

Recommended Reading List

4th Grade

Below you will find a list of books recommended for students' enjoyment. They are a blend of all genres and are meant to supplement their love to read, and are not meant as a challenge. However, they all highlight meaningful and relatable topics to students.

Fantasy/Percy Jackson/Harry Potter Alternatives

- Levine, Gail Carson. "Ella Enchanted." New York : HarperCollins Publishers, 1997.*
 - Truly a classic Ella Enchanted is about Ella of Frelle whose fairy godmother's "gift" to her was the ability to always be obedient. Ella is a unique voice who is just trying to find out who she is.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Foxlee, Karen. "Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy." New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.*
 - An update on the fairy tale where a boy who is locked up in a museum gets some help from Ophelia who is still grieving after her mother dies.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Cowell, Cressida. "How to Train Your Dragon." New York : Little, Brown, 2004.
 - Hiccup has to prove he is a Viking by catching and training a dragon.
 - [KCLS](#)

Mystery

- Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. "Book Scavenger." New York : Henry Holt Company, 2015.*
 - Emily has just moved to San Francisco right after her publishing hero, Garrison Griswold announces his most recent puzzle and then is attacked. Can Emily and her new friend, James, solve the mystery in time?
 - [KCLS](#)
- Turnage, Sheila. "Three Times Lucky." New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012.*
 - Mo and her best friend Dale have to solve a mystery so that her family is not implicated in a crime.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Stewart, Trenton Lee. "Mysterious Benedict Society." New York : Little, Brown, 2007.*
 - Four children are entered into a secret society after passing impossibly difficult tests.
 - [KCLS](#)

Realistic Fiction

- Weeks, Sarah. "Save Me a Seat." New York : Scholastic, 2016.*
 - Two future friends spend their first week of school trying to navigate a bully.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Lai, Thanhha. "Listen, Slowly." New York : Harper, 2015.
 - Instead of spending her summer at the beach Mai is forced to go to Vietnam with her grandmother to help her discover what had happened to her grandfather.

- [KCLS](#)
- Yang, Kelly. "Front Desk." New York : Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018.*
 - Mia has a tough year ahead of her. She and her parents live in a motel that they run and try to hide immigrants from their manager or else they will be deported, and she really wants to be a writer but her mother thinks she should focus on math. Will she be able to solve all of these problems this year?
 - [KCLS](#)

Historical Fiction

- Hiranandani, Veera. "Night Diary." New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018.*
 - Nisha and her family have to flee Pakistan during the 1947 Partition of India. She writes these thoughts down as correspondence with her mother who passed away years ago.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. "One Crazy Summer." New York : Amistad, 2010.*
 - A funny tale about three sisters from New York spend the summer of 1968 trying to get to know their absent mother in Oakland California.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Blumberg, Rhoda. "Shipwrecked! True Adventures of a Japanese Boy." New York : HarperCollins, 2001.
 - An engrossing tale about a boy marooned on an island for six months in the 19th century.
 - [KCLS](#)

Action/Adventure

- Opper, Kenneth. "Boundless." New York : Simon & Schuster, 2014.*
 - On its first voyage the greatest train created is being attacked. Can Will and the traveling circus on board save the day?
 - [KCLS](#)
- Ibbotson, Eva. "The Abominables." New York : Amulet Books, 2013.
 - After their home starts to become overrun with tourists the abominable snowmen decide to make a cross continental trip to relocate.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Cottrell Boyce, Frank. "Millions." New York : HarperTrophy, 2005.*
 - Two fourth graders inherit a lot of money and feel like they have to spend it before the British pounds disappear and the Euro takes over.

Horror/Scary

- Hahn, Downing Mary. "Wait Til Helen Comes." New York : Clarion, 2008.*
 - New step-siblings are not getting along, but they're still not going to let their new sister be led to her doom by a ghost child.
- Scieszka, John. "Terrifying Tales." New York : Walden Press, 2015.
 - Collection of short stories by some of the best modern children's writers.
- Tanquary, Kathryn. "The Night Parade." Naperville, Illinois : Sourcebooks, Jabberwocky, 2016.
 - Saki brings a death curse on her family and she only has three days to undo it.

Graphic Novels

- Hale, Shannon. "Real Friends." New York : First Second, 2017.*
 - Semi-autobiographical, Shannon recounts her time in elementary school where she was worried about how to make friends.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Hale, Nathan. "Alamo All-stars." New York : Amulet Books, 2016.*
 - Graphic novel interpretation of the historical event during the Texan Revolution.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Chantler, Scott. "Tower of Treasure." Toronto : Kids Can Press, 2010.
 - A young thief and a team of circus performers are robbing a royal vault and find more than treasure.
 - [KCLS](#)

Science Fiction

- DuPrau, Jeanne. "City of Ember." New York : Random House, 2003.*
 - Lina becomes a messenger in her underground city and discovers secrets that will open up her entire world.
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. "Among the Hidden." New York : Aladdin, 1998.*
 - In the future Luke is a forbidden third child (the law only allows two per family), and he has decided that he has had enough.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Holm, Jennifer L. "Fourteenth Goldfish." New York : Random House, 2014.*
 - Ellie is stuck with bringing her grandfather to school. Not for a presentation but because he is a scientist and was able to reverse aging. Now he looks as old as Ellie. After school they have to make sure no one is going to steal his life's work.
 - [KCLS](#)

Non-fiction

- Noyes, Deborah. "Ten Days a Madwoman." New York : Viking, 2016.*
 - A wonderful biography that relates Nelly Bly's life as a whole instead of just in the frame as the reporter who investigated treatment of the mentally ill in asylums.
 - [KCLS](#)
- Darwin, Charles. "On the Origin of Species: Young Reader's Edition." Atheneum Books for Young Readers : 2018.*
 - This book includes beautiful illustrations with updated notes on scientific advancements and more accessible text. Perfect for those who love science. The author who updated the text is Rebecca Steffoff.
- Stelson, Caren Barzelay. "Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story." Minneapolis : Carolrhoda Books, 2016.
 - An award winning biography about a girl who survived an atomic bomb and her long journey to find peace.
 - [KCLS](#)