

4th Grade Summer Reading List

Malooley/Rhoades

Kadohata, Cynthia, *Kira-Kira*, Atheneum Books for Young Readers Simon Schuster. Two sisters lie on their backs, watching the stars and repeating the Japanese word for "glittering" - "kira-kira." Like this quiet opening scene, Kadohata's tenderly nuanced novel glitters with plain and poignant words that describe the strong love within a Japanese American family from the point of view of younger sister Katie. Personal challenges and family tragedy are set against the oppressive social climate of the South during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Graceful prose illuminates complex relationships, most notably between the two sisters. Katie's remarkably authentic voice changes to reflect both her deeper understandings and her growing sense of self over a span of almost 10 years.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Set in Maine in 1912 and propelled by a tragic historical event, Schmidt's powerfully haunting novel probes a forbidden friendship between a preacher's son and a dark-skinned girl from a nearby island. Steeped in imagery and laced with surprising humor, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* explores powerlessness, possibility and the profound impact individuals can make.

Barron, T. A. *High As a Hawk: A Brave Girl's Historic Climb*. Philomel, 2004. In 1905, eight-year-old Harriett Peters wants to fulfill her dead mother's dream by climbing Long's Peak in Colorado with the help of an old mountain guide. Based on a true story.

Crisp, Marty. *White Star: A Dog on the Titanic*. Holiday House, 2004. Sam, a young passenger on the Titanic, volunteers to help care for the dogs on board. When disaster strikes, he must make a difficult decision regarding Star, the beautiful Irish setter he has come to love.

Edrich, Lise. *Sacagawea*. Carol Rhoda, 2003. A biography of the Shoshone girl, Sacagawea from age eleven when she was kidnapped by the Hitdatsa to the end of her journey with Lewis and Clark, including speculation about her later life.

Johnson, Tony. *The Mummy's Mother*. Blue Sky Press, 2003. When his mother is stolen from her tomb, Ramose, a 4,010-year-old mummy, tries to find her in the Egyptian desert, aboard an ocean liner, and in New York City's Metropolitan Museum.

Yolen, Jane. *Mightier Than the Sword: World Folktales for Strong Boys*. Silver Whistle, 2003. A collection of 14 folktales from around the world demonstrates the triumph of brain over brawn and strength in compassion and kindness.

Codell, Esme Raji. *Sahara Special*. Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*. Delacorte, 1999. Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father: the renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. Candlewick, 2003. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the

princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Gutman, Dan. *Mickey and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure*. HarperCollins, 2003. When Joe travels back to 1944, he meets the Milwaukee Chicks, one of the only all-female professional baseball teams in the history of the game.