

Reading Suggestions From Wapiti Regional Library

Grade Four Reading List

Title: All-of-a-Kind Family

Author: Taylor, Sydney; John, Helen (Illustrator)

Description: The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century.

Title: Anastasia Krupnik

Author: Lowry, Lois

Description: Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother.

Title: The Beetle Book

Author: Jenkins, Steve (Author, Illustrator)

Description: An illustrated introduction to a variety of beetle species with information on unique characteristics and how these insects have adapted to survive.

Title: The Boys Start the War

Author: Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Description: Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, nine-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a practical joke war on the girls.

Title: The Brixen Witch

Author: DeKeyser, Stacy; Nickle, John (Illustrator)

Description: Twelve-year-old Rudi stumbles upon a witch's lair while out hunting, takes a gold coin he finds there but loses it again, then must deal with the witch's servant who promises to end the town's rat infestation only if he receives that gold coin, in a story reminiscent of The Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Title: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Author: Dahl, Roald; Blake, Quentin (Illustrator)

Description: Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

Title: Charlotte's Web

Author: White, E.B.

Description: An affectionate, sometimes bashful pig named Wilbur befriends a spider named Charlotte, who lives in the rafters above his pen. Wilbur is devastated when he learns of the destiny that befalls all those of porcine persuasion. Determined to save her friend, Charlotte spins a web that reads "Some Pig," convincing the farmer and surrounding community that Wilbur is no ordinary animal and should be saved.

Title: The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins

Author: Kerley, Barbara; Selznick, Brian (Illustrator)

Description: The true story of Victorian artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who built life-sized models of dinosaurs in the hope of educating the world about what these awe-inspiring ancient animals and what they were like.

Title: Dragonbreath

Author: Vernon, Ursula (Author, Illustrator)

Description: Danny Dragonbreath can't breathe fire, but he has no fear. And that comes in handy when a bad grade at school inspires him to enlist his cousin the sea-serpent's help with a research project.

Title: Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas

Author: Cox, Lynne; Floca, Brian (Illustrator)

Description: Here is the incredible story of Elizabeth, a real-life elephant seal who made her home in the Avon River in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand. When Elizabeth decides to stretch out across a two-lane road, the citizens worry she might get hurt or cause traffic accidents, so a group of volunteers tows her out to sea. But Elizabeth swims all the way back to Christchurch.

Title: Exploding Ants: Amazing Facts about How Animals Adapt

Author: Settel, Joanne

Description: Describes examples of animal behavior that may strike humans as disgusting, including the "gross" ways animals find food, shelter, and safety in the natural world.

Title: Flora and Ulysses

Author: DiCamillo, Kate; Campbell, K.G. (Illustrator)

Description: Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

Title: Frog Song

Author: Guiberson, Brenda Z.; Spirin, Gennady (Illustrator)

Description: Discusses frog vocalizations and behavior in locations all over the world.

Title: Gandhi: A March to the Sea

Author: McGinty, Alice B.; Gonzalez, Thomas (Illustrator)

Description: Recreates Mohandas Gandhi's 24-day March to the Sea, from March 12 to April 5, 1930, which became a pivotal moment in India's quest to become an independent country no longer ruled by Great Britain.

Title: Goblins

Author: Reeve, Philip

Description: Young Skarper has always been a different sort of goblin, more interested in knowledge and information than eating and throwing rocks, and it gets him into trouble--but it may also be the key to saving Clovenstone from a dark sorcerer.

Title: The Grave Robber's Apprentice

Author: Stratton, Allan

Description: Hans, on the run from his adoptive father, meets Angela, a young countess fleeing the evil forces of Archduke Arnulf. Together, Hans and Angela gallop through treacherous lands on their quest to uncover the truth about Hans's shadowy past and to save Angela's parents.

Title: Henry Huggins

Author: Cleary, Beverly

Description: A truly funny story of Henry, who adopted a stray dog, and found himself in constant trouble. Grades 5-8.

Title: How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning

Author: Schanzer, Rosalyn (Author, Illustrator)

Description: Focuses on Benjamin Franklin's role as an inventor of whimsical gadgets and practical contraptions, with an emphasis on his experiment of flying a kite during a rainstorm.

Title: I Have a Dream

Author: King, Jr., Martin Luther; Nelson, Kadir (Illustrator)

Description: Presents the text of the famous speech given on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. by Martin Luther King, Jr., complemented by paintings illustrating the ideals the civil rights leader described.

Title: Igraine the Brave

Author: Funke, Cornelia (author, Illustrator), Bell, Anthea (Translator)

Description: The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight, and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.

Title: In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

Author: Lord, Bette Bao; Simont, Marc (Illustrator)

Description: In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Title: Knee Knock Rise

Author: Babbitt, Natalie (Author, Illustrator)

Description: A young boy climbs Knee-Knock Rise to discover why the mysterious Megrimum's wail casts a spell over the villagers below. For elementary grades.

Title: The Magician's Boy

Author: Cooper, Susan; Riglietti, Serena (Illustrator)

Description: A boy who works for a magician meets familiar fairy tale characters when he is transported to the Land of Story in search of a missing puppet.

Title: Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor

Author: McCully, Emily Arnold

Description: Profiles the life of the inventor from Maine who invented, among other things, the paper-bag machine.

