

Dear incoming 4th grade students,

Congratulations on finishing another school year! Summer is a great time to take a break and relax, but it is also a time to practice skills that we have learned throughout the year! Reading is of utmost importance and should be considered an enjoyable activity.

To best prepare for 4th grade, you will be reading two required books, and will present a project for one of them. You will also take an AR quiz for each book the week you return to school (by August 24). The points will count towards your 1st quarter AR goal, so consider this a head start!

Summer required reading list:

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume

*Fourth Grade Rats* by Jerry Spinelli

Please see the attached for guidelines and instructions on project options. You have two to choose from:

1. Cereal Box Book Report
2. Shoebox Diorama Book Project



**Cereal Box Book Report**

Students will decorate a real cereal box with the illustrations and information related to the book they read using the directions below. I expect a lot of time, effort, and hard work to be put into these reports, not for them to be completed sloppily in one night. I also will expect all directions to be followed, so a copy of the rubric that will be used to grade the book report has been attached.

**FRONT OF BOX:** Use a piece of white or light colored paper to cover the front of your cereal box. (You will probably want to create the cover before gluing it on your box.) Include the name of the cereal and a picture. Invent a name for the cereal that is related to the title of the book and sounds like a cereal. Do not use the exact title of the book. You may want to look at the attached page of real cereal boxes to get some ideas. Choose a shape for the cereal as well as colors and ingredients that all relate to the book. For example, for *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone,* you might invent a cereal called Wizard Wands, a toasted oat cereal in the shape of miniature lightning bolts.

**RIGHT SIDE:** Make a list of ingredients that includes the story elements CHARACTERS and SETTING. Under the heading "Ingredients," list the main character and write a sentence about each one. Then describe the setting. You can use the template on the website or cover the side with white/light colored paper and do this your own way.

**LEFT SIDE:** Write a summary that describes the book. Try to use words that will “grab” readers’ attention and make them want to buy your cereal. You can use the template on the website or cover the side with white/light colored paper and do this your own way. Your summary must be three to five sentences.

**BACK OF BOX:** Design a game that is based on the book. It can be a puzzle, a word search, a word scramble, amaze, a crossword puzzle, a hidden pictures illustration, or any other fun activity that might be found on the back of a cereal box. Make sure it includes information from the book.

**TOP OF BOX:** Include the title, author, number of pages, and number of stars you would give this book if you were a book critic. Also, include your name. The maximum number of stars would be 5. Use the template on the attached sheet.

**PRIZE:** Cereal boxes often include a prize. Your prize must be something related to the topic of your book. You can even include a picture of the prize on the front of your box to let the reader know what is inside the box.

**Your Cereal Box Book Report and Commercial/Oral Presentation IS DUE Monday, August 27, 2018.**

**SHOEBOX DIORAMA BOOK PROJECT**

Create a shoebox diorama of an important scene from your book.

* Use a shoebox set on its side to create your scene. You can place the lid under the box to create more space for your scene.
* Use small inexpensive objects such as toys, construction paper, wire, clay, and so forth to create your scene. Include details in your scene to make it look more realistic. Be sure to decorate the inside walls of your box too.
* The title and author of the book should be displayed somewhere on the outside of the box.
* Write a paragraph explaining what is happening in the scene and why it is important to the plot. Glue your paragraph to the box.
* Include a list of main characters along with a statement describing the theme somewhere on the outside of the box. Consider the life lesson of the story, along with what you can learn from the characters’ choices and actions for the theme.

Be prepared to present all parts of your diorama.

**Your Diorama Presentation IS DUE Monday, August 27, 2018.**