

4th Grade – Summer Reading Homework

Choose ONE book from the list below to read during the summer. Once you've finished reading the book, do the following assignment (attached to the end of the list).

Book Options

World Famous Nine by Ben Guterson

In THE WORLD-FAMOUS NINE, Zander's parents are headed on a research trip and drop him off at his grandmother Zina's for the summer. Grandma Zina lives on top of the Nine department store and runs it, like women have been doing in his family for generations. Zander is excited about his ample time to explore the store, with its many curiosities, a train station in the basement and a Ferris Wheel on the roof. But right away things start going wrong. An employee is attacked after hours, the lights keep flickering, and people need to be rescued from the Ferris wheel. Grandma fears that a mean spirit that used to haunt the Nine may be back, and the whole store is in danger.

A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

As a A ROVER'S STORY begins, a robot named Resilience (Res) is being prepared for a mission to Mars. Res might be a robot, but he's beginning to have favorites among the team that's building him. He likes the way Rania codes and that Xander plays him music and calls him "buddy." The more he listens to Rania and Xander, the more Res finds himself developing emotions that can only be called humanlike. Emotions that Journey, another robot in the lab, thinks are downright silly and useless. Once Res is built and ready to go, he learns he'll not just be collecting, studying, and analyzing pieces of Mars' atmosphere, he'll be searching for missing Rovers from other missions. But to Res, the most important part of this mission will be finding a discovery so important that NASA will have to bring him back to Earth, something they've never done for a Mars Rover. Res is delighted when he learns he won't be alone on the trip to Mars, he'll be accompanied by a chatty drone he names Fly. It's good, thinks Res, to have a friend along even if Fly has no idea what a friend might be. Once on Mars, it's months before Res finally gets the command to try and locate Courage, a Rover that disappeared during a dust storm. During the search, Fly goes down and, despite receiving code from NASA that tells him to not look for Fly, Res is determined to try and rescue his friend.

Across So Many Seas by Ruth Behar

ACROSS SO MANY SEAS begins in Toledo, Spain in 1492. Unwilling to convert to Christianity, Benvenida, her parents, and two brothers make a perilous journey across Spain to reach a ship that will take them to her grandparents in Italy. Then it's onto Constantinople (today's Istanbul) in Turkey, where the Sultan has offered the exiled Jews of Spain a safe haven. In 1923, Benvenida's descendant Reina is living with her family in Constantinople. She and her sisters play with the children of the family's Muslim neighbors and the two families often celebrate Jewish and Muslim holidays together. But when Reina disobeys her father and sneaks out with her neighbor Sadik to watch fireworks, she pays a heavy price. Her father feels she's shamed the family, so she's sent to Cuba to live with an aunt until she's 15 and can marry a man her father has chosen for her. In 1961, Fidel Castro has come to power in Cuba and girls as young as Reina's daughter Alegra are being trained as "brigadistas" and sent to rural villages to teach reading and writing. But Alegra's father is in trouble with the new government and wanting to keep her safe, he sends Alegra to Miami. In 2003, Reina is living in Miami, close to her daughter and granddaughter, Paloma. When the family makes a trip to Spain to explore the history of Toledo's Jewish community, Reina has a surprise reunion with someone from her past.

The Map to Everywhere by Carrie Ryan and John Davis

In the disreputable but still magical Khaznot Quay (pronounced "has not key," the first of many such wordplays), 12-year-old orphan Fin has a strange problem: Everyone he meets forgets him the minute he's out of sight. Even if he sees them every day. But this serves him well in his chosen profession of Master Thief (in which he seems to spend a lot of time stealing back the lost belongings of people he likes). Meanwhile, in a middle-of-nowhere neighborhood in Arizona, 12-year-old Marrill is coping with major life changes, as her mom's illness puts an end to her family's adventurous, nomadic lifestyle, maybe forever. When her cat takes off in pursuit of a funny-looking piece of paper, she runs after him -- only to behold a large sailing vessel pull into the strip-mall parking lot on water that wasn't there a minute ago. Turns out the Pirate Stream has bubbled up from its cosmic source, and soon Fin and Marrill, along with a motley crew, are off in search of that funny bit of paper and the rest of THE MAP TO EVERYWHERE. So, unfortunately, is a dark wizard who wants to use the map to end the world.

