

4th Grade Summer Reading Project
Projects are DUE the FIRST WEEK of school!

3rd Grade Lexile Range: 520L - 820L

4th Grade Lexile Range: 740L - 940L

***The Science of Breakable Things* by Tae Keller — 840L**

When seventh-grader Natalie Napoli's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, she thinks it could be the perfect solution to all of her problems. With the prize money, she can fly her botanist mother to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids — flowers with the resilience to survive against impossible odds. Her mother has been suffering from depression, and Natalie is positive that the flowers' magic will inspire her mom to fall in love with life again. With help from her friend, Natalie begins an unforgettable journey to discover the science of friendship, family, and miracles.

***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio - 790L**

This novel tells the story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters a mainstream school for the first time. The novel explores themes of bullying, acceptance, kindness and discrimination against people with disabilities. As August navigates friendships and challenges, the narrative shifts between different characters' perspectives, highlighting the impact of his presence on those around him. Ultimately, the story emphasizes the message that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and compassion.

***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall - 760L**

It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. The brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head, but none of that matters to the judge. As a consequence, Arthur must complete 120 hours of community service ... working for the Junk Man. Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .

***The Unteachables* by Gordon Korman - 740L**

This story followed a special class of "troubled" kids and their teacher at Greenwich Middle School. The class consists of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks, and their teacher, Zachary Kermit, is on the edge of retirement. Together, they learn what it means to be different, reform, and resolve a 27-year-old student cheating scandal. The novel explores themes of school life, grudges of the past, and the importance of teaching.

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***Restart* by Gordon Korman- 730L**

Chase Ambrose, an eighth-grade bully, loses his memory by falling off the roof. He doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is—it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be. This novel, while exploring themes of identity, redemption, and second chances, tells the story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start.

***How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor - 700L**

When Georgina's father walks out on her family and they end up homeless, Georgina desperately wants to have a normal life again. Sleeping in their car is getting old, and Georgina is humiliated when her best friend learns that they were evicted from their apartment. Despite working two jobs, Mama cannot seem to save enough money to rent a new apartment. Inspired by an old missing dog poster, Georgina decides to help her family by stealing a dog, then returning it for a large cash reward. As the story unfolds, Georgina begins to question her decision to steal the dog and wrestles between what is right and what is wrong. Georgina learns valuable lessons about empathy, family, and the true meaning of home.

***Rules* by Cynthia Lord - 640L**

Catherine, a twelve-year-old girl, lives with her parents and her younger brother, David, who has autism. David's autism significantly shapes their family dynamics and day-to-day life, and Catherine must navigate the challenges of dealing with her brother's condition while also trying to find her own identity and make friends. Catherine tries to help David understand the world around him by creating a list of rules. These rules range from simple corrections like "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to more socially critical ones such as "keep your pants on in public." Her intention is to prevent the kind of behaviors in David that might draw public embarrassment. This heartwarming story explores the challenges and joys of growing up with a sibling who has autism and delves into the complexities of family dynamics, friendship, and self-discovery.

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Choose one book from the list below to read over the summer. Complete the "**Book in a Bag**" project for your book. Bring your project on your first day of school!

Project Directions:

1. Get a **brown paper grocery bag** or gift bag. Make sure the bag will be big enough to hold all of your project objects (see below). You can find a brown paper grocery bag at any grocery store.
2. Read your chosen novel (See next page). Do NOT wait until the last minute to read the book!
3. On the **front** of the bag, write the **title** of the book and **author's** name. Then, draw and color a **setting** from the story. Get creative!
4. On the **left side** of the bag, draw 1-5 **stars** to show how you rate the book. 5 stars means it was AMAZING. 1 star means you HATED it. Write 1-2 sentences telling why you gave the book this rating.
5. On the **right side** of the bag, write 3 words to describe the main character. Your words should be **character traits**, NOT emotions or physical traits. Character traits are words that describe a character's personality. For example, determined, positive, and thoughtful are character traits. Sad, angry, tall, and blonde are NOT character traits.
6. Find **3 items** related to your book to represent different parts of the story. Place these 3 different objects **inside** your bag. For example, if you read *Holes* by Louis Sachar, you could put a shoe in your bag because Stanley goes to a juvenile detention camp for stealing a pair of shoes. You must collect actual objects. Please do NOT put food in your bag. Do NOT draw/print pictures of objects.
7. On the **back** of the bag, for **each** item, write **1-2 sentences** explaining how the item relates to the story. There should be 3-6 sentences total.
8. On the **bottom** of the bag, please print your **full name**.