

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS -- APPROVED READING LIST (revised 2003)

GRADE 4

*The following supplemental titles are eligible for use in class instruction at this grade level. Please note that, in order to promote differentiated instruction in the classroom, there are titles included both below grade level and above grade level. If you find that some of your students have not yet read a book listed at a lower grade level and you would like to use it with them in class, you may pull from the lower grade level lists. Please **DO NOT** utilize any of these titles for instruction at a higher grade level.*

TITLE	AUTHOR	BRIEF SUMMARY <i>(Summaries from Book Source catalogue)</i>	POTENTIAL PROBLEMS	READING LEVEL	INTEREST LEVEL	FICTION NONFICTION
The Adventures Of Ali Baba Bernstein	Hurwitz, Johanna	Eight-year-old David is convinced that his life will be more adventurous when he changes his name to Ali Baba.		4.8	4-7	Fiction
American Girls Series	Various Authors	Historical fiction for girls with heart, hope, and history.		3-4	2-6	Fiction
Around The World In Eighty Poems	Berry, James	This beautifully illustrated anthology gathers 80 poems from countries and cultures all over the world ranging from a traditional Zulu proverb from South Africa to Inuit poems from the Arctic Circle.		4	2-8	Nonfiction
Black Cowboy, Wild Horses	Lester, Julius	A black cowboy is so in tune with wild mustangs that they accept him into the herd, thus enabling him single-handedly to take them to the corral.		4	K-4	Nonfiction
Boxcar Children Series	Warner, Gertrude Chandler	This series tells the tale of the Alden children who begin their adventures by making a home in a boxcar. Their goal is to stay together; and in the process, they find a grandfather.		3	3-6	Fiction
Bunnicula Series	Howe, James or Deborah	The adventures of Bunnicula the beloved vampire bunny.	vampire bunny	4.5	4-7	Fiction
Burp! The Most Interesting Book, You'll Ever Read About Eating!	Swanson, Diane	Bold illustrations enhance this fact-filled book about the human digestive system explaining how food is broken down, how sense and sight affect taste, and more.		4	4-9	Nonfiction

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The Cat Who Went To Heaven	Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane	A little cat comes to the home of a poor Japanese artist and, by humility and devotion, brings him good fortune.		6	4-6	Fiction
Charlotte's Web	White, E.B.	Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.	Christmas, death	4.5	4-7	Fiction
The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World And Ours	Goodall, Jane	The well-known scientist shares her adventures, observations, and discoveries of chimpanzees and their behavior and discusses the need to protect the endangered animals and their vanishing habitats.		4	3-7	Nonfiction
Chocolate Fever	Smith, Robert Kimmel	A young boy who loves to eat chocolate all day develops a disease called Chocolate Fever and decides to run away.		4.5	3-7	Fiction
Crispus Attucks, Black Leader Of Colonial Patriots	Millender, Dharathula	Focuses on the youth of the Massachusetts slave who, after joining the colonial patriots in their struggle for freedom, was the first man to die in the American Revolution.		4.5	4-7	Nonfiction
Danger Along the Ohio	Willis, Patricia	In 1793, a family leaves their home in Pennsylvania to settle in Ohio.		4.0	4-7	Fiction
Dear America Series	Various Authors	Diary format inspired by real letters and diaries of times in American history.		5-6	4-8	Fiction
The Drinking Gourd	Monjo, F.N.	Set in New England before the Civil War, this story describes the way in which Tommy Fuller and his father help a family of slaves escape.		3	1-4	Fiction
Eleanor Roosevelt	Freedman, Russell	Biography		5	4-7	Nonfiction

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Eyewitness Books	Various Authors	Enthralling subjects and stunning photographs make this a great nonfiction series for kids today.		4-7	3-9	Nonfiction
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The Family Under The Bridge	Carlson, Natalie Savage	An old tramp, adopted by three fatherless children when their mother hides them under a bridge on the Seine, finds a home for mother and children and a job for himself.		5.2	2-5	Fiction
Harriet The Spy Series	Fitzhugh, Louise	The adventures of a young girl who keeps a secret journal as she “spies” on her world.		4.5	4-8	Fiction
Henry Huggins Series	Cleary, Beverly	The adventures of a young boy named Henry Huggins.		4.9	3-7	Fiction
Homesick, My Own Story	Fritz, Jean	The author’s fictionalized version, though all the events are true, of her childhood in China in the 1920’s.		4.8	4-6	Fiction
How To Eat Fried Worms	Rockwell, Thomas	A small boy is challenged by a friend to eat fifteen worms in fifteen days for fifty dollars.		4.2	4-7	Fiction
If You Lived At The Time Of... Series	Various Authors	The reader is transported to various times in history.		3-5	3-7	Nonfiction
Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce: A Pilgrim Boy	Rinaldi, Ann	An account of young Pilgrim boy’s voyage on the Mayflower and the first year ashore in the new world.		5	5-9	Fiction
Journey To Ellis Island: How My Father Came To America	Bierman, Carol	An account of the ocean voyage and arrival at Ellis Island of twelve-year-old Julius Weinstein who, along with his mother and younger sister, immigrated from Russia in 1922.		4	2-6	Nonfiction
Julian Series	Cameron, Ann	Julian, his friend Gloria, and little brother Huey have various adventures.		3	2-4	Fiction

