

# Welcome to Fourth Grade!

We can't wait to get to know each of you in September! In

## ***FOURTH GRADE,***

you will be learning about the history of New York. To help get you started, we've selected some summer reads all about New York!

### LITERACY:

Your literacy assignment is to **choose 2 fiction books** from the following list. Be sure to select books from your appropriate reading level range:

#### **Group A Level L-N**

- Bossing the Bronx Bombers at Yankee Stadium by David Aretha – *A part of The Baseball Geeks Adventures series. After the owner of the New York Yankees invites the Baseball Geeks to New York to watch a game in the owner's suite, the Geeks start finding ways to help the Yankees win. But when people start finding out what's going on, the Geeks find themselves running for their lives through the Bronx.*
- A Hall Lot of Trouble at Cooperstown by David Aretha – *A part of the Baseball Geeks Adventures series. The Baseball Geeks find themselves in a tough situation when Kevin's dad tells the boys that he stole something very important from the baseball Hall of Fame. The boys must get from Ohio to New York and save Kevin's dad from getting in serious trouble.*
- Amy Elizabeth Explores Bloomingdale's by E.L. Konigsburg – *The many sights of New York provide daily distractions for Amy Elizabeth and Grandma as they attempt to find the time to go see Bloomingdale's.*
- Lyle, Lyle Crocodile by Bernard Waber – *Lyle the crocodile lives in a house on East 88th Street in New York City. He likes it there, and his hosts, the Primms, like having him around. Much to the affable reptile's dismay, however, he makes his neighbor's cat Loretta crazy, which in turn makes Mr. Grumps, Loretta's owner, even crazier.*
- The House on 88<sup>th</sup> Street by Bernard Waber – *This book tells the story of Lyle, the crocodile, who won his way into the Primm family's hearts and home. What he did while he was there and what happened when Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen, came to take him away is a captivating tale destined to intrigue and entertain readers of all ages.*
- A to Z Mystery: Runaway Racehorse by Ron Roy – *Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose investigate the disappearance of a valuable racehorse that Dink's uncle and his friend, Forest Evans, have just bought and entered in a race at Saratoga.*

## Group B Level O-Q

- Madhattan Mystery by John J. Bonk – On her first day in New York City, twelve-year-old Lexi and her younger brother Kevin overhear thieves discussing where to hide stolen jewels. The siblings, along with their aunt's neighbor, Kim Ling, skip day camp to investigate "the crime of the century."
- Starring Jules, As Herself by Beth Ain – *Jules is just an ordinary 7-year-old when she meets with a casting director and has a chance to try out for a television commercial in New York City.*
- The Matchlock Gun by Walter D. Edmonds – During the French and Indian War, a young boy living in New York must protect his mother and sister with his father's gun. This stirring tale of a small boy, his mother and younger sister, and an antique matchlock gun, is based on a true story. 1942  
*Newbery Medal*
- Empire State of Slime by John Kloepfer – When millions of zombies come to life during his class trip to New York City, Zack Clarke and his famous Zombie Chaser friends race against time to escape the city and find a new antidote. Part of the *Zombie Chasers* series.
- Drita, My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard – When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.
- Dad, Jackie, and Me by Myron Uhlberg – In Brooklyn, New York, in 1947, a boy learns about discrimination and tolerance as he and his deaf father share their enthusiasm for baseball and the Dodgers' first baseman, Jackie Robinson.

## Group C Level R or Higher

- School Story by Andrew Clements – Natalie's best friend, Zoe, is sure that the novel Natalie's written is good enough to be published. But how can a twelve-year-old girl publish a book? The next best-selling school story may be in their hands – but can Natalie and Zoe pull off their masquerade?
- Mayor of Central Park by Avi – Central Park is a city that is populated by a menagerie of animals. In 1900, Oscar is the Mayor of Central Park and the manager of its Green Sox baseball team. When jewel-thief rats plan to invade, all of the animals turn to Oscar. Can he save them and their precious park?
- Stuart Little by E.B. White – When Mr. and Mrs. Little have a mouse for a son, they name him Stuart and make him a tiny bed out of four clothespins and a cigarette box. He is a welcome addition to their pleasant New York City home. He can do things that no one else in the family can do, like retrieve his mother's ring from the bathtub drain.
- Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing by Judy Blume – Fourth grader, Peter Hatcher, believes his younger brother Fudge is nothing but trouble. Grown-ups might think that two-year-olds are adorable, but Peter knows better.
- The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden – This Newbery Honor Book tells the story of Chester, a cricket from Connecticut, and his friendship with a little boy named Mario, a mouse named Tucker, and a cat named Harry in New York's Times Square.
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg – When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run "from" somewhere, she wants to run "to" somewhere -- to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably, elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Newbery Medal

In addition, choose one information book from the list below:

- When Did the Statue of Liberty Turn Green? & 101 Other Questions about New York City by Jean Ashton – Presents over 100 questions and answers collected under various themes such as "First & Origins," "History & Politics," and "Curiosities & Wonders," providing interesting insights into the history, people, sites, neighborhoods, and culture of New York City.
- Celebrating New York: 50 States to Celebrate by Marion Dane and Canga Bauer – Mr. Geo explores New York State, examining the geography, history, and pop culture as well as maps and various learning activities about the state.
- Triumphs of Engineering by Nicolas Brasch – Readers explore some of the most captivating engineering marvels in the world. They also get an in-depth view of ten of the tallest, longest, and most ornate structures—New York is home to many. Aspiring engineers and builders can use their new knowledge to build their own amazing structures.
- George Bellows: Painter with a Punch! by Robert Burleigh – George Bellows spent most of his adult life in New York City and left behind an extraordinary body of work that captures life in this dynamic city. Art reproductions and photographs from his youth, round out the book.
- What's Great About New York? by Ann Malaspina – Details many of the attractions that the state has to offer, from Broadway and the Statue of Liberty to the Erie Canal and Niagara Falls.
- Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man by David A. Adler – Traces the life of the Yankees' star ballplayer, focusing on his character and his struggle with the terminal disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- Barreling Over Niagara Falls by Nancy Kelly Allen – Annie Edson Taylor hopes that being the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel will bring her fame and fortune.
- Hiromi's Hands by Lynne Barasch – This picture-book biography of one of the first female sushi chefs in New York City celebrates Hiromi Suzuki's Japanese-American roots and her achievements in the U.S.
- In New York by Marc Brown – Illustrator Marc Brown takes readers on a grand tour of New York City, exploring it from all the sites and even a bit of the city's history.
- My New York by Kathy Jakobsen – Becky, a young New Yorker, describes some of her favorite places in New York City in a letter to a friend. Includes fold-out illustrations.
- Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade by Melissa Sweet – Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! Brilliant collage illustrations tell the story of the puppeteer Sarg, the man who invented the famous balloons for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

You must read a total of 3 books listed above (2 fiction, 1 nonfiction), but we hope you choose to read many more!

After you have read your three books, please complete one of the following activities for each book. You must complete a total of three ELA activities (one for each book). You should choose a different activity for each book. Please note: there are five choices, but you only need to complete three!

1. Letter to the Author
2. Create a Movie Poster
3. Create a Comic Strip
4. Write a Book Review
5. Interview a Character

The instructions for each activity are on the following pages. Please print the pages for the activities you choose, and follow the directions to complete the project.