

Dear Parents of Incoming Fourth Graders,

Summer is upon us, and along with looking forward to playing in the sun and having fun, I hope your child picks up a great book or two. He/she should spend some time each day reading something enjoyable. Students should record the title of the books they read this summer on the attached Reading Record. This will be due on the first day of school.

Also, I'm asking you to adopt a pet this summer. It's small and friendly and you won't have to do anything to take care of it. (You've heard that one before?) Please help your fourth grader adopt a pet rock to stay with your family over summer break. This pet rock will be looking for some fun and adventure. Snap some pictures of the pet rock with your child throughout the summer and have him/her write about what happened in the journal. Your child should bring the journal to school when he/she comes back in the fall.

Regardless of homeroom, next year I will be your child's fourth grade language arts teacher. I am looking forward to the opportunity to read and write with your child. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mark

Students should complete this list before returning to school:

- q *Read a lot!*
- q Keep track of all the books read over the summer
- q Take pictures with the pet rock and write about what they did together

Students should bring with them on the first day of school:

- q The Reading Record of all books read over the summer
- q The pet rock and summer journal



*This list is a sampling of the quality literature available for your child. I encourage parents to review the selections to ensure readability and suitability.*

### **Fiction: Classic and Contemporary**

*The Best Bad Thing* – Uchida, Yoshiko  
*Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile* – de Paola, Tomie  
*A Boy of Old Prague* – Ish-Kishor, Shulamith  
*Cam Jansen* (series) – Adler, David  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* – Dahl, Roald  
*Charlotte's Web* – White, E.B.  
*Class Clown* – Hurwitz, Johanna  
*Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective* – Sobel, Donald  
*Felita* – Mohr, Nicholessa  
*Freckle Juice* – Blume, Judy  
*Frindle* – Clements, Andrew  
*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* – Konigsburg, E.L.  
*The Hundred Dresses* – Estes, Eleanor  
*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* – Lord, Bette Bao  
*Misty of Chincoteague* – Henry, Marguerite  
*Molly's Pilgrim* – Cohen, Barbara  
*The Pinballs* – Byars, Betsy  
*Pippi Longstocking* – Lindgren, Astrid  
*Poppy* – Avi  
*The Pushcart War* – Merrill, Jean  
*Ramona* (series) – Cleary, Beverly  
*Shades of Gray* – Reeder, Carolyn  
*Shiloh* (trilogy) – Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds  
*Souder* – Armstrong, William  
*Stone Fox* – Gardiner, John Reynolds  
*The Stories Julian Tells* – Cameron, Anne  
*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* – Blume, Judy  
*Trumpet of the Swan* – White, E.B.  
*Velveteen Rabbit* – Williams, Margery  
*Wayside School* (series) – Sachar, Louis

*Where the Red Fern Grows* – Rawls, Wilson

### **Historical Fiction**

*Caddie Woodlawn* – Brink, Carol R.  
*The Courage of Sarah Noble* – Dalglish, Alice  
*Journey to Topaz* – Uchida, Yoshiko  
*Lily's Crossing* – Giff, Patricia Reilly  
*Little House in the Big Woods* (series) – Wilder, Laura Ingalls  
*Morning Girl* – Dorris, Michael  
*Number the Stars* – Lowry, Lois  
*Prairie Songs* – Conrad, Pam  
*Sarah, Plain and Tall* – MacLachlan, Patricia  
*The Sign of the Beaver* – Speare, Elizabeth George

### **Science Fiction/Fantasy**

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* – Verne, Jules  
*Alice in Wonderland* – Carroll, Lewis  
*The Court of the Stone Children* – Cameron, Eleanor  
*The Cricket in Times Square* – Seldon, George  
*The Ear, the Eye and the Arm* – Farmer, Nancy  
*Indian in the Cupboard* – Banks, Lynne Reid  
*James and the Giant Peach* – Dahl, Roald  
*Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh* – O'Brien, Robert C.  
*The Secret Garden* – Burnett, Frances  
*This Place Has No Atmosphere* – Danziger, Paula  
*The Wind in the Willows* – Grahame, Kenneth  
*Wizard of Oz* – Baum, L. Frank  
*A Wrinkle in Time* – L'Engle, Madeleine  
**Folklore/Fairy Tales/Mythology**

*The Barefoot Book of Trickster Tales* – Walker, Richard

*The Crane Wife* – Yagawa, Sumiko and Odds Bodkin

*D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths* – D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar

*The Days When the Animals Talked* – Faulkner, William

*The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story* – Bruchac, Joseph

*How the Leopard Got His Spots* – Kipling, Rudyard

*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* – Pyle, Howard

*Of Swords and Sorcerers* – Hodges, Margaret

*The Olympians: Great Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece* – Fisher, Leonard Everett

*Saint George and the Dragon* – Hodges, Margaret

*Tales of Uncle Remus* – Lester, Julian

*Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ears* – Aardema, Verna

### **Poetry**

*Beat the Story-Drum, Pum-Pum* – Bryan, Ashley

*From Sea to Shining Sea: A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Songs* – Cohn, Amy

*Hand in Hand: An American History Through Poetry* – Hopkins, Lee Bennett

*Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* – Fleischman, Paul

*Nathaniel Talking* – Greenfield, Eloise

*The New Kid on the Block* – Prelutsky, Jack

*The Random House Book of Poetry for Children* – Prelutsky, Jack (ed.)

