



250 East 164th Street
Bronx, New York 10456
(718)681-6288
Kristin Erat, Principal

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X449>

Recommended Summer Reading for Students Entering Fourth Grade:

Bring this list to the local library to check out these titles that will keep your child reading all summer long and ready for success in Fourth Grade!

Claudia and the Phantom Phone Calls (The Baby-Sitters Club Series #2)

by Ann M. Martin

Claudia decides to investigate when she and the other members of the Baby-Sitters Club receive mysterious phone calls while out on assignments. Also recommended: Baby-Sitters Club: Little Sister Series and the Baby-Sitters Club Series



The Cricket in Times Square

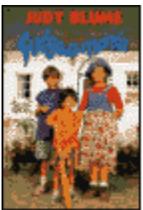
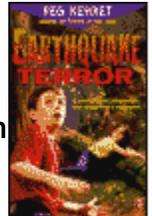
by George Selden, Garth Williams (illus.)

Business has not been good at the Bellini's newspaper stand in the Times Square subway station. Tucker the mouse, who lives in a drainpipe near the newsstand, wishes he could help. One night, Mario Bellini hears a beautiful sound – it is Chester, a cricket from Connecticut who has been accidentally brought to New York City and plays music with his wings. After Mario convinces his parents to let him keep Chester, Tucker, his friend Harry the cat, and the cricket come up with a plan to help the Bellinis keep their newsstand: Chester can give concerts!

Earthquake Terror

by Peg Kehret

When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family has been camping, 12-year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister, and their dog alive until help arrives.



Fudge-a-Mania

by Judy Blume

Peter Hatcher's summer is not looking good. First of all, Peter's brother, Fudge – the five-year-old human hurricane – has a plan: to marry Peter's sworn enemy, Sheila Tubman. Disgusting! Could anything be worse? Yes. Peter's parents have decided to rent a summer house next door to the Tubmans. Which means Peter will be stuck with Fudge and Sheila the Cootie Queen for three whole weeks! Will Peter be able to survive the summer? It may not be the vacation of Peter's dreams, but as millions of Judy Blume fans know, it won't be dull. When Fudge is around, anything can happen ... and does! Also recommended: *Superfudge* and *Otherwise Known As Sheila the Great*.



The Indian in the Cupboard

by Lynne Reid Banks, Brock Cole (illus.)

The first book in this bestselling series begins with young Omri receiving an old family wooden medicine cupboard as a birthday gift. Given to him by his mother in order to house his plastic toy soldiers, the cupboard has a magical power: It can bring Omri's toys to life. When his toy Indian comes alive and befriends him, Omri finds himself involved in all kinds of adventure and excitement.



Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang

by Mordecai Richler, Fritz Wegner (illus.)

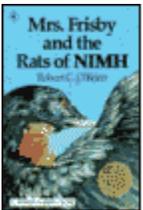
Jacob Two-Two says everything twice. But the grocer thinks Jacob's being rude when he asks for something twice, and before he knows it, Jacob has been arrested and whisked away to Slimer's Isle. How Jacob outsmarts the jailer and saves the children of Slimer's Isle makes for outrageously funny reading.



The Mouse and the Motorcycle

by Beverly Cleary, Louis Darling (illus.)

Ralph the mouse is terrified. All he had wanted to do was ride the little motorcycle someone had left on the table. Instead, both Ralph and the motorcycle have taken a terrible fall – right into the bottom of the wastepaper basket. He is trapped, left to wait for whatever fate has in store for him. But it turns out to be Ralph's lucky day. Along comes Keith, the owner of the toy motorcycle, who is staying with his family in the hotel room where Ralph lives. Not only does Keith save Ralph's life, but he teaches him how to ride the bike. And when everyone is asleep, he turns Ralph loose in the hotel halls to enjoy the biking adventure of his life. But adventures can be both fun and trouble...as Ralph and Keith soon find out! Also recommended: *Ralph S. Mouse* and *Runaway Ralph*.



Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

by Robert C. O'Brien, Zena Bernstein (illus.)

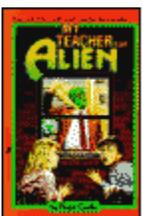
Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.

My Side of the Mountain

by Jean Craighead George

Tired of big-city life, Sam Gibley runs away to the Catskill Mountains to forge a life of his own. In this Newbery Honor book, Sam relates his adventures during the year he spends alone, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship. Also recommended: *On the*

Far Side of the Mountain.



My Teacher Is an Alien

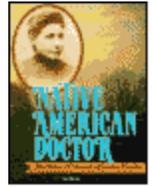
by Bruce Coville, Mike Wimmer (illus.)

