

## Welcome 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Readers!

Any time is a great time for reading. Research says that children who read daily are more apt to be successful in school and score better on reading achievement tests. Reading provides practice for important skills that support learning and thinking. It fosters confidence and independence. And, reading is fun!

Here are some thoughts to encourage your readers:

- Encourage your children to read for pleasure. Build an at-home library with books your children enjoy. Visit the library whenever you can. Let children choose. They often have favorite authors, characters, and interests. It's okay to reread old favorites and make new ones.
- Fourth graders are reading to learn vs. learning to read. They are beginning to read longer books with more complex ideas and vocabulary.
- Reading is a meaning making process so if your child can't read and understand most of the page, put it aside for future reading or read it together. "Just right" books, not too hard or too easy, are best for independent reading.
- Older children also like hearing books read aloud. This is an opportunity for quality time together, for great discussions and/or to enjoy some books that may be more difficult to read alone. It builds background knowledge, develops vocabulary, and encourages critical thinking.

Have a wonderful summer and make reading part of the fun!

*It's been a joy to work with your children! Happy Reading!*

*Cheryl Miller, CTA Library 2021*

### Chapter Books

***23 Under 1 Roof: Book 1 The Big Surprise*** by R. Rappaport 2012

With twenty-one kids, the Schneiders are a very big family! Share their fun and excitement as they get ready to go to London for a family simcha. Read all the books in this popular series!

***Adina at Her Best*** by Rebecca Klempner 2018

Adina Ben Ami is a fun and friendly 4th grader who tries her best but is sometimes a bit impulsive.

***All a Kind Family*** by Sydney Taylor 1951 Meet Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie who live with their parents in New York City at the turn of the century. These new Americans find excitement in going to the library, buying penny candy, their Jewish traditions, and in family. Much loved classic series.

***American Girls*** series Various authors Share the adventures of young girls of the past. Read about Felicity, a girl of the American Revolution; Rebecca, a 1914 Jewish immigrant; Molly from 1944 etc.

***Baby-sitter's Club*** Ann M. Martin's classic series retold and illustrated by authors Raina Telgemeier or Gale Galligan The Babysitter's Club girls are back, and the first 7 books are now *graphic novels*.

***Because of Winn-Dixie*** by Kate DiCamillo 2001 Newbery Honor Because of Winn-Dixie, a scruffy, happy dog, ten-year-old Opal begins to let go of sadness, find happiness and her place in the world.

***Beverly Cleary*** books Generations of children have loved her stories. Her characters like Ramona Quimby, Henry Huggins and Ribsby are fun and relevant today.

***The BFG*** From the author of ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***, Roald Dahl's classic, first published in 1982, it's about Sophie and the big friendly giant who set off to get rid of all the not so friendly giants.

***A Boy Called Bat*** by Elena Arnold 2017 Bat's mom brings home a stray baby skunk that needs care before it can go to a wild animal shelter. Bat, a special little boy, really wants to care for, and keep it.

***Boxcar Children*** by Gertrude Warner First published in 1924, ***The Boxcar Children***, relates the adventures of four orphaned children living in an abandoned boxcar. Mega series.

Enter the world of Children's Classics like ***The Wizard of Oz*** by Frank Baum, ***The Jungle Book*** by Rudyard Kipling, ***Heidi*** by Joanna Spyri, and ***Wind in the Willows*** by Kenneth Grahame.

***Crenshaw*** by Katherine Applegate 2015 Jackson's family has fallen on hard times. A big, outspoken, imaginary cat, Crenshaw, has come back into his life. Can he help Jackson?

***Dear Mr. Henshaw*** by Beverly Cleary 1984 Newbery Medal Leigh Botts writes to his favorite author and gets a letter back. Leigh continues to write and finds Mr. Henshaw to be a great friend.

***Encyclopedia Brown Gets His Man*** by Donald J. Sobol 2007 reprint Through his own agency, Leroy Brown, a 10-year-old star detective, solves mysteries for neighborhood kids. Series

***The Enormous Egg*** by Oliver Butterworth 1968 Imagine the surprise when an egg hatches into a baby dinosaur. What a great pet – until it grows!

***Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*** by Kate DiCamillo 2014 Newbery Medal Flora saves poor Ulysses, a squirrel who tangled with a vacuum cleaner! Ulysses is saved but *very different!*

***Fourth Grade Rats*** by Jerry Spinelli 1991 No longer a “third grade angel”, Suds has to be tough. He needs to push 1<sup>st</sup> graders off swings, say no to his mom and never cry, because now he's a “4<sup>th</sup> grade rat”!

***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang 2018 Mia's family is new to America. They work for an unkind owner, managing his motel, but feel lucky to work and have a place to live. Mia is determined to improve her English, become a writer, and help others. Sequel: ***Three Keys*** 2020

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*** by Brian Selznick 2008 Caldecott Medal Living in the walls of a Paris train station, 12-year-old Hugo takes care of the clocks and finds ways to survive. A story truly told through words and pictures!

***I Survived: The Children's Blizzard, 1863*** by Lauren Tarshis 2018 John's a city boy who never wanted to move to the country. But now he must use his ingenuity and stamina to survive one of the worst blizzards ever. Great historical fiction series!

***Judy Moody Saves the World*** by Megan McDonald 2002 Judy is inspired to save the world by an environmental project. Series

***The Lemonade War*** by Jacqueline Davis 2007 Evan's sister, Jessie, is skipping a grade – right into his 4<sup>th</sup> grade class! So begins the competition. Who can make the most money selling lemonade?

***Little House on the Prairie*** series by Laura Ingalls Wilder Join Laura and her family in their adventures on America's frontier. Longtime favorite series.

***Magic Tree House*** by Mary Pope Osborne Jack and his little sister Annie discover a mysterious tree house filled with books. Soon they are having amazing adventures. Fact meets fiction in this series.

***Matt Christopher Sports Series*** Beginning with ***The Lucky Baseball Bat*** in 1954, Christopher's many sports-themed books have delighted young readers.

***Mr. Popper's Penguins*** by Richard and Florence Atwater 2011 reprint Mr. Popper is fascinated by the Poles. In response to his fan letter, Admiral Drake sends Mr. Popper a penguin, and life at home is never the same!

***My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish*** by Mo O'Hara 2014 When Tom's brother decides to be an evil scientist Frankie's pet goldfish falls victim. Frankie saves him but he's different! Series.

***The Mouse and the Motorcycle*** by Beverly Cleary 1<sup>st</sup> printing 1965 When Keith leaves his shiny red toy motorcycle (just the right size for a small rodent) unattended, Ralph Mouse grabs his chance.

***My Weird School*** by Dan Gutman A funny series about school life that will keep readers laughing.

***The New Girl*** by Faygie Holt 2017 Get to know the girls in 4B as they become friends and try to do the right thing. 1st book in the Achdus Club series.

***No Talking!*** By Andrew Clements 2007 It's boys vs. girls in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class when they compete to see who can go the longest without talking. *This author writes great school stories.*

***The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate 2013 Newbery Medal This story is told in the voice of a gorilla living in a mall sideshow. It's based on the actual story of a gorilla kept captive for 30 years! New companion book: ***The One and Only Bob*** 2020

***Phantom Tollbooth*** by Norton Juster 1961 When a tollbooth magically appears in his room, Milo has nothing better to do than go inside where adventures await!

***Pippi Longstocking*** by Astrid Lindgren 1945 Tommy and Annika's new neighbor, Pippi, has red pigtails, no parents to tell her what to do, a horse on her porch, and many outrageous adventures.

***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy*** by Jeanne Birdsall 2007 During an unforgettable summer the Penderwick sisters and their father live at a Massachusetts estate where the girls make a new friend. Enjoy the sequels too.

***Ranger in Time #1: Rescue on the Oregon Trail*** by Kate Messner  
Ranger is a golden retriever trained for search-and-rescue. Join him as he travels back to the Oregon Trail to help a family in need. Great Historical Fiction. Read the whole series.

