

Summer Reading
North Colonie Elementary Schools
Students Entering 4th grade

Recommended by:
North Colonie Teachers
New York State Reading Association
American Library Association

Fiction

Wayside School series

Louis Sacher

An extremely unusual school, 30-stories high, where weird things happen, especially on the thirteenth floor with the meanest teacher on Earth – Mrs. Gorf!

The Hundred Dresses

Eleanor Estes

No one in school notices Wanda, except to make fun of her with her muddy shoes and torn dresses. Where, all of a sudden, did Wanda get 100 dresses?

Anastasia, Absolutely

Lois Lowry

Anastasia Krupnik is always facing dilemmas with hilarious challenges. There are many more books about Anastasia and you will want to read them all.

*** *Invisible Stanley***

Jeff Brown

Being invisible helps Stanley help others. He helps a shy man propose by saying, “marry me” for him, and he steadies the bike of a young new rider so the older kids don’t laugh.

*** *Bunnicula***

James Howe

Wait a minute! A rabbit with fangs and odd markings on his back that look a little like a cape. Could it be a vampire bunny!

Amber Brown is Green with Envy

Paula Danziger

This is one of the books from the series that began with *Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon*. This chapter book confronts the real problems of divorced parents, weekends in different houses, and lessons learned in the principal’s office, with honesty and humor.

Judy Moody was in a mood. Not a good mood. A bad mood.

Megan McDonald

This comical story introduces us to Judy, an endearing character with sass and energy.

Non-fiction

Recycled Crafts Box

Storey Kids

Much more than just a craft book, this book includes a brief history of trash that shows how the invention of disposable products and packaging has created increasing waste. Illustrated with cheerful cartoon drawings and color photos of the finished projects.

The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins Bea Schyffert

An integration of text, illustration, charts, and photos draws readers into the amazing story of the astronaut who kept Apollo 11 circling the moon while his colleagues took a giant step for mankind.

Amelia Earhart Free in the Skies Robert Burleigh

A comic-book format is used to bring this pioneer aviator to life. Young readers will get a feel for Amelia's daredevil nature as her 14-hour solo flight from North America to Britain is told through flashbacks.

Fantasy/Science Fiction

Series of Unfortunate Events Lemony Snicket

Three very unlucky siblings lead lives filled with misery and woe. From the very first page of this book when the children are at the beach and receive terrible news, continuing on through the entire story, disaster lurks at their heels.

5 Novels: Alan Mendelsohn, the Boy from Mars; Slaves of Spiegel; The Last Guru; Young Adult Novel; The Snarkout Boys and the Avocado of Death

Daniel Pinkwater

Any of these stories would be wonderful all by itself, but if you read one, you will want to devour the others. Performing chickens, a New Jersey Martian, an orangutan orchestra conductor from Ceylon...the details are what jump out of these novels.

Abel's Island William Steig

This classic adventure tale features Abel and Amanda, two mice who set out for a picnic in the woods, only to be caught in a full-fledged hurricane.

Guardians of Ga'hoole: The Capture Kathryn Lasky

This is the first book in a new series featuring a young Barn Owl, Soren, who is taken by nefarious owls to a strange place where he finds himself with many other young owls, but for what purpose!

Folklore

The First Strawberries, A Cherokee Tale Joseph Bruchac

This gentle legend explains the origin of strawberries – to help the first man and woman to patch a quarrel.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Washington Irving

A schoolmaster, Ichabod Crane, comes to teach in a one-room schoolhouse, only to disappear after seeing a headless horseman.

John Henry Ezra Jack Keats

Everyone should know the American legend of John Henry, who was so strong and powerful that he was able to take his mighty hammer and challenge the new machine.

The Talking Eggs

Robert SanSouci

This is a spellbinding folktale about two spoiled and lazy sisters with a younger sister, Blanche, who is forced to do all the work. Then suddenly a witch-woman appears and the tables turn.

Poetry

Sing a Song of Popcorn

Beatrice Schenk deRegnier

A marvelous collection of poems, grouped by theme, “Spooky Poems”, “Mostly Nonsense”, with each theme illustrated by a different artist.

Nathaniel’s Talking

Eloise Greenfield

Nathaniel says, “I know life ain’t no piece of pie...I know I got to try.” His experiences are joyful and sorrowful and very real.

Bird Watch

Jane Yolen

If you love watching birds, quietly thinking about their ways and habits, you will love these poems filled with images and insights into the personalities of different birds.