

4th Grade SAA Summer Reading Suggestions (2009)

Books marked with an asterisk (*) are considered "Classics"

Title	Author	Description
Realistic Fiction		
<i>Anastasia Krupnik (and others in series)</i>	Lowry	Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother.
<i>The Cat Ate My Gymsuit</i>	Danziger	When the unconventional English teacher who helped her conquer many of her feelings of insecurity is fired, a junior high student uses her new found courage to campaign for the teacher's reinstatement.
<i>Granny Torelli Makes Soup</i>	Creech	With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.
<i>Best School Year Ever</i>	Robinson	The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.
<i>My Dog Cat</i>	Crisp	Ten-year-old Abbie, bullied at school for being small, wants to get a big black dog, but two months of living with a little Yorkshire terrier changes his mind about a number of things.
<i>Report Card</i>	Clements	Fifth-grader Nora Rowley has always hidden the fact that she is a genius from everyone because all she wants is to be normal, but when she comes up with a plan to prove that grades are not important, things begin to get out of control.
<i>Frindle</i>	Clements	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.
<i>Lunch Money</i>	Clements	Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.
<i>Thunder from the Sea</i>	Harlow	Just when his dreams of being part of a family and having a dog seem to be coming true, Tom wonders if trouble with neighbors on his new island home and the impending birth of a new baby will change everything.
<i>Girls Rule (and others in series)</i>	Naylor	The Malloy girls and the Hatford boys try to outdo each other in a quest to earn money and choose how to participate in the annual Buckman, West Virginia, Strawberry Festival.
<i>Music of the Dolphins</i>	Hesse	After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.
<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>	DiCamillo	Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.
<i>The Penderwicks</i>	Birdsall	While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.
<i>*Shiloh</i>	Naylor	In the first of the series, 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. The owner is a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.
<i>*Betsy-Tacy Series</i>	Lovelace	Adventures of Betsy, Tacy and Tib.
<i>*Beezus and Ramona</i>	Cleary	In further adventures of Ramona, she discovers baby brothers can be a problem.

<i>*Summer of the Swans</i>	Byars	A teen-age girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally retarded brother gets lost.
<i>*Ginger Pye</i>	Estes	The disappearance of a new puppy named Ginger and the appearance of a mysterious man in a mustard yellow hat bring excitement into the lives of the Pye children.
<i>*Mandy</i>	Edwards, J	Lonely for a place of her own, a ten-year-old orphan creates a secret home in a deserted cottage.
Adventure		
<i>A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray</i>	Martin	Squirrel and her brother Bone begin their lives in a toolshed behind someone's summer house. Their mother nurtures them and teaches them the many skills they will need to survive as stray dogs. But when their mother is taken from them suddenly and too soon, the puppies are forced to make their own way in the world, facing humans both gentle and brutal, busy highways, other animals, and the changing seasons. When Bone and Squirrel become separated, Squirrel must fend for herself, and in the process, makes two friends who in very different ways define her fate.
<i>The Willoughbys</i>	Lowry	Abandoned by their ill-humored parents to the care of an odious nanny, Tim, the twins, Barnaby A and Barnaby B, and their sister, Jane, attempt to fulfill their roles as good old-fashioned children.
<i>*Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>	Atwater	The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.
<i>*King of the Wind</i>	Henry	Follows the adventures of the Arabian stallion brought to England to become one of the founding sires of the Thoroughbred breed and the mute Arab stable boy who tended him with loyalty and devotion all his life.
<i>*Misty of Chincoteague</i>	Henry	Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.
<i>Chasing the Falconers (and others in the On the Run series)</i>	Korman	In the first in the series, Aidan and Meg Falconer are their parents' only hope. The Falconers are facing life in prison -- unless Aidan and Meg can follow a trail of clues to prove their innocence. The Falconers must use their wits to make it across the country ... with plenty of tests along the way.
Mystery		
<i>*Holes</i>	Sachar	As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.
<i>Doll in the Garden</i>	Hahn	After Ashley and Kristi find an antique doll buried in old Miss Cooper's garden, they discover that they can enter a ghostly turn-of-the-century world by going through a hole in the hedge.
<i>History Mysteries</i>	Various	Adventurous young girls solve mysteries in different eras of time (from American Girl).
Fantasy		
<i>Doll People</i>	Martin	A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.
<i>Gooseberry Park</i>	Rylant, Cynthia	When a storm separates Stumpy the squirrel from her newborn babies, her animal friends come to the rescue
<i>Tale of Despereaux</i>	DiCamillo	The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.
<i>Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism</i>	Byng, G	Unlucky and unloved, Molly Moon, living in a dreary orphanage in a small English town, discovers a hidden talent for hypnotism and hypnotizes her way to stardom in New York City.