*Sing a Song of Popcorn* – De Regniers, Beatrice Schenk

*Snow Toward Evening: A Year in a River Valley* – Frank, Josette

### **Nonfiction: Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics**

*African Beginnings* – Haskins, James

*Animal Defenses: How Animals Protect Themselves* – Kaner, Etta

*Bizarre Birds* – Wechsler, Doug

*Black Whiteness: Admiral Byrd Alone in the Antarctic* – Burleigh, Robert

*Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog* – Moore, Eva Castle – Macaulay, David

*Caves and Caverns* – Gibbons, Gail

*Come Back, Salmon* – Cone, Molly

*Counting on Frank: Level 4* – Clement, Rod

*Dive! My Adventures in the Deep Frontier* – Earle, Sylvia

*DK Guide to Space: A Photographic Journey*

*Through the Universe* – Bond, Peter

*Dolphin Man: Exploring the World of Dolphins* – Pringle, Laurence

*Exploding Ants: Facts About How Animals Adapt* – Settel, Joanne

*An Extraordinary Life: Story of a Monarch Butterfly* – Pringle, Laurence

*Fire! Fire!* – Gibbons, Gail

*How Much Is a Million?* – Schwartz, David

*The Magic School Bus* (series) – Cole, Joanna

*Mapping the World* – Johnson, Sylvia

*One World, Many Religions* – Osborne, Mary Pope

*The People Shall Continue* – Ortiz, Simon

*Pyramid* – Macaulay, David

*Reaching for Dreams: A Ballet from Rehearsal to Opening Night* – Kuklin, Susan

*Shh! We're Writing the Constitution* – Fritz, Jean

*Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest* – Jenkins, Steve

### **Biography/Autobiography**

*The First Woman Doctor* – Baker, Rachel

*Cleopatra* – Stanley, Diane

*Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?* – Fritz, Jean

*Frederick Douglass: The Black Lion* – McKissack, Patricia

*Albert Einstein: Young Thinker* – Hammontree, Marie

*Queen Eleanor: Independent Spirit of the Medieval World* – Brooks, Polly Schoer

*The Librarian Who Measured the Earth: Eratosthenes* – Lasky, Kathryn

*Benjamin Franklin* – D'Aulaire, Ingri

*Ben and Me* – Lawson, Robert

*Prince Henry the Navigator* – Fisher, Leonard Everett

*The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam* – Huynh, Qhang Nhuong

*Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark* – Hurwitz, Johanna

*Lives of the Presidents* – Krull, Kathleen

*Abe Lincoln's Hat* – Brenner, Martha

*Charles Lindbergh: A Human Hero* – Giblin, James

*Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun* – Blumberg, Rhoda

*The Story of Sacajewea, Guide to Lewis and Clark* – Rowland, Della

*The Secret Soldier: The Story of Deborah Sampson* – McGovern, Ann

*Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso* – Reich, Susanna  
*Inspirations: Stories About Women Artists* – Sills, Leslie

*Squanto: Friend of the Pilgrims* – Bulla, Clyde Robert

*On the Day Peter Stuyvesant Sailed into Town* – Lobel, Arnold

*Walking the Road to Freedom: Sojourner Truth* – Ferris, Jeri

*Frank Lloyd Wright for Kids: His Life and Ideas* – Thorne-Thomsen, Kathleen

*The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* – Freedman, Russell

*Babe Didrikson Zaharias: The Making of a Champion* – Freedman, Russell

**Don't forget that reading  
magazines/periodicals,  
reference materials, and  
websites is reading too!**

Dear Soon-to-be Fourth Grader,

Over the summer, I know you're going to have a lot of fun. What could make your summer even more enjoyable? Sharing it with a new friend! That is why I want you to adopt a pet: a pet rock.

Pet rocks are the perfect pets. They are very low maintenance, so I am sure your parents won't object. There is no special diet. (No diet at all, actually.) There is no house training needed. Pet rocks will not whine if you forget to let them outside or play with them. Plus, your pet rock's hobbies are reading and collecting things from travels, so he/she is the perfect summer buddy.

All you have to do is name your pet rock and take your new pet along on your summer adventures. Decorating your pet is optional, but that may help you identify your pet if you take it to the beach or on a hike. Snap some pictures of the two of you out and about, and write in your journal about what you and your pet rock did together. Bring this journal on the first day of school to share your rock's adventures with the rest of your class. Please make sure you bring your rock buddy too! I'm looking forward to meeting the two of you in August.

Have a fantastic summer,

Mrs. Mark

**My Summer with** \_\_\_\_\_

Your rock's name

**By** \_\_\_\_\_

Your name