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

A pilot crashes in the Sahara Desert. While attempting to fix his plane a thousand miles from any habitation, he meets a strangely dressed little boy who seems to have come from nowhere and who demands that he draw a sheep. "When a mystery is too overpowering, one dare not disobey," so the pilot attempts to draw a sheep. Gradually the Little Prince reveals his story. He comes from a small asteroid, where he lived alone until a rose grew

there. But the rose was demanding, and he was confused by his feelings about her. Eventually he decided to leave and journey to other planets in search of knowledge. After meeting many confusing adults, he eventually landed on Earth, where he befriended a snake and a fox. The fox helped him to understand the rose, and the snake offered to help him return to his planet -- but at a price.

Finding Serendipity by Angelica Banks

Tuesday McGillycuddy discovers that her mom, a wildly famous author, is missing and determines to find her. When Tuesday snoops for clues, she types on her mom's typewriter, and the words become a silvery thread leading her and her dog to a fantastic land where writers go to finish their stories. There, Tuesday inserts herself into her mom's unfinished story, meets her mom's feisty girl protagonist, and battles a couplet-loving pirate -- but can she save the day and make the story her own?

The Detective's Assistant by Kate Hannigan

When Cornelia Warne arrives at her Aunt Kitty's house looking for a place to live, she meets a no-nonsense, gruff woman who has every intention of placing the child in a nearby orphanage. But Cornelia -- whom Aunt Kitty quickly renames Nell -- slowly convinces Aunt Kitty that her street smarts are of use to Kitty's work as the first female detective for the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency. Together, they solve crime after crime through quick, fearless thinking, while Nell transforms from a dirty street urchin into an educated, poised young lady and Nell uncovers some poignant truths about the family she lost and the family she's gained.

The Curse of the Werpenguin by Allan Woodrow

In THE CURSE OF THE WEREPENGUIN, orphan Bolt Wattle wants nothing more than to find his family. When he's suddenly sent to a mysterious baron in a place he's never heard of, Bolt gets his hopes up, sure he's destined to find his parents in Brugaria. What he finds is Baron Chordata, a yelling tyrant who lives in a castle, looks like a 12-year-old boy, and bites Bolt and turns him into a half-penguin, half-boy. The only way to break the curse that would permanently turn him into a werpenguin is to work with the villagers and bandits, all of whom hate and distrust Bolt.

Wayside School Beneath a Cloud of Doom by Louis Sachar

WAYSIDE SCHOOL BENEATH THE CLOUD OF DOOM brings readers back into Mrs. Jewls' classroom on the 30th floor of one of the most absurd schools around. A bizarre and overly complicated system of bells, horns, and even a gong sends the kids to class,

lunch, and recess, while the doctor hypnotizes students, teachers have spelling bees with made-up words, and the kids in Mrs. Jewls' class decide to collect 1 million nail clippings for math. But things get even crazier when the Cloud of Doom sits above the school: Kathy's goofy face is frozen in place; an umbrella might've brought a student to class on the outside of the building; and there's a serious situation with the rope ladder to the roof. All of this makes it hard for the students to prepare for Mrs. Jewls' Ultimate Test, which is more individualized than any student realizes when they begin testing.

Reading Assignment

Title:

Author:

Main Characters:

Setting:

After you've finished the book, answer these questions:

1. What is the main message of this book?
2. Summarize the story in 10 sentences or less.
3. Create a timeline of the story. On your timeline, write a short description of what happens for each event and why that event is important to the story. Your timeline should have at least one event from the beginning of the story, two events from the middle of the story, and at least one event from the end of the story.
4. If this story had a sequel, what do you think it would be about? Write at least 5 complete sentences.

Choice Board: Choose one assignment from Row 1 and one assignment from Row 2 to complete.

Row 1	Make an advertisement to persuade people to buy and read your book. On a sheet of paper or poster. Write down an exciting summary of the book and why people should buy /read the book. Create an image that would catch someone's eye.	Imagine you are taking a summer vacation to the main setting of the book you are reading. Design a set of three postcards from the trip. Make your illustrations colorful. On the back of your postcard, explain what you and your family would do on this vacation. Your explanations should be	Write a letter to the author expressing your thoughts about the book. What did you like? What didn't you like? What would you have changed? You must include at least three events from the book to support your answer.
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		written in letter format with at least 3 sentences on each postcard.	
Row 2	Create an award and give it to the best character in your book. Write what the award is for and why that character received the award. Draw a picture of what the award looks like.	Create a new book cover for the book you've read. Your book cover should be engaging, colorful, and take up an entire page (8.5x11). Be sure to include a summary on the back.	Create an illustrated bookmark with relevant information. A bookmark might summarize previous chapters or contain the definitions of challenging vocabulary words. Make it colorful.