



Lewin Joel School

4th Grade Summer Reading 2023

Required Summer Reading Tasks

- Read WishTree by Katherine Applegate
 - **This is a FAMILY task.** We want you to take some time this summer to read this book with your family and talk about it together. EVERY 4th grader will be expected to have read/listened to this book by the time you return to school on **September 2nd**. This book will be a focus for our SEL as we start the school year.

- Read 1 additional book of your choice
- Complete a summary of the choice book that you read.
 - This is an independent task.
 - The completed summary by Friday, September 8th.

**Not sure what to read?
Here are some great suggestions from our
Joel School Teachers!!**

Realistic Fiction

Title	Author	Recommended by
Wonder	RJ Polacco	Mrs. Yahwak's Class
Flying Solo	Ralph Fletcher	Mrs. Madura
Because of Mr. Terupt	Rob Buyea	Mrs. Skidmore, Mrs. Yahwak and Mrs. Hayes
Out of My Mind	Sharon M. Draper	Mrs. Skidmore's Class
Fish in a Tree	Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Mrs. Baldwin's Class
Marisol McDonald and the Clash Bash	Monica Brown	Mrs. Cafiero
The Lawnboy	Gary Paulson	Mrs. Kelsey
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler	E.L. Konisburg	Ms. Hughes
A Boy Called Bat	Elana K. Arnold	Mrs. Roman
What Do You Do with an Idea?	Kobi Yamada	Mrs. Madura

Science Fiction and Action/Adventure

Title	Author	Recommended by
The Wild Robot	Peter Brown	Mr. Florentine's Class
National Geographic Explorer Academy Book 1: The Nebula Secret	Trudi Trueit	Mrs. Godburn

Animal Characters

Title	Author	Recommended by
A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray	Ann M. Martin	Mrs. Baldwin
The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	Mrs. Damiano
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	Mrs. Ruzzo, Mrs. Damiano's Class & Mrs. Madura's Class

Series Our Students Love

Series Title	Author(s)	Genre
Dog Man	Dav Pilkey	Graphic Novels
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney	Fiction - Comedy
I Survived	Lauren Tarshis	Historical Fiction
Last Kids on Earth	Max Brallier	Graphic Novels
Field Trip Mysteries	Steve Brezenoff	Mystery
Who Would Win	Jerry Pallotta	Informational Text
Humphrey	Betty G. Birney	Fiction - Animal Character
Bad Guys	Aaron Blabey	Graphic Novel
Despereaux	Kate DiCamillo	Fiction - Animal Characters

Still looking for a book to read? Check out the Governor's Summer Reading Recommendations!

Discussion Questions for WishTree

Questions to ask your reader (these work great if you haven't read the book):

- Who was your favorite character? What did you like about that character?
- Red says of Sumar and of him/herself that they need to “stand tall, reach deep.” What does that mean to you? Have you ever had to stand tall and reach deep?
- Why do you think the animals are so comfortable with Samar? Has anything like that ever happened to you?
- Red says of Sumar's family, “Their words held new music.” What do you think that means?
- What do you think would have happened to the neighborhood and the animals if Francesca had cut down the tree?
- What wish would you tie on the wishtree?
- Red likes to make others feel safe. Are there things in nature that make you feel safe?

Book club questions (these would be more appropriate if you've read the book):

- Red asks, “How does friendship happen?” What do Red and the animals decide? What do you think?
- Why does Francesca want to cut the tree down? Based on her reasons, would you cut the tree down?
- Red says that “Making others feel safe is a fine way to spend your days.” Who feels safe with Red, and how can you tell? What does Red do that makes others feel safe? Do you agree with Red's statement? How do you make others feel safe? What do others do that make you feel safe?
- Why do you think Red spoke to Samar and Stephen? Why won't Red speak to Francesca?
- Why do you think the boy carved “leave” in the tree? When he sees all the wishes that say “stay”, what is he going to think?