

Acton Memorial Library Children's Department

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Suggested Reading

### FICTION

**J Fic ABE**

**Abe, Julie**

***Eva Evergreen, semi-magical witch (2020)***

Despite being the daughter of one of the land's most powerful witches, Eva has barely inherited any magic herself. Determined to prove herself worthy, she sets out on her all-important novice quest, for which she must find a town and improve its residents' lives. If she fails, what little magic she possesses will be lost.

**J Fic Ahmed**

**Ahmed, Samira**

***Amira & Hamza : the war to save the worlds (2021)***

On the day of a rare super blue blood moon eclipse, 12-year-old Amira and her little brother, Hamza, attend a exhibit on medieval Islamic astronomy. While stargazer Amira is wowed by the amazing gadgets, a bored Hamza wanders off, stumbling across the forbidden Box of the Moon. Amira can only watch in horror as Hamza grabs the box and it springs to life, setting off a series of events that could shatter their world!

**J Fic Alston**

**Alston, B. B.**

***Amari and the night brothers (2021)***

Following the mysterious disappearance of her big brother, Quinton, 13-year-old Amari is offered a spot in a summer camp run by the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. There it is revealed that she's a natural-born magician. Follow Amari as she navigates a new magical world, hones her skills, and searches for her brother all while the Night Brothers--a band of magical criminals--are chasing her! The first in a trilogy.

**J Fic Baker**

**Baker, Kim**

***The Water Bears (2020)***

Newt Gomez lives on a remote island and worries about bears because one swam out last year and attacked him. Now the almost 13-year-old has bear-related post-traumatic stress disorder: bad dreams, cold sweats, fear of bear-like noises. A carved wooden bear that seems to grant wishes poses an opportunity to change his life, yet Newt is reluctant to believe in magic. Newt doesn't believe in the bear's power--but will he try its magic in order to get what he wants?

**J Fic Barnhill**

**Barnhill, Kelly**

***The Ogress and the Orphans (2022)***

This is a story about a family of orphans...and a story about a dragon--a greedy dragon who feeds on the seeds of disagreement among the people in this town of Stone-in-the-Glen. It is also a story about an Ogress who lives on the outskirts of town, who delights in leaving goodies for the residents as they sleep. A delightful tale that is sure to have readers turning pages to see what happens next!

**J Fic Behar                      Behar, Ruth**  
***Letters From Cuba (2020)***

In 1938, Esther, 11, travels alone from her Jewish village in Poland to join her father in a small Cuban town, vowing to help earn enough money to pay for the rest of their family--her grandmother, mother, and four younger siblings--to join them. Esther's poignant letters to her sister reveal the heartbreaking stories of the people--the displaced, the downtrodden, the dreamers--she meets along her journey.

**J Fic Bourne                      Bourne, Shakirah**  
***Josephine against the sea (2021)***

Meet Josephine, the most loveable mischief-maker in Barbados, in a magical, heartfelt adventure inspired by Caribbean mythology. Jo can't stand to see her widower father dating other women, going so far as relentlessly pranking them and scaring them all away. Everything changes when Mariss comes along and simply can't be scared away; though no one else seems to notice, Jo immediately finds this woman as terrifying as zombies, vampires, and spinach!

**J Fic Bunce                      Bunce, Elizabeth**  
***Premeditated Myrtle (2020)***

Twelve-year-old Myrtle Hardcastle has a passion for justice and an obsession with criminal science. Armed with her father's law books and her mum's microscope, Myrtle studies toxicology, keeps abreast of the latest developments in crime scene analysis, and observes her neighbors in the quiet village of Swinburne, England. When her next-door neighbor, a wealthy and eccentric breeder of rare flowers, dies under mysterious circumstances, Myrtle seizes her chance.

**J Fic Currie                      Currie, Lindsay**  
***What lives in the woods (2021)***

12-year-old Ginny is less than thrilled to be moving from her Chicago home into a legendary haunted mansion in Saugatuck on Lake Michigan.