Susan can tell that her new substitute teacher is really weird. She doesn't know how weird until she catches him peeling off his face – and realizes Mr. Smith is really an alien! Now it's up to Susan and her friends to get rid of the extraterrestrial visitor.

Native American Doctor, The Story of Susan LaFlesche Picotte

by Jeri Ferris

This is the inspiring biography of the young Omaha Indian woman who became the first Native American woman to graduate from medical school.



Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade

by Barthe DeClements

Jenny knows one thing for sure – Elsie Edwards is a fat thief who steals people's lunch money to buy candy. So when the book club money disappears, why is the whole class punished? Nothing's fair! But soon Jenny realizes some things aren't fair for Elsie, either. Elsie is on a strict diet, but when she starts losing weight, her mother won't buy her new clothes. Instead, she plans to send Elsie to boarding school. Suddenly everyone wants to help Elsie. Nothing's fair in fifth grade – but sometimes things get better!



The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog

by John R. Erickson, Gerald L. Holmes (illus.)

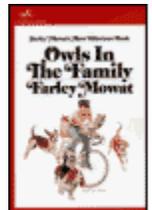
While investigating a vicious murder on his ranch, Hank finds himself the No. 1 suspect. Resigning in a fit of despair, he heads for the hills to become an outlaw – where a band of ruthless coyotes is happy to teach him the trade. Or are they? They seem to be on his side...until they unveil their plan for a raid on Hank's ranch! Hank knows he can't beat them.

Will he be forced to join them?

Owls in the Family

by Farley Mowat, Robert Frankenberg (illus.)

Owls Wol and Weeps turn a household upside down, outwit a dog with the dignity of Mut, and shake up a neighborhood.



Search for the Shadowman

by Joan Lowery Nixon

Twelve-year-old Andy Bonner isn't thrilled with his teacher's assignment to explore family history. When he starts asking questions about his ancestors, he is startled to discover a black sheep in the family tree. No one wants to reveal what happened in his family's past. But Andy is determined to break the silence. Casting his net widely, from the Internet to the local cemetery, Andy helps everyone realize it's never too late to seek justice.



A Share of Freedom

by June Rae Wood

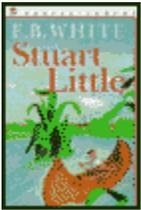
Freedom Jo is a smart-mouthed 13-year-old with an alcoholic mother, a little brother, Jackie, whom she adores – and no idea who her father is. Afraid of being separated from Jackie after a binge lands their mother in an alcoholism-treatment program, Freedom runs away with him, hoping to hide out until their mother comes home. Her plan precipitates a chain of events that leads to the discovery of her father's identity.



Sideways Stories from Wayside School

by Louis Sachar, Julie Brinckloe (illus.)

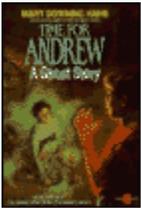
There'd been a terrible mistake. Wayside School was supposed to be built with 30 classrooms all next to each other in a row. Instead, they built the classrooms one on top of the other ... 30 stories tall! (The builder said he was very sorry.) That may be why all kinds of funny things happen at Wayside School – especially on the 30th floor. You'll meet Mrs. Gorf, the meanest teacher of all; terrible Todd, who always gets sent home early; and John, who can only read upside down – along with all the other kids in the crazy mixed-up school that came out sideways. But you'll never guess the truth about Sammy, the new kid ... or what's in store for Wayside School on Halloween!



Stuart Little

by E. B. White

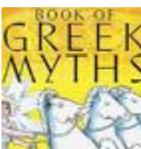
Stuart Little is a mouse in the family of the Frederick C. Littles and is a pleasantly debonair little character, with a shy, engaging manner and a somewhat philosophical turn of mind. He is a great help around the house, and everybody except Snowbell the cat likes him a great deal. In spite of his small size, Stuart gets around a good bit in the world, riding a Fifth Avenue bus with some aplomb, racing (and winning in) a sailboat in Central Park, teaching school for a day, and so on. His size – just over two inches – does give him some trouble now and then, like the time he was rolled up in the window shade, or when he got dumped into a garbage scow. But on the whole his life is a happy one. His great adventure comes when, at the age of seven, he sets out in the world to seek his dearest friend, Margalo, a beautiful little bird. Stuart Little, small in size only, has the adventurousness, the great purpose, and the indomitable spirit of a heroic figure, and his story, funny and tender and exciting by turns, will be read, re-read, and loved by young and old.



