

Summer Reading Incoming Fourth Grade

To help prevent the common "summer slide" and keep reading skills strong, incoming fourth graders are asked to complete a Summer Reading Project. Students are encouraged to select a favorite chapter book and read for at least **15–20 minutes each day**. Consistent reading helps build stamina and strengthens comprehension skills. Besides - finding a great story fosters a lifelong love of learning.

The Summer Reading Project consists of three parts:

Part 1: Read a Chapter Book

Choose and read a chapter book that interests you. Do you have a favorite movie? Try reading the book for a deeper understanding. The goal is to enjoy reading and discover a great story! Some options include (but are not limited to):

- The Babysitter's Club Series by Ann. M. Martin
- Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly
- The Bone Series by Jeff Smith
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
- The Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan

Part 2: Prepare a Book Talk

Prepare a short speech (2–3 minutes) about your book. *No written report is required for this portion.* The goal is simply to *talk* about what you learned and enjoyed about your book. Be ready to explain:

- The title and author
- The setting
- The main characters
- The problem or conflict in the story
- Your favorite part and why
- Why you would (or would not) recommend the book to others

Remember: do not spoil the ending!

Part 3: Creative Book Project

Choose one option from the list of project choices to showcase your understanding of the story. Be creative and have fun! This is an opportunity to highlight one of your many strengths, whether it be art, sculpture, poetry, songwriting, building, technology, or another creative talent.

Artistic Projects

- **Create a Book Cover and a 10 sentence explanation of the story:** Design a new front and back cover for the book. Include illustrations, a 10-sentence summary, and a review explaining why others should read it.
- **Story Scene Illustration:** Draw and color your favorite scene from the book. Choose a quote from this scene and include it on your illustration page. Then, write a 5-sentence paragraph explaining why the scene is important to the story.
- **Comic Strip:** Turn the story into a colorful comic book with dialogue and captions - 10 comic boxes minimum.
- **Board Game:** Design a board game based on the book. Include challenges, character cards, or events from the story.

3D and Building Projects

- **Create a Diorama:**
 - **LEGO Build:** Use LEGO bricks to create your favorite scene. Label key features / characters and explain why you chose them.
 - **Shoebox Diarama:** Use a shoebox to create your favorite scene or setting. Label key features and explain why you chose them.
 - **Clay or Sculpture Project:** Create a model of a character, creature, object from the story. Include a written paragraph explaining what it is and why it is important to the story.
 - **3D Printed Creation:** Design and print an object that represents an important symbol, character, or event from the story. Include a paragraph explaining its connection to the book and why you chose it.

Writing and Analysis Projects

- **Character Journaling:** Write a diary entry pretending to be a main character from your book. What challenges did they face, and how might they have felt overcoming these challenges? 10 sentences minimum.
- **Alternate Ending:** Write a new ending for the book that fits the story and characters. 10 sentences minimum.
- **Book Review:** Write a review that includes a summary, favorite parts, strengths of the book, and a rating out of five stars. 10 sentences minimum.

Music and Performance Projects

- **Create a Soundtrack:** If this book was a movie, what would the sound track be? Create an 8 song playlist that you think would fit this story. Include a 1 sentence explanation why each song fits the story (8 sentences total).
- **Songwriting Project:** Write and perform an original song or rap that tells the story or describes a character's journey. You may record it or perform it live.
- **Book Commercial:** Create a 1–2 minute commercial (skit) convincing others to read the book. Other students may help act in the commercial, but each student still needs to complete their own reading project.
- **News Report:** Pretend you are a reporter covering an important event from the story. Record or perform a news broadcast. Other students may help act in the commercial, but each student still needs to complete their own reading project.

I hope you enjoy your summer and return ready for an exciting year of learning. I look forward to seeing all of your wonderful projects and beginning our year together!

Sincerely,

Miss Sarah Ratter