**J Fic Cushman                      Cushman, Karen**  
***War and Millie McGonigle (2021)***

Millie McGonigle lives in sunny California, where her days are filled with beach and surf. It should be perfect--but times are tough. Hitler is attacking Europe and it looks like the United States may be going to war. Millie worries about the news of the war in Europe while also coping with her family's financial stresses, her sister's illness, and a relative who recently moved in with the family.

**J Fic DiCamillo                      DiCamillo, Kate**  
***The Beatryce prophecy (2021)***

In a time of war, a mysterious child appears at the monastery of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Gentle Brother Edik finds the girl, Beatryce, curled in a stall, wracked with fever, and holding fast to the ear of Answelica the goat. As the monk nurses Beatryce to health, he uncovers her dangerous secret, one that imperils them all--for the king of the land seeks just such a girl.

**J Fic Ewing Ewing,              Eve L.**  
***Maya and the robot (2021)***

Maya can't wait to start fifth grade; she loves school and learning, and spending time with her friends. But everything shifts when she finds out besties MJ and Jada won't be in the same class as her. One day, while helping out at Mr. Mac's neighborhood store, Maya discovers an unfinished robot named Ralph. Maya hopes that a new robot friend can help her salvage her fifth grade year.

**J Fic Grabenstein                      Grabenstein, Chris**  
***Dog Squad (2021)***

An unlikely dog becomes the star of a popular dog adventure television show in this series opener. It's all paws on deck in this action-packed book just right for anyone who loves dogs--and anyone who loves to laugh!

**J Fic Hart                                      Hart, Kevin**  
***Marcus makes a movie (2021)***

Marcus is NOT happy to be stuck in after-school film class . . . until he realizes he can turn the story of the cartoon superhero he's been drawing for years into an actual MOVIE!

**J Fic Haydu                                      Haydu, Corey Ann**  
***One jar of Magic (2021)***

Magic is like a dream. Delightful. Terrifying. Unreal. Rose Alice Anders is lucky to be born into the Anders family, a daughter of the most magical man in town. Rose has been eagerly waiting to turn twelve, when she can join the magicians in their annual capturing of magic on New Year's Day and become the person she was born to be. But what could go wrong?!

**J Fic Hiranandani                      Hiranandani, Veera**  
***How to find what you're not looking for (2021)***

It's 1967 and the United States is full of social unrest. 11-year-old Ari, a Jewish girl, lives in Connecticut with her family. When her older sister falls in love with Raj, a young man who recently immigrated to the United States from India, Ari's parents are against the marriage. Torn between her love for her sister and her desire to keep her family together, Ari must find her own voice and fight for what she believes is right.

**J Fic Holm                                      Holm, Jennifer L.**  
***The lion of Mars (2021)***

Bell has spent his whole life--all eleven years of it--on Mars. He's curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell--a regular kid in a very different world--to uncover the truth and save his family...and possibly unite an entire planet.

**J Fic Kagawa                                      Kagawa, Julie**  
***Shinji Takahashi and the mark of the Coatl (2022)***

Shinji is no stranger to adventure. While shopping in a market he finds a figurine of a Coatl, a feathered serpent creature from Mesoamerican lore. After purchasing this figure, he quickly discovers he got more than he bargained for-- this figure comes with a curse! This first in the series is a thrilling adventure with elements of magic and folklore.

**J Fic Kashiwaba                      Kashiwaba, Sachiko**  
***Temple alley summer (2021)***

A haunting and mysterious adventure filled with the living dead, a magical pearl, and a suspiciously nosy black cat named Kiriko! A humorous yet thoughtful mystery chock-full of the fantastical.

**J Fic LaRocca                      LaRocca, Rajani**  
***Midsummer's Mayhem (2019)***

11-yr-old Mimi is a baking prodigy from a small Massachusetts town called Comity. When a new bakery in town announces a baking contest for children, Mimi is excited to compete and show off her talents. When she meets a mysterious boy named Vik in the woods nearby – who helps her find ingredients you wouldn't expect in a forest in Massachusetts – she thinks it's the key to her success. But then when her family starts acting oddly, Mimi starts to wonder if the ingredients might be the cause...