Title: Miracle Mud: Lena Blackburne and the Secret Mud That Changed Baseball

Author: Kelly, David A.; Dominguez, Oliver, (Illustrator)

Description: Lena Blackburne loved baseball. He watched it, played it, he coached it. But he didn't love the ways players broke in new baseballs. Tired of soggy, blackened, stinky baseballs, he found a better way. Thanks to a well-timed fishing trip and a top-secret mud recipe, Lena Blackburne Baseball Rubbing Mud was born. For seventy-five years, baseball teams have used Lena's magic mud to prepare baseballs before every game.

Title: My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought To Children Around the World

Author: Ruurs, Margriet

Description: Describes unusual mobile libraries found around the world.

Title: Night of the Twister

Author: Ruckman, Ivy

Description: A fictional account of the night freakish and devastating tornadoes hit Grand Island, Nebraska, as experienced by a twelve-year-old, his family, and friends.

Title: Nim's Island

Author: Orr, Wendy; Millard, Kerry (Illustrator)

Description: Nim loves her island home and the animals she shares it with even while her scientist father is away doing research, but trouble is on the way and a new E-mail friend could be the only one who can help.

Title: The Ogre of Oglefort

Author: Ibbotson, Eva

Description: When a Hag, an orphan boy and a troll called Ulf get sent to rescue a princess from an ogre, they expect it to be a fairly standard magical mission. But the ogre is depressed, the princess doesn't want to be rescued - and the ogre's dead wife is turning in her grave.

Title: Our World of Water: Children and Water Around the World

Author: Hollyer, Beatrice

Description: Explore how children from six different countries use water every day.

Title: Outside and Inside Mummies

Author: Markle, Sandra

Description: Mummies are examined using modern technology such as x-rays, CT scanners, endoscopy, microscopy and DNA analysis.

Title: The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy

Author: Birdsall, Jeanne

Description: While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Title: Remarkable

Author: Foley, Lizzie K.

Description: Ten-year-old Jane Doe, the only student average enough to be excluded from the town of Remarkable's School for the Remarkably Gifted, is joined at her public school by the trouble-making Grimlet twins, who lead her on a series of adventures involving an out-of-control science fair project, a pirate captain on the run from a mutinous crew, a lonely dentist, and a newly constructed bell tower that endangers Remarkable's most beloved inhabitant--a skittish lake monster named Lucky.

Title: Rickshaw Girl

Author: Perkins, Mitali; Hogan, Jamie (Illustrator)

Description: In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to be a boy--or disguise herself as one.

Title: The Robe of Skulls

Author: French, Vivian; Collins, Ross (Illustrator)

Description: The sorceress Lady Lamorna has her heart set on a very expensive new robe, and she will stop at nothing--including kidnapping and black magic--to get the money to pay for it.

Title: Roxie and the Hooligans

Author: Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds; Boiger, Alexandra (Illustrator)

Description: Roxie Warbler follows the advice from her favourite book, Lord Thistlebottom's Book of Pitfalls and How to Survive Them, when she becomes stranded on an island with a gang of school bullies and a pair of murderous bank robbers.

Title: Sarah, Plain and Tall

Author: MacLachlan, Patricia

Description: When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

Title: Sense Pass King: A Story From Cameroon

Author: Tchana, Katrin (Retold by); Hyman, Trina Schard (Illustrator)

Description: Despite a jealous king's repeated attempts to get rid of her, Ma'antah continually manages to outwit him and proves herself worthy of the name Sense Pass King.

Title: Snowflake Bentley

Author: Martin, Jacqueline Briggs; Azarian, Mary (Illustrator)

Description: A biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations.

Title: Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs

Author: Muntean, Micaela; Bailey, K.C. (Illustrator); Kazmierski, Stephen (Photographer)

Description: Traces the story of ten surrendered dogs that were adopted and trained by renowned circus performer Luciano Anastasini, who helped them develop their talents as proud, happy circus dogs.

Title: Sugar

Author: Rhodes, Jewell Parker

Description: In 1870, Reconstruction brings big changes to the Louisiana sugar plantation where spunky ten-year-old Sugar has always lived, including her friendship with Billy, the son of her former master, and the arrival of workmen from China.

Title: Volcano Rising

Author: Rusch, Elizabeth; Swan, Susan

Description: Discusses volcanoes, describing what happens when they erupt, and highlighting eruptions throughout history.

Title: Walter Wick's Optical Tricks

Author: Wick, Walter

Description: Presents a series of optical illusions and explains what is seen.

Title: What if You Met a Pirate?

Author: Adkins, Jan E.

Description: Reveals what pirates were really like in contrast to pirate lore.

Title: The Whipping Boy

Author: Fleischman, Sid; Sis, Peter (Illustrator)

Description: A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Title: Who's Haunting the White House?: The President's Mansion and the Ghosts Who Live There

Author: Belanger, Jeff; Powell, Rick (Illustrator)

Description: Explores the world inside the White House, where presidents, first ladies, and staff have seen darting shadows and ghostly apparitions that have been attributed to be such former inhabitants.

Title: The World According to Humphrey

Author: Birney, Betty G.

Description: Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

Title: The Year of the Dog

Author: Lin, Grace

Description: Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

Title: You Can't See Your Bones With Binoculars

Author: Ziefert, Harriet; Haley, Amanda (Illustrator)

Description: Text and illustrations, including xrays, provide a guided tour of the human skeleton, encouraging the reader to find and feel each bone as it is described.

Title: Your Skeleton is Showing: Rhymes of Blunder From Six Feet Under

Author: Cyrus, Kurt; Scrambly, Crab (Illustrator)

Description: A wacky graveyard adventure combines funny-bone-tickling poems with silly grim illustrations, and serves as an introduction to poetry.