



## RECOMMENDED READ-ALoud TITLES FOR 4th GRADE STUDENTS

### **Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo**

One of our favorite books, this is a wonderful story with great characters. It is a good introduction to more advanced chapter books because it isn't very long, but is more sophisticated than some of the earlier series (Junie B. Jones, Magic Treehouse, etc.)

### **Regarding the Fountain by Kate and Sarah Klise**

HILARIOUS book. Told through a series of letters and newspaper articles, it contains lots of good "plays on words". Great chapter books for a kid who still wants pictures. Be sure to check out the Klise sisters' other stories!

### **Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan**

Great fictionalized story about a woman who disguised herself as a man to become a famous stagecoach driver. Sounds boring, but it isn't! And it is a great length for Power Lunch. Perfect for kids who like horses, action/adventure, and historical fiction.

### **Tales from the Odyssey by Mary Pope Osborne**

A series by the author of the Magic Treehouse books. This series is a step up from those books. The books are short and manageable for Power Lunch, but contain great action/adventure and wonderful language for read aloud. Great vocabulary, too!

### **Shipwrecked! The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy by Rhoda Blumberg**

As described on Amazon: "The true tale of a 14-year-old Japanese boy who, after being shipwrecked while fishing in 1841, was marooned for six months, rescued by an American whaling ship, educated in New England, and returned home to become an honored samurai." VERY cool book and a true story!

### **Earth from Above for Young Readers by Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Robert Burleigh**

AWESOME photographs from around the world with interesting descriptions of what you are seeing. A great introduction to "reading" photography books.

### **The Phantom Tollbooth by Norman Juster**

A true classic for children and adults. The "plays on words" are goofy yet sophisticated.

### **Frindle by Andrew Clements**

Andrew Clements writes great contemporary school stories. This book has a fun message about words, the dictionary, and how words end up in the dictionary. Really fun!

### **If the World Were a Village by David Smith**

This book is great for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, especially for those who still prefer the picture book format. It imagines the world as a village of 100 people and points out some really interesting statistics (22 people in the village speak Chinese, only 7 have a computer, etc).

### **Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride by Pam Munoz Ryan**

Great picture book telling of a visit by Amelia Earhart to the White House to visit with Eleanor Roosevelt in 1933. The two cap off their evening with a plane ride over Washington. Amazing black and white illustrations by Brian Selznick.

### **Matilda by Roald Dahl**

A fantastic story! Yet again, Dahl does not disappoint. This book is especially fun to read aloud because of the humorous character names and creative vocabulary. As you will see, Matilda is a smart, special little girl with extraordinary powers that will amaze both children and adults.



# POWER LUNCH TIPS & TITLES: 4th GRADE EDITION

## Read Aloud Tips

- **IMPORTANT!** You are reading aloud to the child not the other way around. Research shows that reading at a child's listening level (NOT reading level) helps to increase the student's vocabulary, ability to articulate thoughts, and listening comprehension.
- Set the stage before you begin reading. When reading a chapter book week after week, ask the child if he/she remembers where you left off last week. Ask them to give you a brief re-cap of the events. That will also help you remember where you left off!
- Encourage the child to ask questions with difficult vocabulary or things they don't understand.
- Before beginning a new chapter or new section, ask the child what he/she thinks is going to happen in the upcoming chapter.
- Read with expression! Chapters books and longer stories have many more characters and complex plots—use different voices, read with enthusiasm and change your tone.
- If you find that the your child is zoning out or not focusing, ask the child if he/she knows anyone who has shared a similar experience as one of the characters. Try to break up the text with questions or discussion about the story.
- Switch it up. After reading a chapter book—try a picture book for a change of pace. The same goes for genre. Vary the read-aloud menu from light, engaging stories to in-depth, provoking books.
- Do research together to learn more about authors and illustrators. Read other books by your favorites!
- Relate to a book that you read in the past and discuss it. "What other character encountered this same situation?"

## Other Recommended Titles

### **Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH**

by Robert C. O'Brien

### **The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe**

by C.S. Lewis [series]

### **Little House in the Big Woods**

by Laura Ingalls Wilder [series]

### **Stone Fox**

by John R. Gardiner

### **James and the Giant Peach**

by Roald Dahl

### **Sideways Stories from Wayside School**

by Louis Sachar

### **Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing**

by Judy Blume

### **How to Eat Fried Worms**

by Thomas Rockwell

### **From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E.**

**Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg

### **The Witches**

by Roald Dahl

### **Love That Dog**

by Sharon Creech [poetry]

### **Judy Moody**

by Megan McDonald [series]

### **The Fox Steals Home**

by Matt Christopher

### **The Penderwicks: A Summer of Four**

**Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting**

**Boy** by Jeanne Birdsall

### **When Marian Sang**

by Pam Munoz Ryan

### **Tuck Everlasting**

by Natalie Babbitt

### **The Lemonade War**

by Jacqueline Davies

### **Escape, The Story of the Great Houdini**

by Sid Fleischman [non-fiction]

### **Superfudge**

by Judy Blume