

Summer Reading Requirements/Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE FOUR 2025 – 2026

Although we recognize and hope that *many* books may be read over the summer, **students are required to read a minimum of four books** to fulfill the SJA Summer Reading Program, including the **Fourth Grade Required Read: *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate**. (**Please Note: If students choose to read graphic novels as part of this requirement, only one of the four required reads may be from this genre.*) Students need to list all book titles read, including the author's name. Parents must sign this list. The list of books read must be submitted to your classroom teacher on the first day of classes in September. These books may be used as the basis for discussion and writing during the first weeks of school.

We encourage families to make reading a regular part of their summer schedule; in this current era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parents and children to bond and relax together, and boosts students' attention span, comprehension, and language/vocabulary development – key tools for academic achievement and success.

Reading resources abound. The American Library Association provides a complete online list of Award Books at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia. Baltimore County Public Library (www.bcpl.info), Harford County Public Library (www.hcplonline.org), and the York County Public Library (www.yorklibraries.org) offer additional resources and programs for students. Their websites include suggested reading lists by age, information on youth reading programs and events, including this year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Color Our World," and a large selection of e-books and audio books available for direct download. In addition, we encourage you to link to the Baltimore County or Harford County Public Libraries' Research Databases to access NoveList K-8 Plus. This database is an excellent source for book recommendations based on age, fiction/non-fiction, interest, and genre.

We are asking that every Fourth Grade student have a current public library card for the upcoming school year. Library cards may be obtained in person or online from your local library branch. A public library card gives students access to the available resources detailed above, as well as to academic databases that may be used during the year for class assignments and/or projects.

REQUIRED READ

All students entering Fourth Grade must read: *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate.

SUGGESTED READING

Listed below are selections from the 2025 – 2026 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominees in the Grades 4-5 Novel Category and Graphic Novel Category. *All selections are listed as suggestions only.*

2025 – 2026 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Novels

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| • <i>The Mystery of Locked Rooms</i> | Lindsay Currie |
| • <i>Max in the House of Spies A Tale of WWII</i> | Adam Gidwitz |
| • <i>Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All</i> | Chanel Miller |
| • <i>Balto and Togo: Hero Dogs of Alaska</i> | Helen Moss |
| • <i>Tree. Table. Book.</i> | Lois Lowry |
| • <i>Gracie Under the Waves</i> | Linda Sue Park |
| • <i>Invisible Isabel</i> | Sally Pla |
| • <i>The Sherlock Society (Sherlock Society, Book 1)</i> | James Ponti |
| • <i>A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hill</i> | Jasmine Warga |

2025 – 2026 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Graphic Novels

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| • <i>Gamerville</i> | Johnnie Christmas |
| • <i>Misfit Mansion</i> | Kay Davault |
| • <i>Survival Scout: Lost in the Mountains</i> | Maxwell Eaton III |
| • <i>Ant Story</i> | Jay Hosler |
| • <i>Table Titans Club (Table Titans Club, Book 1)</i> | Scott R. Kurtz |
| • <i>Monkey King and the World of Myths 1: The Monster and the Maze</i> | Maple Lam |
| • <i>Lost Time</i> | Taz Mukanik |
| • <i>Anzu and the Realm of Darkness</i> | Mai K. Nguyen |
| • <i>Unicorn Boy (Unicorn Boy, Book 1)</i> | Dave Roman |
| • <i>Lost & Found: Based on a True Story</i> | Mei Yu |

2025 Newbery Medal

The First State of Being

Erin Entrada Kelly

FOURTH GRADE UNITS OF STUDY

Reading fiction and non-fiction titles related to the Fourth Grade curriculum provides excellent enrichment and support for subjects studied during the year.

Map Skills

Central Nervous System

Explorers

Weather

Colonial America

Slavery

Maryland

Native Maryland Plants and Animals