

Incoming 4-8 Upper School Summer Reading

Novel Focus: Acceptance of Differences

Read one of the recommended novels below, fill out the chart, and be prepared to take an AR test and discuss it upon return to school in the fall. *Please do not read a novel that you have already read.* There is an additional optional assignment posted below for bonus points. Student and parent signatures required at the bottom of the doc.

*4th grade only-three additional novels marked * 4th-grade option only*However, students may choose any novels from the list.

For more information about books go to: <https://www.arbookfind.com/>

Choose One:

Title	Author	Book Information	Brief summary
4th grade option only If Kids Ran the World	Leo Dillon	Pages: 32 Book Level: 3.2 Lexile: 520 AR Points: 0.5 IL: Lower Grades (K-3)	In a colorful tree house, a rainbow of children determine the most important needs in our complex world, and following spreads present boys and girls happily helping others. Kids bring abundant food to the hungry; medicine and cheer to the sick; safe housing, education, and religious tolerance to all; and our planet is treated with care. Forgiveness and generosity are seen as essential, because kids know how to share, and they understand the power of love.
4th grade option only The Junkyard Wonders	Patricia Polacco	Pages: 48 Book Level: 4.0 Lexile: 660 AR Points: 0.5 IL: Lower Grades (K-3)	When young Trisha finds out her class at the new school is known as The Junkyard, she is devastated. She moved from her old town so she wouldn't be in a special class anymore! But then she meets her teacher, the quirky and invincible Mrs. Peterson, and her classmates, an oddly brilliant group of students each with his or her own unique talent. And it is here in The Junkyard that Trisha learns the true meaning of genius, and that this group of misfits are, in fact, wonders, all of them.
4th grade option only One-Third Nerd	Gennifer Choldenko	Pages: 224 Book Level: 3.6 Lexile: 540	Liam lives in the Bay area near San Francisco with his mom and two younger sisters. Dakota is fascinated by science and has a big personality but

		AR Points: 4 IL: Middle Grades (4-8)	struggles to make friends; Izzy, a child with Down syndrome, makes friends easily and notices things that go past everyone else. Dad lives across town, but he's over a lot. And then there's Cupcake, their lovable German shepherd, who guards their basement apartment.
4-8 List			
Counting By Sevens	Holly Goldberg Sloan	Pages: 384 Book Level: 5.6 AR Points: 10 Lexile: 770 IL: Middle Grades (4-8)	Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life...until now.
Front Desk	Kelly Yang	Book Level: 4.5 Lexile: 640 IL: Middle Grades (4-8)	Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	IL: MG 4-8 ATOS BL: 5.3 Lexile: 750L	Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.
Long Way Down	Jason Reynolds	IL: UG 9-12 ATOS BL: 4.3 Lexile: 720L	An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.
My Brother Sam	James	IL: MG 4-8	All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother

is Dead	Lincoln Collier, Christopher Collier	ATOS BL: 4.9 Lexile: 770L	Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father. War is raging and Tim knows he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father.
One Crazy Summer	Rita Williams-Garcia	Book Level: 4.6 Lexile: 750L IL: Middle Grades 4-8	<p>In <i>One Crazy Summer</i>, eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined.</p> <p>While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.</p>
Fish in a Tree	Hunt, Lynda Mullaly	Pages: 276 Book Level: 3.7 AR Points: 7.0 Lexile: 550L IL: Middle Grades 4-8	Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is dyslexic and doesn't know how to read. Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker, and with his help, Ally learns she has nothing to be ashamed of.
Firegirl	Tony Abbott	Pages: 160 Book Level: 4.1 AR Points: 4 Lexile: 570 IL: Middle Grades 4-8	It is a children's story about Tom Bender and how he navigates his way around Jessica, a disfigured burn victim. He struggles to deal with her presence in his neighborhood and class, which changes all aspects of his life.
Freak the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick	Pages: 160 Book Level: 5.5 AR Points: 5 Lexile: 930 IL: Upper Grades (9-12)	Maxwell, a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and Kevin, a tiny Einstein forge a unique friendship and become Freak the Mighty. As a team, they face adversity together.
Tangerine	Edward Bloor	Pages: 312 Book Level: 4.3 AR Points: 13 Lexile: 680 IL: Middle Grades	Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some <i>very</i> unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a

		4-8	sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strikes at the same time every day?
Out of my Mind	Draper, Sharon M.	Pages: 295 Book Level: 4.3 AR Points: 8 Lexile: 700 IL: Middle Grades 4-8	Melody cannot walk or talk, but refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates who dismiss her as intellectually disabled.
Stargirl	Jerry Spinelli	Pages: 186 Book Level: 4.2 AR Points: 6 Lexile: 590 IL: Upper Grades (9-12)	Stargirl, who up till now has been homeschooled, starts school at Mica High as a tenth grader, where Leo is starting his eleventh grade year. Stargirl's entrance to school is a Big Deal for all the students in this small Arizona town. She immediately starts a stir with her wacky outfits and even more wacky behavior.
Peak	Roland Smith	Pages: 246 Book Level: 5 AR Points: 9 Lexile: 760 IL: Middle Grades (6 and up)	Released in 2007, Roland Smith's novel Peak is the story of a teenager—whose name is Peak—who has a lot of mountains to climb, both metaphorical and literal. When he is fourteen years old Peak climbs a skyscraper in New York to place his tag on it: a spray-painted small, blue mountain. He is caught and arrested.
The Reason I Jump (Non-Fiction)	Naoki Higashida	Pages: 176 Book Level: 5.8 AR Points: 3 Lexile: 1000 IL: Middle Grades (6 and up)	This is written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism. This is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine.
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	Pages: 280 Book Level: 6.5 AR Points: 14 Lexile: 1080 IL: Upper Grades (9-12)	In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the “Secret Annexe” of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and surprisingly humorous, her account offers a

			fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty.
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller	Helen Keller	Pages: 240 Book Level: 6.8 AR Points: 12 Lexile: 1090 IL: Upper Grades (9-12)	When she was 19 months old, Helen Keller (1880–1968) suffered a severe illness that left her blind and deaf. Not long after, she also became mute. Her tenacious struggle to overcome these handicaps-with the help of her inspired teacher, Anne Sullivan-is one of the great stories of human courage and dedication. In this classic autobiography, first published in 1903, Miss Keller recounts the first 22 years of her life, including the magical moment at the water pump when, recognizing the connection between the word "water" and the cold liquid flowing over her hand, she realized that objects had names.

Please fill out the below charts and bring them in the first week of school.

<p>The first book I read was:</p> <p>SettingConflict/Problem:</p> <p>Theme:</p> <p>Rating out of 10:</p> <p>Why you gave the rating you did:</p>
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5 Bonus Points

Ask an adult/friend/relative to suggest/recommend a book and read this title in addition to one from the list above over the summer. You may want to ask several people for book suggestions before choosing one. You could also read an additional book from the list. Fill out the table below:

<p>The second book I read was:</p> <p>Who recommended this book:</p> <p>Setting:</p> <p>Conflict/Problem:</p> <p>Theme:</p>

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Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Please email teachers with questions.

Teacher emails:

4th Reading: dmajor@stritaschool.com

5-6 Reading: lyax@stritaschool.com

7-8 Reading: cedmonds@stritaschool.com