**J Fic Park                              Park, Linda Sue**  
***The one thing you'd save (2021)***

Ms. Chang has an assignment for each of her students: there's an emergency at home--a fire--and you're only allowed to save one object. Pets and family are safe. What follows is a lively dialogue of diverse kid's voices, full of humor and emotion, about the objects they choose to save.

**J Fic Royce                              Royce, Eden**  
***Root magic (2021)***

Twins Jez and Jay just turned eleven and are beginning to train in *Rootwork*– the African American folk magic that has been the legacy of their family for generations. They soon find that their family's true power goes far beyond small charms and elixirs--and not a moment too soon--because when evil both natural and supernatural comes to show itself in town, it's going to take every bit of the magic they have inside them to see them through.

**J Fic Smith                              Smith, Cynthia Leitich**  
***Sisters of the Neversea (2021)***

In this smart retelling of the Peter Pan story, 12-year-old stepsisters Lily and Wendy meet Peter Pan and embark on a high-flying journey of magic, adventure, and courage to a fairy-tale island known as Neverland...

**J Fic Stone                              Stone, Nic**  
***Clean Getaway (2020)***

For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble--and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when his grandma asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say FREEDOM!

**J Fic Sutton                              Sutton, Karah**  
***A wolf for a spell (2021)***

Though Zima, a wolf, has been told all her life that humans are to be feared and hated, when she sees a young girl in the woods one day, she doesn't attack. Likewise, Nadya, the young orphan girl, is intrigued by the wolf she spots--even though she's been taught that they too are dangerous. Their small encounter is witnessed by Baba Yaga, the legendary witch, who has a plan abrewing, but she needs something first: a wolf that's willing to temporarily swap bodies with her.

**J Fic Ursu                                  Ursu, Anne**  
***The troubled girls of Dragomir Academy (2021)***

In the kingdom of Illyria, the lives of young girls are of little consequence. Twelve-year-old Marya Lupu, 12, is expected to tend to her family's household, whereas her older brother, Luka, has been primed all his life to become one of the rare, respected sorcerers. A mistake lands Marya at the Dragomir Academy, an isolated boarding school for troubled girls. This is a wondrous fantasy about a kingdom beset by monsters, a mysterious school, and a girl caught in between them.

**J Fic Valenti**  
***Lotería (2021)***

**Valenti, Karla Arenas**

While searching for her missing cousin, Clara is transported to a mythical kingdom of Asrean, where she must encounter strange talking animals, make difficult choices, and travel to the Kingdom of Las Posas to save her cousin from a dreadful fate.

**J Fic Woods**                      **Woods, Matilda**  
***Otto Tattercoats & the Forest of Lost Things (2020)***

In the city of Hodorf, the Tattercoats live by a strict code. Only steal what you need, don't leave a trace of yourself behind, and if another Tattercoat is in trouble, you must always help them out. These are the rules that guide Nim's life as she and her rat, Nibbles, live on the streets and the rooftops of the only place she's ever called home.

## GRAPHIC

**Graphic Abdo**                      **Abdo, Dan**  
***Barb the last Berzerker (2021)***

This is a sidesplitting graphic novel about a young Berzerker who has to rescue her fellow warriors from the evil villain Witch Head before he destroys the world! For kids who enjoy funny adventures, weirdly adorable monsters, and characters who discover their own strengths.

**J Graphic Christmas**      **Christmas, Johnnie**  
***Swim team (2022)***

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, home to the Mighty Manatees swim team--until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. This will make a splash with fans of Raina Telgemeier's memoir comics.

**J Graphic Chu**                      **Chu, Amy**  
***Sea Sirens : a Trot & Cap'n Bill adventure (2019)***

Trot, a Vietnamese American surfer girl, and Cap'n Bill, her cranky one-eyed cat, catch too big a wave and wipe out, sucked down into a magical underwater kingdom where an ancient deep-sea battle rages.