<i>*The Mouse and the Motorcycle</i>	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.
<i>Guardians of Ga'Hoole</i>	Lasky	In the first of the series, Soren, a barn owl, is pushed from the family nest by an older brother and is rescued from death on the forest floor by agents from the mysterious St. Aegolius Academy for Orphaned Owls.
<i>Princess Academy</i>	Hale	While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.
<i>Aquamarine</i>	Hoffman, A	A love-struck mermaid named Aquamarine supplies adventure and insights to two twelve-year-old girls, life-long friends who are spending their last summer together before one of them moves
<i>Princess Test (and others in series)</i>	Levine	In this humorous retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," Lorelei must pass many difficult tests in order to prove that she is a true princess and win the hand of Prince Nicholas.
<i>*Half-Magic and sequels</i>	Eager	In the first book of the series, four children looking forward to an ordinary summer enjoy a series of fantastic adventures by double-wishing on an ancient coin.
<i>*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>	Dahl	Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.
<i>*James and the Giant Peach</i>	Dahl	A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach.
<i>*Rabbit Hill</i>	Lawson	New folks are coming to live in the Big House. The animals of Rabbit Hill wonder if they will plant a garden and thus be good providers.
<i>*Socks</i>	Cleary	The happy home life of Socks, the cat, is disrupted by the addition of a new baby to the household.
<i>*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (and others in series)</i>	Lewis, CS	Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.
<i>*Matilda</i>	Dahl	Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.
Historical Fiction		
<i>Lily's Crossing</i>	Giff	During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.
<i>My America & Dear America Series</i>	Scholastic	Historical stories written in the form of a diary of young people living during important moments in history.
<i>*Little House in the Big Woods (and others in the series)</i>	Wilder	Based on the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the series follows a family and their many adventures as they travel from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie
<i>*All-of-a-Kind Family Series</i>	Taylor	The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century.
<i>*Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	O'Dell	Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast
<i>Skylark</i>	MacLachlan, P	When a drought tests the commitment of a mail-order bride from Maine to her new home on the prairie, her stepchildren hope they will be able to remain a family.
<i>*The Courage of Sarah Noble</i>	Dalgliesh	A little girl and her father are among the first to settle in Connecticut in 1707.

4th Grade SAA Summer Reading Suggestions
Non-Fiction/Biographies

Title	Author	Description
<i>If Walls Could Talk: Family Life at the White House</i>	O'Connor	Explores life at the White House through many different presidencies.
<i>Mighty Jackie: Strike-Out Queen</i>	Moss	In 1931, seventeen-year-old Jackie Mitchell pitches against Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game, becoming the first professional female pitcher in baseball history.
<i>A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet</i>	Lasky	A biography of an African girl brought to New England as a slave in 1761 who became famous on both sides of the Atlantic as the first Black poet in America.
<i>You're On Your Way, Teddy Roosevelt</i>	St. George	As a young boy, "Teedie" Roosevelt was frequently ill, but worked hard to become strong and fit while also avidly reading and pursuing his love of natural history.
<i>The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss</i>	Krull	Introduces the life of renowned children's author and illustrator Ted Geisel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss, focusing on his childhood and youth in Springfield, Massachusetts.
<i>My Brother's Flying Machine</i>	Yolen	Provides a look at the lives of Orville and Wilbur Wright, as seen through the eyes of their younger sister, Katharine, who provided support and encouragement while they worked on their many inventions.
<i>Sacagawea (Raintree Biographies)</i>	Birchfield, D.L.	Details the life of the Indian guide who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their historic journey through the West.
<i>Rosa Parks (African American Biographies)</i>	Donovan, Sandy	The story of the Civil Rights pioneer.
<i>My Life with the Chimpanzees</i>	Goodall, J	An autobiography of Jane Goodall who tells her exciting story with the chimpanzees.
<i>And Then What Happened Paul Revere</i>	Fritz	Describes some of the well-known as well as the lesser-known details of Paul Revere's life and exciting ride.
<i>Shhh! We're Writing the Constitution</i>	Fritz	Describes how the Constitution came to be written and ratified. Also includes the full text of the document produced by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.
<i>George Washington's Teeth</i>	Chandra	A rollicking rhyme portrays George Washington's lifelong struggle with bad teeth. A timeline taken from diary entries and other nonfiction sources follows.
<i>Who Was...? Biographies</i>	Various	Published by Penguin, these biographies provide fun overviews of the lives of important people in history, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart.
<i>When Marian Sang</i>	Ryan	An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist, who was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, whose life and career encouraged social change.