

# LRSD Recommended Reading List: *Fourth Grade*



Fourth graders use reading to learn about many things both in school and life. This is the foundation for later grades. But reading has to be fun, too, and not only about work. This is not a required reading list, but a variety of books to give your fourth grader some enjoyable reading! You are sure to find some great books here.

## **Locomotive** by Brian Floca

*This beautifully detailed history of locomotives takes the reader on a trip across the United States while explaining the many sounds, speed, and strength of the locomotive. This is a captivating book!*

**How to Steal a Dog** by Barbara O'Connor  
*Georgiana's family lost their home and she is desperate to help her family get the money they need for a new home. When she sees a REWARD sign for a lost dog, she starts a plan – all she needs is a lost dog!*

## **Ida B... and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World** by Katherine Hannigan

*Ida B enjoys her life of playing in her family's orchard, having school at home, and making time for a lot of fun. But when Ida's mom becomes ill, Ida has to go to school. Now she learns that life is not just about having fun, but sometimes means saying "I'm sorry," and facing challenges as they come.*

## **Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures** by Kate DiCamillo; Illustrated by K. G. Campbell

*Flora, a cynic and comic book reader, is convinced that the squirrel that was sucked up in her mother's vacuum cleaner is now a super hero (Ulysses). This funny book is eccentric, endearing, and another wonderful book from Kate DiCamillo.*

## **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume

*Peter is in fourth grade and his two-year-old brother, Fudge, is always causing problems – he even eats Peter's turtle, Dribble! Peter has to help with Fudge and it's tiring. This is the first in the series of books that include Peter, Fudge, and their friends. (Series by a great author)*

## **Jake and Lily** by Jerry Spinelli

*Jake and Lily are twins. They think alike, finish each other's sentences, and communicate without even talking. But when they turn eleven everything changes, and they have to find a new way to be twins as they grow up. (Amazing author)*

## **Little Red Writing** by Joan Holub; Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

*In the spirit of Little Red Riding Hood, the red pencil ("Little Red") begins to tell an amazing story – but he gets a little carried away! Just wait and see!*

## **Another Day as Emily** by Eileen Spinelli; Illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff

*Suzy is a regular 'tween (someone aged 10-12) who is frustrated with her brother, her best friend, and her ruined 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. She decides to escape and live as Emily Dickenson, the poet. But she quickly finds that being alone, making no calls or visiting friends, and few outings might be harder than she thought. (Great author!)*

## **Words with Wings** by Nikki Grimes

*Gabby daydreams. This book is written in poems about her life and dreams, and how they help her through difficult times.*

## **The Boy on the Porch** by Sharon Creech

*One morning John and Marta find a boy (who doesn't speak) on their front porch – no name, no reason, and a note saying his family would be back to get him. They took good care of him, but will his family come back? What will John and Marta do? (Excellent author of many books!)*

## **The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick

*This is the most amazing book about an orphan, clock keeper, and thief (Hugo) who lives in a train station in Paris. Hugo survives by remaining a secret until he is caught stealing a toy. This book is BIG, but don't let the size scare you! It is a great story, and it is full of many remarkable illustrations and photos. Don't miss this one!*

## **Fourth Grade Rats** by Jerry Spinelli

*Suds and his friend, Joey, are no longer third grade "angels" but fourth grade "rats," as the school chant says. But they both find out that being "rats" does not get them what they really want. (Excellent author)*

## **Small as an Elephant** by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

*Jack is eleven years old. All of a sudden Jack finds himself all by himself on a camping trip he was on with his mom. What will he do when he can't find her? Where will he go? This is a story about this boy's smart survival and the love of his family.*

**Fourth graders spend a lot of time reading at school, so its important for reading outside school to be fun, pleasurable, and relaxing.**

- ✓ Set aside a time each evening when everyone in the house spends 15-30 minutes reading. This habit can last a lifetime.
- ✓ Find an interesting book and read it – then talk about it together. Or, take turns reading together.
- ✓ Encourage many kinds of reading options including comic books and graphic novels – all reading helps your reader become smarter and more confident.

*"The more that you read,  
the more things you will  
know. The more that  
you learn, the more  
places you'll go."  
- Dr. Seuss*



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