**J Graphic Escabasse**      **Escabasse, Sophie**  
***Witches of Brooklyn (2020)***

There's a new witch in town! When a young girl comes to live with her strange aunts in Brooklyn, her family's magical secrets are unveiled in this graphic-novel series opener. With new friends who will do whatever they can to be there for her, a cursed pop-star, and her magically-inclined aunts--Effie's life is about to get very interesting!

**J Graphic Harrell**                      **Harrell, Rob**  
***When pigs fly (2021)***

Pig becomes a superhero! Porcine Gary has a great life reading comics about the Crimson Swine, playing video games, and hanging with his friends, Brooklyn, a bat, and Carl, a fish. When a prank goes awry and he receives a radioactive bite from Brooklyn, Gary discovers he now has superhero powers and develops his new alter ego, Batpig!

**J Graphic Heagerty**                      **Heagerty, Mat**  
***Lumberjackula (2022)***

Half lumberjack and half vampire, Lumberjackula must figure out where he belongs. Jack for short, is a cute, blue-skinned 11 1/2-year-old boy with the pointy ears and fangs of a vampire and the bushy beard of a lumberjack. It is time for Jack to decide whether to follow in his burly mother's footsteps and attend lumberjack school or attend vampire school like his spooky father.

**J Graphic Knisley**                      **Knisley, Lucy**  
***Apple crush (2022)***

After finally adjusting to life on a family farm with two brand new step-sisters, a young girl faces an even bigger challenge - figuring out where she fits in at her first year in middle school. This graphic novel explores family, friendship, and change!

**J Graphic Nguyen**                      **Nguyen, Trang**  
***Saving Sorya : Chang and the sun bear (2021)***

A graphic novel adventure based on a true story, in which a young conservationist overcomes the odds to save and return a sun bear to its natural habitat. When endlessly curious and tenacious Chang discovers a bear bile farm near her home in Vietnam, she decides to do everything she can to save wild animals--by becoming a conservationist!

**J Graphic Paws**                      **Fairbairn, Nathan**  
***Gabby gets it together (2022)***

This upbeat series opener centers on Gabby, a Canadian fifth grader and her two besties, who bond over their love of animals. Lamenting that none of them can own a pet, the girls start a neighborhood dog-walking business: PAWS (Pretty Awesome WalkerS).

**J Graphic Peirce**                      **Peirce, Lincoln**  
***Max & the Midknights (2019)***

Max and a group of friends dubbed the Midknights go on a quest to rescue the Kingdom of Byjovia from the mean King Gastley!

**J Graphic Scieszka**                      **Scieszka, Jon**  
***The Plant Planet (2019)***

Carbon dioxide is out of control on Earth, and the fate of humankind rests in the paws of four experimental, untested Animal Astronauts (AlphaWolf, SmartHawk, LaserShark, and StinkBug) who are seeking another habitable planet.

**J Graphic Spiegelman**                      **Spiegelman, Nadja**  
***Blancaflor : the hero with secret powers (2021)***

Blancaflor's hungry ogre father has invited a prince to test his luck in the usually impossible game of the Ogre's Three. If the prince loses, he'll be eaten by the father and Blancaflor's family will inherit the prince's kingdom; if he wins, he gets the ogre's castle. A retelling of the classic Latin American folktale "Blancaflor".

**J Graphic SuperHeroes**                      **Hale, Shannon**  
***Diana, Princess of the Amazons (2020)***

Diana, soon to be Wonder Woman, current princess of the Amazons, is a kid living on the island of Themyscira. With her mother spending less time with her and more time being queen, Diana is starting to feel very lonely. One day, she uses magic to conjure up a new friend. Diana is having a great time with someone her own age, but as their tricks become dangerous, Diana wonders if she's doing the right thing.

**J Graphic Venable****Venable, Colleen A.F.*****Katie the catsitter (2021)***

It's the end of the school year, and Katie's well-to-do friends are excited to be leaving for summer camp. Her single mother can't afford it, so Katie decides to earn the money for camp herself by doing odd jobs. After crashing and burning at carrying groceries and watering plants, Katie finds the perfect job, cat sitting her upstairs neighbor's 217 cats!