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The Kid Who Only Hit Homers	Christopher, Matt	A boy becomes a phenomenal baseball player one summer when a mysterious stranger resembling Babe Ruth befriends him.		4.1	4-7	Fiction
Let It Shine: Stories Of Black Women Freedom Fighters	Pinkney, Andrea Davis	Profiles ten bold women of color whose courageous acts against oppression made them leaders in the battle for civil rights.		5	4-9	Nonfiction
The Library Card	Spinelli, Jerry	The lives of four young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.		4	4-8	
Little House On The Prairie Series	Wilder, Laura Ingalls	The author documents her family's struggle to build a new home on the Indian prairies of Oklahoma during the 1870's.		3.2-4.9	4-7	Fiction
The Lucky Stone	Clifton, Lucille	Four interrelated stories focus on a lucky stone which brings freedom, love, and good fortune to its owners—four generations of black women.		4	2-6	Fiction
Magic Tree House Research Guides	Osborne, Mary Pope	These guides provide a unique, kid-friendly approach to nonfiction—full up-to-date information, exciting photos, and colorful illustrations.		2	1-4	Nonfiction
Matilda	Dahl, Roald	Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.	magical powers	4	3-6	Fiction
The Mouse And The Motorcycle	Cleary, Beverly	A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in Room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.		5.1	4-7	Fiction
North By Night	Ayres, Katherine	Presents the journal of a sixteen-year-old girl whose family operates a stop on the Underground Railroad.		5	4-7	Fiction

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Phoebe The Spy	Griffin, Judith Berry	Phoebe, the daughter of a free black man, goes undercover to discover and foil a would-be-assassin of General Washington. Based on historical facts.		4	2-6	Fiction
Sadako And The Thousand Paper Cranes	Coerr, Eleanor	Based on a true story, a young girl faces the battle of her life when she is told that she has the “atom bomb disease” (leukemia). Thus, she turns to her native beliefs by making a thousand paper cranes so that the gods will grant her one wish to be well again.	serious themes	4.7	2-7	Fiction
Sarah, Plain And Tall	MacLachlan, Patricia	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.		3.9	4-7	Fiction
Shark Bait	Salisbury, Graham	Twelve-year-old Mokes is torn between obeying his father, the police chief in the small town of Kailua, Hawaii, and being with his friends who plan to go see a fight between an island boy and a sailor.		4.5	4-7	Fiction
Shiloh	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog’s real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.		4	3-7	Fiction
The Skirt	Soto, Gary	Miata Ramirez is caught in a race against time trying to find her mother’s precious skirt.		4.9	4-7	Fiction

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Strider	Cleary, Beverly	In a series of diary entries, Leigh tells how he comes to terms with his parents' divorce, acquires joint custody of an abandoned dog, and joins the track team at school.		5.8	4-7	Fiction
Tales Of A Fourth Grade Nothing	Blume, Judy	Peter, who is tired of having to keep mischievous two-year-old Fudge out of trouble, discovers that his pet turtle is missing.		4.9	4-7	Fiction
Thank You, Jackie Robinson	Cohen, Barbara	A fatherless white boy, who shares with an old African American man an enthusiasm for the Brooklyn Dodgers and first baseman Jackie Robinson, takes a ball autographed by Jackie to his elderly friend's deathbed.	death	4	4-7	Fiction
Thomas Alva Edison, Young Inventor	Guthridge, Sue	Biography of the Ohio scientist – Thomas Edison		3.5	3-6	Nonfiction
Wayside Stories	Sachar, Louis	Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School.		4.9	4-7	Fiction
What's The Big Idea, Ben Franklin?	Fritz, Jean	A brief biography of the eighteenth century printer, inventor, and statesman who played an influential role in the early history of the United States.		4	3-7	Nonfiction
The Whipping Boy	Fleischman, Sid	A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.		3.9	4-7	Fiction
The Wright Brothers, Pioneers Of American Aviation	Reynolds, Quentin	A biography of the two brothers from Dayton, Ohio, who built and flew the first airplane.		3	3-6	Nonfiction