



## Suggested Summer Reading List – Incoming Fourth Grade

### Fiction

Clements, Andrew **Extra Credit**

Abby is in trouble and the only way she can get out of repeating sixth grade is to complete an extra credit assignment. She has to write four letters to a school on the other side of the world and report back to the class. Her letters end up in the hands of Sadeed in a small town in Afghanistan. Both Abby and Sadeed learn about different cultures and about themselves in this hard to put down story by Andrew Clements. 830 Lexile

Cole, Henry **A Nest for Celeste**

This beautifully illustrated book combines talking animal's fantasy with historical fiction. Celeste, a winsome mouse, and her friend James, the teenaged painter apprentice to John James Audubon, tell the story of Audubon's effort to document North American birds while visiting Oakley Plantation in 1821. The story also chronicles Celeste's many adventures as she befriends captured birds and fends off the family cat and two bullying rats. 730 Lexile

Cowley, Joy **Chicken Feathers**

Josh is dismayed and worried. His no nonsense grandma has arrived at the farm to help out while his mother awaits the birth of his baby sister in the hospital. Grandma's first act is to evict Semolina, Josh's pet chicken, from his bedroom. Semolina has three secrets: she has an insatiable taste for Grandma's vile homemade brew, she talks, but only to Josh, and she holds the key to a barnyard mystery. Most importantly, she is Josh's confidante and now she is missing. 700 Lexile

DiCamillo, Kate **Tale of Despereaux**

From birth everyone recognizes that Despereaux is not your usual mouse. His huge ears, his love of music, his odd habit of reading rather than eating paper, and his tendency to rely on his own instincts rather than following the rules make him a misfit disowned by his parents. Will he end his days swallowed up by the castle's rat infested dungeon or will he save the lovely Princess Pea from dastardly doings? 670 Lexile

Selznick, Brian **Wonderstruck**

From Brian Selznick, the creator of the Caldecott Medal winner *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, comes another breathtaking tour de force. Playing with the form he created in his trailblazing debut novel, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick once again sails into uncharted territory and takes readers on an awe-inspiring journey.

Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headlines in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quest to find what they are missing. Set fifty years apart, these two independent stories – Ben's told in words, Rose in pictures – weave back and forth with mesmerizing symmetry. How they unfold and ultimately intertwine will surprise you, challenges you, and leave you breathless with wonder. Rich, complex, affecting, and beautiful – with over 460 pages of original artwork— *Wonderstruck* is a stunning achievement from a uniquely gifted artist and visionary. 830 Lexile

## **Nonfiction**

Alexander, Sally      **Hobart She Touched the World**

In 1829, fifty-one years before Helen Keller was born, a bright eager child named Laura Bridgeman was born into a New England farm and family. Laura lost her sight and hearing to childhood illness while a toddler. Her remarkable story, towering intellect and incessant curiosity became an inspiration and changed the way educators looked at teaching. 990 Lexile

Hollyer, Beatrice      **Our World of Water**

Through the experiences of children throughout the world, the author looks at how water is used in different cultures, where it is found, and most importantly, how it is valued. 890 Lexile

Wick, Walter      **A Drop of Water**

Art and science converge in photographs that make time stand still so that water's curious behavior can be recorded and explored. Notes on the experiments pictured suggest ways budding scientist can study droplets, bubbles, snowflakes, dew condensation, and other states of moisture. 870 Lexile

Pippin, Horace      **A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin**

He was shot in the arm during WWI, but he worked steadily to learn how to use his arm again to create art. There are so many things I love about this book, and you come away from it with a strong sense of how Pippin used art to interpret the world. Pippin suffered from poverty, the psychological and physical costs of war, but still, his talent propelled him to create. 610 Lexile

Jankowski, Connie      **All About Light and Sound**

Light and sound are two of the most important ways to understand the world around us. The sun is Earth's main source of energy and light. Light bounces off objects and travels to our eyes. Our eyes and brain work together to translate that light into what we see while our ears pick up sound vibrations and translate them into meaningful messages. 700 Lexile