## BIOGRAPHY

**J BIO AL-FIHRI, F.****Yuksel, M.O.*****One wish : Fatima al-Fihri and the world's oldest university (2022)***

Born in present-day Tunisia in the early ninth century, Fatima al-Fihri craved knowledge and had one wish—to build a school where all would be welcome. She “knew the best way to help her community was to build a school where students, especially the poor and the refugees, could live and study for free.”

**J Biography Darwin****Long, David*****When Darwin Sailed the Sea (2020)***

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of Charles Darwin, and shows how his revolutionary research changed the world forever. At the age of 22, Charles Darwin clambered up the steps of HMS Beagle armed with enough notepads to last him for several years and set sail on a journey of exploration that would change his life and how we view the entire world forever.

**J Biography Olmsted, F. L. Partridge, Elizabeth*****Parks for the People (2022)***

Nobody could get Frederick Law Olmsted to sit still. He was filled with energy, adventure, and dreams of changing the world. As a boy, he found refuge in the calm of nature, and later as an adult, he dreamed of designing and creating access to parks for a growing America. He went on to design parks across America, including Central Park, Yosemite National Park and even the grounds for the United States Capitol.

**J Biography Simone, N.****Todd, Traci N.*****Nina (2021)***

This luminous, defining picture book biography traces the remarkable and inspiring story of acclaimed singer Nina Simone from a piano-playing child in North Carolina to later years as a performer, protest song pioneer, and civil rights activist.

**J Biography Tiernan, K.****McDonnell, Christine*****Sanctuary : Kip Tiernan and Rosie's Place, the nation's first shelter for women (2022)***

Kip Tiernan “passed through a door and there [was] no turning back.” She was compelled to help homeless women. Tiernan campaigns to create a special shelter for women, one with flowers and music and where the residents are respected. Finally, in 1974, she turns an abandoned market into Rosie’s Place, the United States’ first shelter just for women.

**J BIO WALLACE, A. R.          Phillips, Farren**  
***The second in the world to discover evolution (2022)***

Alfred Russel Wallace may not have been the first in the world to come up with the Theory of Evolution, but he still made huge contributions to the world of science as the second. In the pursuit of knowledge and insects for his collection, he discovered thousands of living things previously unknown to science, had some animals named after him (including a flying frog and a jewel beetle!).

**J Biography 920 B963          Byurnell C.**  
***I Am Not A Label (2020)***

Meet 34 artists, thinkers, athletes, and activists with disabilities, from past and present. From Frida Kahlo to Stephen Hawking, find out how these iconic figures have overcome obstacles, owned their differences, and paved the way for others by making their bodies and minds work for them.

**J Biography 920 F274          Favilli, E.**  
***Good Night Stories For Rebel Girls vol. 3 (2020)***

The latest installment in the New York Times bestselling Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls series, featuring 100 immigrant women who have shaped, and will continue to shape, our world.

## NONFICTION

**J 304.2 NAT          Nature and me (2022)**

Children are used to hearing about how important it is to protect nature, but they may not fully understand how the natural world can positively impact their emotional wellbeing. With that in mind, this book looks to enhance this time spent outside and show children how nature can be fun, uplifting, consoling, and even offer companionship.

**J 323.4 W829          Wittenstein, Barry**  
***A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the speech that inspired a nation (2019)***

Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" is one of the most famous ever given, yet this book gives us new insights into both the speech and the man behind it.

**J 508 H792          Hopgood, Tim**  
***My big book of outdoors (2022)***

A delightful look at the wonders of nature throughout the seasons. Each season is presented through a delightful hodgepodge of facts, poetry, art, crafts, and wonder. Beautifully illustrated!

**J 510 I31          Imafidon, A.**  
***How To Be A Math Wizard (2020)***

Bring math to life with this exciting new math activity book for kids. With 30 activities and crafts that children can play their way through, this kids' book takes the fear out of math--and gives you the skills to become a math expert.



