chronicles series by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi
Mallory and her 9-year-old twin brothers move into the Spiderwick Estate where they are drawn into a dark and fascinating world of faeries.

The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo and Timothy S. Eichner
Is the book better than the movie?

Whales on Stilts by M.T. Anderson
On Career Day, Lily visited her dad's work and discovered he worked for a mad scientist who wanted to rule the earth through destruction and devastation.

Fiction — Action/Adventure

Adventures of Humphrey by Betty Nye
Humphrey is in for his biggest adventure yet! When his friends begin studying the ocean and sailing, he not only discovers the new and exciting world of the library, but also stows away aboard a model boat and takes a very perilous sail on Potter's Pond.

Jack Plank Tells Tales by Natalie Boisvert
Jack Plank enjoys being a pirate, but plundering is not what it used to be, and Jack is hot to go. The good-hearted fellow takes a room in a boarding house run by a widow with an 11-year-old daughter, Nina. Each evening at the communal dinner table, one of the dogs suggests a possible occupation to Jack, who replies that he and Nina discussed that very idea earlier in the day. However, he has ruled out that particular job, based on an experience that he proceeds to relate.

Series

Robot Dreams by Sarah Varon — a very funny almost wordless graphic novel

Baseball card adventures by Jim Gutman — a series of 8 books...

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Daniel Handler — pen name Lemony Snicket - 14 novels in the series

Time Warp Trips series by Jon Scieszka

Biography

Barack Obama by Jonah Winter
This book focuses on Obama's upbringing, his travels between Hawaii and Indonesia, and how he was shunted between parents and grandparents. Obama keeps asking himself, "Who am I?" and "Where do I belong?"

My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen
Each chapter is devoted to one of several dogs that played an important role in Gary Paulsen's life.

Picture Book of... by David Adler
Over 50 picture book biographies of major American figures. All are written in an easy-to-understand style with lots of illustrations.

Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates by Jonah Winter
An inspirational story of how Clemente's passionate love of baseball and work ethic took him from poverty in Puerto Rico to World Series triumph.

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni
Beautifully illustrated biography of Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks.

Who Was... series by various authors
Over 20 biographies covering a wide-range of famous people. Short chapters and fun illustrations keep kids' attention.
Nonfiction

**Follow the Trail** by Jenica Loy
From planning to packing to safety, this kid-friendly guide to camping and hiking is loaded with information. Bright, busy pages follow sisters Emma and Lydia and three friends on a camping trip. Activities to identify trees, wildflowers, and animal tracks are interspersed with facts about weather, suggestions for rainy days, and instructions for building a campfire.

**If the World Were a Village** by David Smith
Readers are asked to imagine as if the world’s population of 6,200,000,000 were seen as a village of 100 people.

**The Sleepover Cookbook** by Halle Warsen
The recipes here are arranged in “sleepover order.” The treats are easy to prepare, some incorporating ready-to-use ingredients like canned soup and refrigerated biscuit dough. Each recipe begins with a list of supplies and a difficulty rating.

So You Want to Be President? by Judith St. George
The basic theme is that anyone can be president. It’s a fun book, but the underlying purpose is clearly serious: to re-mind kids that the American presidents have been a motley group of individuals, not a row of marble busts. Ironically, that message makes the presidency far more interesting by and appealing than it seems in some of the more traditional books.

**The Amazing Science of Everything:** Science with Squishy Bits Left In by Nils Amadeus
This humorous look at science combines colorful cartoons and writing that ranges from light-hearted to silly and conveys a lot of interesting information. Starting with the Big Bang, the book moves quickly from small by atoms, microbes, and bugs to big by humans, dinosaurs, and the universe. Each page is filled with cartoon drawings in a variety of visual presentations.

Favorite Authors - Nonfiction

Joanna Cole
Jean Fritz
Steve Jenkins
Jerry Pallotta
Seymour Simon – Check out his blog: http://www.seymourscience.com

Fiction—Historical

**Dear America** series by various authors
In each book, a child living in a different period in America lets us know about what his or her life is like through a series of journal entries. Dear America books are usually written by girl characters, while My America are written by boy characters. The books span all American history, from the Jamestown settlement in Colonial Virginia to the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

**If You Lived in the Time...** series by various authors
These books present an event in history, ask a series of questions about the event, and provide answers. Most answers are from the point of view of a child living during that time.

**Riding Freedom** by Pam Munoz Ryan
Based on the true story of a California orphan girl who disguises herself as a boy and becomes a well-known stagecoach driver and a participant in the great California gold rush.

**The Whipping Boy** by Sid Fleischman
Because a prince cannot be punished, a poor boy is brought to the castle to receive punishment in his place. When the prince runs away into the city and takes the “whipping boy” with him, they need to rely on one another to survive. Great adventure story set in the Middle Ages.

The following are great poets for Grade 4 readers:

- Douglas Florian
- Mary Ann Hoberman
- Dennis Lee
- Jack Prelutsky
- Shel Silverstein

Favorite Series:

- Amber Brown by Paula Danziger
- Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler
- Clementine by Sara Pennypacker
- Encyclopedia Brown by Donald J. Sobol

Just Grace by Charlice Merle Harper

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

Moxy Maxwell by Peggy Gifford

Ramona by Beverly Cleary

Wayside School by Louis Sachar