

**SUMMER READING LIST: STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 4  
STEERE FARM and W.L. CALLAHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
JUNE 2009**

**ALL students** are required to read at least one book from the appropriate lists below, and the other may be a book of their choice.

**MOST CHALLENGING ( Reading Levels 4.5 ~ 4.9)\***

**Summer Reading is Killing Me! by Jon Scieszka**

At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books.

**Cuckoo Feathers by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

When two pigeons that Sarah wants as pets move from her Chicago apartment's window ledge to the building next door, Sarah tries to figure out how to get them to come back.

**Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery by Deborah Howe**

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

**Chocolate Fever by Robert Kimmel Smith**

From eating too much chocolate, Henry breaks out in brown bumps that help him foil some hijackers and teach him a valuable lesson about self-indulgence.

**Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech**

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

**Hanne's Quest by Olivier Dunrea**

On an island off the coast of Scotland, a young hen must prove herself pure, wise, and brave in a quest to help her beloved owner, Mem Pocket, from losing her family's farm.

**The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes**

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo**

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

**The Penderwicks : A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall**

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

## **MORE CHALLENGING ( Reading Levels 4.0 ~ 4.4)\***

### **Away West by Pat McKissack**

In 1879, thirteen-year-old Everett Turner leaves a life of struggle on his family's farm and runs away to St. Louis, where he works in a livery stable before heading to the all-Black town of Nicodemus, Kansas.

### **Charlotte's Web by E.B. White**

Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner, until his spider friend Charlotte comes up with a plan to save him.

### **Love that Dog by Sharon Creech**

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

### **The Year of Miss Agnes by Kirkpatrick Hill**

Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athapascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher.

### **Winnie Dancing on her Own by Jennifer Jacobson**

Winnie is worried when her best friends Zoe and Vanessa enroll her in ballet classes with them, since she would rather go to the library and read like they always do.

### **The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo**

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.

### **Starring Grace by Mary Hoffman**

Grace and her friends spend a summer using their imaginations to go on grand adventures.

### **Space Station Rat by Michael J. Daley**

A lavender rat that has escaped from a laboratory, and a lonely boy whose parents are scientists, meet on an orbiting space station, communicate by email, and ultimately find themselves in need of each other's help and friendship.

### **Sable by Karen Hesse**

Tate Marshall is delighted when a stray dog turns up in the yard one day, but Sable, named for her dark, silky fur, causes trouble with the neighbors and has to go.

### **The Good Dog by Avi**

McKinley, a malamute, is torn between the domestic world of his human family and the wild world of Lupin, a wolf that is trying to recruit dogs to replenish the dwindling wolf pack.

## **LESS CHALLENGING ( Reading Levels 3.5 ~ 3.9)\***

### **Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective\* by Donald J. Sobol**

Ten-year-old Leroy (nicknamed "Encyclopedia") Brown always manages to solve his father's cases at the dinner table, so he decides to pen his own detective agency.

### **The End of the Beginning by Avi**

Avon the snail and Edward, a take-charge ant, set off together on a journey to an undetermined destination in search of unspecified adventures.

### **Judy Moody\* by Megan McDonald**

Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage.

### **Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude by Kevin O'Malley**

Cooperatively writing a fairy tale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.

### **Owen Foote, Super Spy by Stephanie Greene**

Owen and his friends decide that spying on the school principal at his own house will be a fun challenge.

### **Young Thomas Edison by Michael Dooling**

Includes bibliographical references. Presents a short illustrated biography of inventor Thomas Edison, and chronicles his childhood and early interest in science, as well as his many inventions.

### **Tornado by Betsy Cromer Byars**

As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy.

### **Cam Jansen and the Catnapping Mystery \*by David Adler**

While visiting Aunt Molly at a fancy downtown hotel, Cam uses her photographic memory to help one of the guests find her stolen luggage and pet cat, and to catch the thief.

### **Cam Jansen and the School Play Mystery\* by David Adler**

When a thief takes the box office money at the school play, Cam uses her photographic memory to solve the mystery.

### **Flat Stanley\* by Jeff Brown**

After a bulletin board falls on Stanley while he is sleeping, he finds that being flat has its advantages.

\*These books are titles in a series by the author. You may choose another title in the series, but be aware that the reading level may be different than the titles listed above.