

SUMMER READING LIST RISING 4TH GRADERS

Handbook for Dragon Slayers by Merrie Haskell . The heroine is an independent-minded princess who doesn't let a disability (*she has a clubfoot*), but hold her back. Winner of the **2014 Schneider Family Book Award**. *Also available as an ebook.*

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brian is a classic. This story centers around Mrs. Frisby who must move her family in order to survive and in doing so encounters a group of mice bred for intelligence. Winner of the 1972 Newbery Medal. *Also available as an ebook.*

Benjamin Franklinstein Lives! (series) by Matthew McElligott and Larry David Tuxbury. This book is a kooky, but quite entertaining, mix of history, science, math and humor. Science genius Victor is working on a school project and discovers Ben Franklin, alive and living on electricity, in his basement! In some ways, this is the perfect book for summer. It is light-hearted and funny yet keeps the joy of learning in the foreground. It's part of a series, so if your kid enjoys it, he can keep reading all summer long. *Also available as an ebook.*

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. (series) The plot is hard to describe in just a sentence or two, there are so many puzzles and mysteries to be solved, but the story centers around 4 children who answer an advertisement for gifted children only to find themselves at the center of an elaborate adventure that puts all their mental strengths to the test. *Also available as an ebook.*

The Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black (series) With mystery, magical creatures, pure fantasy, and lots of fun, it's great summer read. *Also available as an ebook.*

The Birchbark House. (series) Louise Erdrich's series about a family in the Ojibwa tribe is often compared and contrasted with the *Little House* series. *Also available as an ebook.*

Mousemobile (A Mousenet Book) by Prudence Breitrose. In this installment, the smartest creatures on earth (*mice, in case you were wondering*) take a road trip. *Also available as an ebook.*

Better Nate Than Ever by Time Federle. A book about a kid who dreams of being a musical theater star and sneaks away to The City in order to make his dreams come true This book is endearing and charming. A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of 2013. There is also a sequel, *Five, Six, Seven, Nate!*. *Also available as an ebook.*

Bud, Not Buddy . Christopher Paul Curtis. 10 year old Buddy runs away from a series of unpleasant foster homes and sets out to find his father, whom he believes to be a jazz

musician. Winner of the 2000 Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award. *Also available as an ebook.*

The Cat Who Went to Heaven by Elizabeth Coatsworth. It is a short book so kids can quickly get back to their action-packed reading. In old Japan, a poor artist gets a commission to paint a portrait of Buddha and includes a stray cat in the painting. The painting is rejected by the priest because of the cat, but the artist is rewarded with a miracle. Compassion and love are the themes of the day, here. *Also available as an ebook.*

Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins. In Bangladesh, Naimi feels frustrated that as a girl she is constantly told she cannot work to earn money for her family. When she accidentally ruins her father's rickshaw she disguises herself as a boy and meets someone who will change her life. *Also available as an ebook.*

Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park. Maggie is a die-hard Brooklyn Dodgers fan thanks to her fireman friend, Jim, who teaches her all about keeping track of the scores. When Jim gets drafted and sent off to Korea, he and Maggie correspond until he suddenly stops writing back. When he returns from Korea, Maggie is determined to help him heal. I liked how Maggie was persistent in her desire to help her friend, and made such an effort to learn about Korea. Her maps and notes are included in the story, which takes place over several years. You may be put off with the idea of your kids reading a book that involves the Korean War, but please don't be. This book is quite special. *Also available as an ebook.*

Zorgamazoo by Robert Paul Weston. Weston's novels are written in lively, creative verse. Some have called it "Seuss-like". In any case, the fast-paced, clever, rhyming story follows Katrina Katrell, who runs away from her evil guardian, and alights on an adventure with a strange creature called a Zorgle from Zorgamazoo. A complicated mystery, with bizarre and hilarious characters follow. Winner of the 2009 E.B White Read Aloud Award *Also available as an ebook.*