



SUMMER 2009

Fourth Grade Summer Reading and Related Projects

Required summer reading: I would like all incoming fourth graders to read *Riding Freedom*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan, an historical fiction story that will tie into our year-long study of California. Boys and girls alike will enjoy this story of adventurous Charlotte Parkhurst, a girl who defies all expectations with her unconventional life in 1860s California. Enjoy!

Required summer project: I'm sure you will be doing a lot of pleasure reading this summer! Choose one book that you particularly enjoyed, and complete one of the projects below. The project is due, and will be presented to the class, on the first day of school, so do your best work!

Project #1. Create a three-dimensional model of your favorite character and dress him/her as he/she is dressed in the book. As you read, look for specific words or phrases that the author uses to describe the character. Write a three paragraph summary of this character describing why you chose this character and why you think the character looks this way. Reader Beware: Do NOT rely on the picture from the front cover to tell you how the character looks; use the author's own words.

Project #2. Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a three paragraph letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles.

Project #3. Create a four page mini-comic book relating to one chapter of the book. The mini-comic book should have the following: colored illustrations, dialogue (conversation bubbles to show characters talking to each other), specific information from the text (actual events that happened), a cover page, and a title page referencing the chapter and page numbers used.

Project #4. Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What things will you need to pack and why? Think carefully because you will be there for one week and there is no going home to get anything. This project should include the following on one page: a drawing of a suitcase with drawings of each item that will be placed in the suitcase, and on a separate page three paragraphs explaining what items were chosen, why the items were chosen, and how they will be used in the story.

Summer Reading Suggestions

Animal Stories

Poppy or Ragweed, by Avi
Henry and Ribsy, by Beverly Cleary
Fantastic Mr. Fox, by Roald Dahl
Because of Winn-Dixie or The Tale of Despereaux or The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, by Kate Di Camillo
The Trouble With Tuck, by Theodore Taylor
Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White
Abel's Island, by William Steig
Our Only May Amelia, by Jennifer L. Holm

Family, Friends, and School

Fudge-a-Mania or Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, by Judy Blume
Dear Mr. Henshaw or Ellen Tebbits, by Beverly Cleary
The School Story or The Janitor's Boy, by Andrew Clements
Everything on a Waffle, by Polly Horvath

Fantasy and Adventure

The Incredible Journey, by Sheila Burnford
The Twenty-One Balloons, by William Pene du Bois
Redwall, by Brian Jacques
Ella Enchanted, by Gail Carson Levine
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis
The Indian in the Cupboard, by Lynn Reid Banks
The Cricket in Times Square, by George Selden

Historical Fiction

The Cabin Faced West, by Jean Fritz
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit, by Judith Kerr
Sarah, Plain and Tall, by Patricia MacLachlan
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor
The Kite Fighters, by Linda Sue Park
Dragonwings, Dragon's Gate, or The Earth Dragon Awakes, by Laurence Yep
"Dear America" series (any book), written by various authors

Fiction

Summer of the Swans, by Betsy Byars
Thimble Summer, by Elizabeth Enright
The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Collections of Stories

The Dark-thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural, by Patricia McKissack
In The Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World, by Virginia Hamilton

Non-fiction

Volcano: The Eruption and Healing of Mount St. Helens, by Patricia Lauber
The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights, by Russell Freedman
The Great Fire, by Jim Murphy
Homesick: My Own Story, by Jean Fritz (memoir)