

Dear Future Fourth Graders,

Welcome, welcome, welcome. We, the fourth grade teachers, are so happy to welcome you to fourth grade. We have an exciting year of learning planned for each of you. While we know that you are missing your third grade teachers and classmates right now, we want you to know that fourth grade will be a great year for you.

We hope that you have a fabulous summer filled with exciting adventures and fun with friends and family, and we know that a big part of a fabulous summer is having lots of good books to read. That is why we put together this list of wonderful books for you to choose from. While we know that there is nothing better than reading your own favorite book, we want to introduce you to a few books that we love.

It is our hope that you will choose to read at least one of these titles during your summer break. Of course you may still read any other books that you like. We would love to talk about your book choice with you when we meet you in August, so please bring the book that you chose to school with you on the first day of the 2019-2020 school year. Until we meet, happy reading.

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Teachers

Choice #1 Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

LEXILE: 810 GENRE: Mystery

A New York Times bestseller!

For twelve-year-old Emily, the best thing about moving to San Francisco is that it's the home city of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, book publisher and creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger (a game where books are hidden in cities all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles). Upon her arrival, however, Emily learns that Griswold has been attacked and is now in a coma, and no one knows anything about the epic new game he had been poised to launch. Then Emily and her new friend James discover an odd book, which they come to believe is from Griswold himself, and might contain the only copy of his mysterious new game.

Racing against time, Emily and James rush from clue to clue, desperate to figure out the secret at the heart of Griswold's new game-before those who attacked Griswold come after them too.

Choice #2 Two Truths and A Lie by Ammi-Joan Paquette, Lisa K. Weber (Illustrator), Laurie Ann Thompson

LEXILE: 1010 GENRE: Non-fiction

Two Truths and a Lie is the first book in a fascinating new series that presents some of the most crazy-but-true stories about the living world as well as a handful of stories that are too crazy to be true--and asks readers to separate facts from fakes! Did you know that there is a fungus that can control the mind of an ant and make it do its bidding? Would you believe there is such a thing as a corpse flower—a ten-foot-tall plant with a blossom that smells like a zombie? How about a species of octopus that doesn't live in water but rather lurks in trees in the Pacific Northwest?

Every story in this book is strange and astounding. But not all of them are real. Just like the old game in this book's title, two out of every three stories are completely true and one is an outright lie. Can you guess which? It's not going to be easy. Some false stories are based on truth, and some of the true stories are just plain unbelievable. And they're all accompanied by dozens of photos, maps, and illustrations. Amaze yourself and trick your friends as you sort out the fakes from the facts! Acclaimed authors Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson have teamed up to create a series of sneaky stories about the natural world designed to amaze, disgust, and occasionally bamboozle you.

Choice #3 The Pet War by Allan Woodrow

LEXILE: 590

GENRE:: Realistic Fiction

Eleven-year-old Otto wants a dog. His twelve-year-old perfect sister, Lexi, wants a cat. Their mother, who works very long hours as a nurse, wants neither. Pets are expensive so who's going to pay for everything? And what happens to the pet when the siblings are at their dad's for the weekend?

Otto has an idea. What if he got a job and earned enough money to pay for the dog? Then Lexi has to open her big mouth. She proposes that whichever sibling can raise enough money first will decide which pet they get. Oddly enough, their mom and dad agree.

With Otto and Lexi each out to defeat the other, their business plans become more elaborate and involved. As the competition gets fiercer, the stakes get higher, and the battle lines have been drawn, so let the Pet War begin. ...

Choice #4 Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective Series by Donald Sobol LEXILE: 560

Genre: Mystery

Leroy Brown, aka Encyclopedia Brown, is Idaville neighborhood's ten-year-old star detective. With an uncanny knack for trivia, he solves mysteries for the neighborhood kids through his own detective agency. But his dad also happens to be the chief of the Idaville police department, and every night around the dinner table, Encyclopedia helps him solve his most baffling crimes. And with ten confounding mysteries in each book, not only does Encyclopedia have a chance to solve them, but the reader is given all the clues as well. Interactive and chock full of interesting bits of information—it's classic Encyclopedia Brown!

Choice #5 Choose Your Own Adventure Series by various authors

LEXILE: varied

Genre: fiction/adventure

These books are written in the second person voice so that the reader can become the protagonist in the adventure. Based on the choices that you the reader make, the story can have many different endings.

You can find titles organized by grade level on this site.

<https://www.cyoa.com/collections/third-grade>

Choice #6 A Dog's Purpose Series by W. Bruce Cameron

LEXILE: 620 Genre: fiction

Every dog has work to do. Every dog has a purpose. This series tells the stories of a variety of pups who each fulfill their destiny in heartwarming ways. If you are a dog lover, you will love this series.

Choice #7 Here's Hank Series by Henry Winkler

LEXILE: 570 Genre: Realistic Fiction

Hank stars the same Hank as in the bestselling Hank Zipzer series, only this time he's in 2nd grade! Hank is a kid who doesn't try to be funny, but he somehow always makes the kids in his class laugh. He's pretty bad at memorizing stuff, and spelling is his worst subject. (But so are math and reading!) In the first book in this new series, Hank's class is putting on a play, and Hank wants the lead part: Aqua Fly. But he freezes in his audition and can only buzz like a fly. His teacher creates a special part for Hank, a silent bookmark. This may seem like an insignificant role, but when his enemy, Nick McKelty, freezes during the performance, it's up to Hank to save the play!

Choice #8 Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos

LEXILE: 890 Genre: Realistic Fiction

Joey Pigza's got heart, he's got a mom who loves him, and he's got "dud meds," which is what he calls the Ritalin pills that are supposed to even out his wild mood swings. Sometimes Joey makes bad choices. He learns the hard way that he shouldn't stick his finger in the pencil sharpener, or swallow his house key, or run with scissors, Joey ends up bouncing around a lot - and eventually he bounces himself all the way downtown, into the district special-ed program, which could be the end of the line. As Joey knows, if he keeps making bad choices, he could just fall between the cracks for good. But he is determined not to let that happen.

In this antic yet poignant new novel, Jack Gantos has perfect pitch in capturing the humor, the off-the-wall intensity, and the serious challenges that life presents to a kid dealing with hyper activity and related disorders.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key is a 1998 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature.

Figure 3: Text Complexity Grade Bands and Associated Lexile Ranges (in Lexiles)

Text Complexity Grade

Band in the Standards Old Lexile Ranges

Lexile Ranges Aligned

to

CCR expectations

Old Lexile ranges

Ranges aligned to Common Core

K-1 N/A

N/A

2-3 450-725

450-790

4-5 645-845

770-980

6-8 860-1010

955-1155

9-10 960-1115

1080-13