

Summer Packing List

Make sure you check your list for these books!

Ms. Balas' essential reading list for rising 3rd & 4th Grades

Chapter

Nonfiction

Books to Share



Picture

- Mango, Abuela, and Me***
by Meg Medina
Mia's Abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. The night she arrives, Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela and discovers that Abuela can't read the words inside.
- The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore***
by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Relates the story of the National Memorial African Bookstore, founded in Harlem by Louis Michaux in 1939, as seen from the perspective of Louis Michaux Jr., who met famous men like Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X while helping there.
- Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer***
by Kelly Jones
Through a series of letters, Sophie Brown, age twelve, tells of her family's move to her Great Uncle Jim's farm, where she begins taking care of some unusual chickens with help from neighbors and friends.
- When Mischief Came To Town***
by Katrina Nannestad
In 1911, when orphaned ten-year-old Inge comes to live with her stern grandmother in a remote island village in Bornholm, Denmark, she struggles to fit in with the serious villagers. This is a magical realistic story with plenty of twists heart and laughter.
- Hilo***
by Judd Winick
When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world.
- The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea***
by Brenda Z. Guiberson
Text and illustrations provide information to inspire young readers to choose their own favorite sea creature.
- Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***
by Lindsay Mattick
A fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub in 1914, which he rescued while on his way to care for soldiers' horses during World War I and became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems = Aleteo y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales***
by Julie Paschkis
All sorts of animals flutter and hum, dance and stretch, and slither and leap their way through this collection of poems in English and Spanish.
- Tell Me a Picture: Adventures in Looking at Art***
by Quintin Blake
Provides guidance for studying paintings and illustrations from the National Gallery in London to find the story within each.
- Beautiful Hands***
by Kathryn Otoshi and Bret Baumgarten
Little hands can do so many wonderful things: plant ideas; lift spirits; stretch imaginations. This colorful book rouses children to use their hands for the good.
- Echo Echo: reverse poems about Greek Myths***
By Marilyn Singer
A collection of short poems which, when reversed, provide new perspectives on the Greek myths they feature.
- Greek Myths retold***
by Ann Turnbull
Beautiful illustrations add to this collection of Greek myths, including Persephone, King Midas, and Pandora.

More books rising 3rd & 4th graders should read

- ***The Nutcracker Comes to America: How Three Ballet-Loving Brothers Created a Holiday Tradition***
by Chris Barton
Tells how the Christensen brothers of Utah staged America's first full-length version of "The Nutcracker" during Christmas 1944 in San Francisco.
- ***Mary Todd Lincoln***
by Kathleen Krull
A biography of Mary Todd Lincoln whose determined spirit made her one of the most memorable First Ladies. She was witty and highly educated, although that wasn't popular for women of her time. Though born and raised in the South, she opposed slavery and supported her husband's quest to save the Union. No matter what criticism or hardship she faced, including her husband's assassination, she remained loyal to her country.
- ***Harriet the Invincible***
by Ursula Vernon
Never a conventional princess, Harriet becomes an adventurer after learning she is cursed to fall into a deep sleep on her twelfth birthday, but after two years of slaying ogres, cliff-diving, and more with her riding quail, Mumfrey, things go awry at home and she must seek a prince to set things right.
- ***Trapped!: A Whale's Rescue***
by Robert Burleigh
Text and illustrations look at the rescue of a humpback whale that got trapped in a fishing net.
- ***Earmuffs for Everyone!: How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs***
by Meghan McCarthy
This picture book biography of Chester Greenwood explores the invention of the earmuffs and the patenting process.
- ***The Trouble with Ants***
by Claudia Mills
Science-obsessed fourth grader Nora wants to be like her scientist family and publish a professional research paper on her favorite subject: her ant farm!
- ***Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle***
by Miranda Paul
A spare, poetic picture book exploring the different phases of the water cycle in surprising and engaging ways.
- ***Demon Dentist***
by David Walliams
Darkness had come to the town. Strange things were happening in the dead of night. Children would put a tooth under their pillow for the tooth fairy, but in the morning they would wake up to find...a dead slug, a live spider, hundreds of earwigs creeping and crawling beneath their pillow. Evil was at work. But who or what was behind it...?
- ***Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose: Growing Up on Mount Rushmore***
by Tina Nichols Coury
Lincoln Borglum, whose father came up with the idea to carve Mount Rushmore, takes over to complete his dad's endeavor.
- ***Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story***
by Emily Arnold McCully
A picture book biography about Lizzie Murphy, the first woman to play in a major league exhibition game and the first person to play on both the New England and American leagues' all-star teams.
- ***Parrots Over Puerto Rico***
by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore
A combined history of the Puerto Rican parrot and the island of Puerto Rico, highlighting current efforts to save the endangered Puerto Rican parrot.
- ***Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras***
by Duncan Tonatiuh
A brief biography of nineteenth-century Mexican printer and artist José Guadalupe "Lupe" Posada, who was best known as the creator of the calaveras, that are an integral part of the Day of the Dead celebrations in present day Mexico.