***The Secret of the Old Clock*** by Carolyn Keene 1930 In the first of this mystery series, Nancy Drew's keen mind is tested when she must find a missing will. *1<sup>st</sup> in the classic series.*

***Sideways Stories from Wayside School*** by Louis Sachar 1985 Wayside School was supposed to be one story high, with 30 classrooms side by side but instead, it was built sideways! Absurdly funny! New in the series is ***Wayside School: Beneath the Cloud of Doom*** 2021

***Stone Fox*** by John Reynolds Gardiner 1999 Determined to help his sick grandpa and save the family farm, Willy is sure he can beat the best dogsledders, even Stone Fox, and win the prize money.

***Stuart Little*** by E.B. White Originally published in 1945 this children's classic is the story of a mouse born into a human family.

***Swindle*** by Gordon Korman 2009 After being duped out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing plots to recapture it. Read all 7 books in this series! *Favorite author,*

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*** by Judy Blume First published in the 1970s this book stars Peter Hatcher and his overly cute brother, Fudge. Read the sequels, too.

***A Tangle of Knots*** by Lisa Graff 2013 In a somewhat magical town, some have Talent. Cady bakes special cakes. Miss Mallory matches children with parents but can't find the perfect ones for Cady. And then, there's the talent thief! Plots and sub-plots eventually meet amidst lots of suspense.

***Whatever After: Seeing Red*** by Sara Mlynowski 2020 #12 in a great series with a modern spin on fairy tales. This one takes the reader to Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf!

### **Picture Books**

***Baseball Saved Us*** by Ken Mochizuki 1993 A Japanese-American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp during World War II. His ability to play helps him after the war is over.

***Each Kindness*** by Jacqueline Woodson 2012 Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya.. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher talks about how even small acts of kindness can change the world Chloe thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.

***Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story*** by Leslea Newman 2019 Gittel and her mother left for America together, but when the health inspector stops her mother Gittel must go to her cousin in NY alone. The story is based on the author's grandmother's journey to America.

***The Giving Tree*** by Shel Silverstein 1964 Over the course of a boy's life he asks a tree for help but it is only as an old man that he feels gratitude to the tree.

***Journey*** by Allen Say 1994 Caldecott Medal A young man feels the pull of two places he loves - his home in America and his ancestral homeland in Japan. Beautiful illustrations.

***Mysteries of Harris Burdick*** by Chris Van Allsburg 1996 Harris Burdick left fourteen black and white drawings but no stories. Follow-up: in 2011 Van Allsburg asked well-known children's authors to write stories for Burdick's pictures and ***The Chronicles of Harris Burdick*** was created.

***Math Curse*** by Jon Scieszka 1995 The day after her teacher tells the class that "you can think of almost everything as a math problem," everything really looks that way.

***The Other Side*** by Jacqueline Woodson 2001 It isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates Clover's African American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls are friends and get around the rules by sitting on top of the fence together.

***The Stinky Cheese-man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*** by Jon Scieska & Lane Smith 1992 This story retells fairy tales in a very chaotic way!

***Thank You, Mr. Falker*** by Patricia Polacco 1998 Inspiring story, based on the author's life, of a dyslexic girl who struggles to read, is a wonderful artist and has a special teacher who helps her.

***When Jessie Came Across the Sea***, by Amy Hest 2003 This is a story about a young Jewish girl from a poor village in eastern Europe. She's sad to go to America and leave her grandmother but her new home brings surprising changes.

*Zathura* by Chris Van Allsburg 2002 Written 20 years after Caldecott winner *Jumanji*, the author finishes the story.

### **Non-Fiction**

*A Boy and a Jaguar* by Alan Rabinowitz 2015 Schneider Family Award As a boy Rabinowitz thought he was “broken” because he stuttered. But it was different when he talked to animals. When he grew up, he became a wildlife conservationist and a spokesman for stutterers!

*Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote* by Kirsten Gillibrand 2018 These are the stories of 10 women who worked to get all women the right to vote.

*Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Maker’s Strike of 1909* by Melissa Sweet 2014 True story of Jewish immigrant, Clara Lemlich, who led the biggest strike of women workers in U.S. history

*Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an All-Brother Baseball Team* by Audrey Vernick 2012 The NJ Acerra family formed their own, and the longest-running, all-brother baseball team.

*Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin 2018 Caldecott Honor/ Siebert Honor Learn about the Grand Canyon National Park – its geology, flora, and fauna in this beautiful book.

*Every Thing On It: Poems and Drawings* by Shel Silverstein 2011 Enjoy another remarkable collection of playful poems from the magical author of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

*Fly High, John Glenn: The Story of an American Hero* by Kathleen Krull 2020 Ohioan John Glenn was the first American astronaut to orbit Earth. He was also a devoted family man, a U.S. Senator, and a national hero, who for 95 years never lost his love of flying.

*Henry’s Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine & Kadir Nelson 2007 Read about Henry Brown who finds a unique way to escape slavery and find freedom.

*Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race.* by Margot Lee Shetterly 2016 A story of four math geniuses who worked at NASA during a time when being black and women made it harder. But they persisted and changed the world. To learn more read *Hidden Figures: Young Readers Edition*.

*I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy 2016 The inspiring life of the second woman justice of the United States Supreme Court.

*Laugh-eteria* by Douglas Florian 2000 Wonderful humorous poems. Also read *Insectlopedia*.

*Locomotive* by Brian Floca 2014 Caldecott Medal; Siebert Honor It’s 1869, and the Transcontinental Railroad is complete. Learn about the steam engine as you travel our country.

*Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor* by Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen 1994 Fact and Fantasy! Ms. Frizzle drives the Magic School Bus into the ocean and the class takes a deep breath and learns about hot water vents, coral reefs, plant and animal life on the ocean floor! This series has stood the test of time. Learn about *The Solar System, Human Body, Climate Change* and more on Ms. Frizzle’s Class trips!

*Magic Tree House Fact Tracker* Follow-up a Magic Tree House Adventure with books that provide factual answers to what you want to learn.

***The Man Who Walked between the Towers*** by Mordicai Gerstein 2004 Caldecott Medal Read about Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers

***Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands*** by Katherine Roy 2015 Siebert Medal Up close look at these predators and the scientist who study them.

***Nothing Stopped Sophie*** by Cheryl Bardoe 2018 The true story of 18<sup>th</sup> century mathematician Sophie Germain. In spite of the lack of opportunity for women and girls in her time, Sophie loved math and continued her quest to use it to predict vibrations.

***Seymour Simon's books*** about science include topics like Space, Weather, Sharks, and much more.

***She Persisted: Thirteen Women Who Changed the World*** by Chelsea Clinton 2017 Learn about 13 American women like Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, and Sally Ride. Also ***She Persisted Around the World*** 2018, introduces the read to 13 more women who accomplished great things.

***Six Dots: The Story of Young Louis Braille*** by Jen Bryant 2017 Schneider Family Award Inspiring picture book biography of Louis Braille, a blind boy who invented an alphabet so he could read.

***Teammates*** by Peter Golenbock 1992 The story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player in major league baseball and how, one day in Cincinnati, PeeWee Reese took a stand for his teammate.

***When Jackie and Hank Met*** by Cathy Goldberg Fishman 2012 On May 17, 1947 Jackie Robinson and Hank Greenberg met for the first time. A story of two men who broke barriers of race and religion in American sports.

*Various authors have contributed to these 3 series. They are easy to read and informative.*

- ***What is...? What was? various author*** Learn about important events both current and historical like Climate Change, The Ice Age, The World Series, Titanic, The Gold Rush and more.
- ***Where is...? Where was...?*** Read about famous places like The Grand Canyon, Mount Rushmore, Mount Everest, The Great Barrier Reef, The Great Pyramids and more.
- ***Who Was ...? (Who Is... various authors*** Learn about Harry Houdini, Bill Gates, Rosa Parks, Neil Armstrong, and many others in this easy to read biography series.

*Lots of wonderful nonfiction is available for children. Your reader's interest is a good guide for making selections.*