**J 510 MAC          Macaulay, David**  
***Mammoth math (2022)***

Math is all around you...if you look closely enough! From computer games to bridges, shopping malls to game shows, mathematics truly is everywhere. David Macaulay's terrific troupe of curious mammoths will lead you through the basics of math, including numbers, calculation, geometry, measurement and so much more in this highly original guide to math for kids.

**J 523.24 M279      Manley, Curtis**  
***Just Right : searching for the Goldilocks planet (2019)***

Do you wonder if humans are the only beings in the universe? Planet Earth is not too big, not too small, not too hot, and not too cold. It's just right--our very own Goldilocks planet. Follow a girl as she searches for another Goldilocks planet.

**J 551.447 BEC      Beckerman, Nell Cross**  
***Caves (2022)***

If you dare...enter the world of caves! Big, beautiful, and colorful artwork showcases cave systems around the globe, such as the Lascaux Cave in France and its ancient drawings, the Glowworm Grotto of Waitomo Caves in New Zealand, and the massive bat colony of Bracken Cave in Texas. The book invites young readers to explore--safely--the wonder of caves.

**J 598.51 P768      Poliquin, Rachel**  
***Ostriches: the Superpower Field Guide (2019)***

You think you know. But you have no idea...how cool and weird and amazing ostriches are! Not until you read this book.

**J 793.73 E74        Escandell, Víctor**  
***Sleuth & Solve : 20+ mind-twisting mysteries (2019)***

Channel your inner Sherlock as you puzzle over 20+ mind-twisting brain teasers in this book of clever, inference-based mysteries!

**811.54 K82         Kooser, Ted**  
***Marshmallow clouds (2022)***

Ordinary moments sparkle with imagery, beauty, and wit in this illustrated collaboration between former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and noted poet Connie Wanek. A freewheeling romp through the world of imagery and metaphor, this quietly startling collection of thirty poems, framed by the four elements, is about art and reality, fact and fancy.

**J 811.54 P924      Prelutsky, Jack**  
***Hard-boiled bugs for breakfast : and other tasty poems (2021)***

The first U.S. Children's Poet Laureate once again exhibits his knack for rhyme and giggles in this collection of over 100 new poems. Written in a variety of rhyme schemes, the poems describe feelings, unusual beasts, and monsters (the lazy slothrush, the confused niddlenudds, the wazawa).

**J 960 A872         Atinuke**  
***Africa, amazing Africa (2021)***

Africa is enormous. Africa is diverse. The people, the geography, the languages, the religions, the living conditions, the animals, the political systems—discovering all the differences and interesting facts becomes an adventure in this fascinating collection.

**J 970.1 S713****Sorell, Traci*****We are still here! : Native American truths everyone should know (2021)***

A group of Native American kids from different tribes presents twelve historical and contemporary time periods, struggles, and victories to their classmates, each ending with a powerful refrain: WE ARE STILL HERE!

**J 973 H243****Hannah-Jones, Nikole*****Born on the water (2021)***

A young Black girl can't complete a school genealogy project because she can only trace her family history back three generations. When she shares her problem with her grandmother, the woman calls the whole family together and tells them the story of their history, beginning hundreds of years earlier in the West-Central African kingdom of Ndongo. The 1619 Project's lyrical picture book in verse chronicles the consequences of slavery.

**J 973.2 M55875****Messner, K.*****The Mayflower (2020)***

1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock and made friends with Wampanoag people who gave them corn. RIGHT? WRONG! It was months before the Pilgrims met any Wampanoag people, and nobody gave anybody corn that day. Did you know that the pilgrims didn't go straight from England to Plymouth? No, they made a stop along the way--and almost stayed forever! Did you know there was a second ship, called the Speedwell, that was too leaky to make the trip? No joke. And just wait until you learn the truth about Plymouth Rock.

**J 976.6 W362****Weatherford, Carole Boston*****Unspeakable (2021)***

A once-thriving Black community was destroyed, and the story of how it happened went untold for decades. Without glossing over important facts, the author tells the historical events of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre in language appropriate for young readers.