Time for Andrew, A Ghost Story

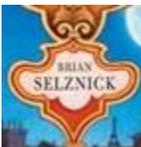
by Mary Downing Hahn

When he goes to spend the summer with his great-aunt in the family's old house, 11-year-old Drew is drawn 80 years into the past to trade places with his great-great-uncle, who is dying of diphtheria.



D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths by Ingri and Parin D'Aulaires

The definitive guide to Greek mythology for children, these high-octane adventures are accentuated by full-page illustration.



The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (Scholastic Press, 2007)

If Hugo can repair the robot-like "automaton" rescued from a fire, he feels sure its metal hand will write a note from his departed father, conveying a plan to keep him safe. Set in and out of the sewers of Paris, the cinematic quality of this novel reinvents the fiction genre for a generation of visually literate children.



City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau (Random House Books for Young Readers, 2003)

The generator that provides the life-force for the city has been running well for hundreds of years, creating a society that is ambivalent and content, few venturing into the darkness that envelops the city's perimeter. But the flickering lights indicate that it may be time to generate some new ideas, and fast! A fantastic underground world is fully realized in this cliffhanging, heart-pumping sci-fi fantasy that even people who don't like sci-fi fantasy will enjoy, and serves as a great springboard into ecological discussion.



[Number the Stars](#) by Lois Lowry (*Laurel Leaf, 1998*)

The Danish Resistance helps a family escape capture by the Nazis, with children playing a major role even in the most terrible of situations. (For kids who still have questions, a strong follow-up is *Yellow Star* by Jennifer Roy, based on the author's aunts experience of survival in the Lodz ghettos.)



[The Wish Giver](#) by Bill Brittain (*HarperCollins Children's Books, 1990*)

Four creepy wishes are granted to four small-town folk, no trade-backs, no-nothing-backs. This formalistically flawless story sends shivers up a reader's spine.

Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher by Bruce Coville

Jeremy knows about raising animals. But he was not prepared for this baby flame-breathing dragon now in his bedroom. A fantasy for younger readers – full of laughs!

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt

A pregnant abandoned calico cat befriends a chained up dog in the bayou. There is love, loss, and redemption in this tale that deserves to become a classic.

Jack and Rebel, the Police Dog by Patricia Finney

Life is always exciting for a Labrador. Jack's is even more so with his new friend, and we learn all about it from a dog's unique point of view.

A Maze Me: Poems for Girls by Naomi Shihab Nye

The voices in this collection of poems will ring true for young female readers, and encourage them to put pen to paper with the poetry of their own everyday experiences.

A Stranger Came Ashore by Mollie Hunter

While Elspeth falls in love with a stranger, Finn, her brother Robbie struggles to find out more about the mysterious young man. A gripping tale of suspense!

Tomorrow's Magic by Pamela F Service

An Arthurian adventure set in a Post-Apocalyptic Britain, complete with loyal friendships, bitter enemies and two-headed, two-waggy-tailed mutant pet dogs. With battles galore, this is a great read.

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Considered one of Dahl's most imaginative works, *The BFG* tells the story of the Big Friendly Giant who blows good dreams into the bedrooms of children. One night he takes an orphan girl named Sophie from her bed and brings her to the world of Giants. The other Giants, with names like Fleshlumpeater, Bonecruncher, and Childchewer, are all decidedly less friendly than Sophie's charge and hungry for "human beans". Sophie and the BFG soon develop a plan to stop the Giants by telling none other than the Queen of England. Will the plan work?

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Nothing interests or excites young Milo, until a mysterious tollbooth is delivered to his bedroom and he ventures through it to another world of curious characters and adventures. There, he explores the word market of Dictionopolis, where juicy orchard-grown words are sold, accidentally jumps to the island of Conclusions after making unfounded assumptions, and goes on to rescue the princesses Rhyme and Reason. When Milo finally returns home, he realizes that adventures are all around him, just waiting to be explored, and *The Phantom Tollbooth* is sure to inspire young readers to take up learning adventures of their own.

The Time Traveler's Journal by Ed Masessa.

This book chronicles the time travel of narrator Lieserl Einstein, Albert Einstein's unknown daughter. She calls herself the missing Einstein because she erased all evidence of her existence in order to be free to time travel. Readers get a sneak peak into Lieserl's journals, packed with photos, sketches, newspaper clippings, a real pocket watch that runs backwards and even math equations. But, it's not all fun and games. Lieserl's narrative also warns kids about what will happen as a result of global warming, and the need for more research into destroying Potentially Hazardous Asteroids. The book is a true reading experience which inspires kids to learn by combining fact with the joys of fiction.