

Summer Reading List – Incoming Fourth Grade 2021

Required Reading

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Edward Tulane, a china rabbit, is the main character in this thoughtful tale by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick, 2006). Edward is dearly loved by a young girl named Abilene. One day he is lost over the side of a boat. His journey leads him to a older couple who dress him like a girl rabbit, a hobo and his dog, a young girl and her brother, and finally, to a doll shop/ Along the way, Edward learns to love the people he encounters. He also learns that family members can be cruel to one another; that hobos have family that they love dearly and don't want to forget; that no matter how much you love someone, she may still die; and that no matter what happens in life, never give up on love.

Please choose 2 additional books from the list below.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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 headline 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, challenge 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.

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.

Bishop, Nic

Secrets of Animal Flight

The aerial acrobatics of butterflies, bats, hummingbirds, and ladybugs occur so fleetingly that you will want to leaf through this book again to study the arresting photos of birds and bugs in flight. You may even be tempted to touch the page to make sure that what you see is not real.

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.

Martin, Alex

Picture That: Knights and Castles

The engaging text leads readers on a tour of medieval art, including reproductions of work by the Breughels, to hunt for historical information about daily life in the Middle Ages.

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.