

## 2009 SUMMER READING LIST - TRAFTON ACADEMY Incoming Fourth Grade

Students entering the fourth grade are required to read *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, by Richard and Florence Atwater. There will be a writing assignment on the book when school begins, and each student will take the AR quiz for this book. Read as many books as possible from the list below during the summer. Students will be allowed to take AR tests for each book read.

Anderson, Hans Christian. *The Nightingale*. Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 2002. Despite being neglected by the emperor for a jewel-studded bird, the littler nightingale revives the dying ruler with its beautiful song. A retelling set in northwest Africa. **Newberry Honor Book.**

Armstrong, William. *Souder*. Traces the keen sorrow and the abiding faith of a poor African-American boy in 19th century South. **Newberry Medal winner**

Atwater, Richard. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortune of Mr. Popper. **Newberry Honor Book.**

Avi. *The Secret School*. In 1925 Fourteen-year-old Ida Bedson secretly takes over as teacher when the one-room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.

Blume, Judy. *Superfudge*. Twelve-year-old Peter describes the highs and lows of life with his little brother, Fudge. (Series)

Bunting, Eve. *Dreaming of America: an Ellis Island Story*. Annie Moore cares for her two younger brothers on board the ship sailing from Ireland to America where she becomes the first immigrant processed through Ellis Island on January 1, 1892, her fifteenth birthday.

Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona's World*. Enjoy the adventures of nine-year-old Ramona as she experiences the ups and downs of fourth grade, tries to be a good role model for her new baby sister, Roberta, and delights in her new best friend, Daisy. (Series)

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Teacher's Pet*. Jake's attempts to change his goody-goody reputation are aided by the least likely suspect.

Cole, Joanna. *Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Ancient Egypt*. Ms. Frizzle and her tour group are transported to ancient Egypt, where they learn about the pyramids, mummies, and other aspects of life in Egypt. (Series)

Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. A contemporary fairy tale starring the heroic little James, a group of overgrown garden insects that become his friends, and a peach the size of a house.

Danziger, Paula. *Amber Brown is Feeling Blue*. After Amber's parents' divorce, her father moves back from Paris, and Amber has to decide with which of her parents she will spend the Thanksgiving holidays.

DuBois, William Pene. The Twenty-one Balloons. When Professor William Sherman leaves San Francisco in a hot air balloon, he intends to fly across the Pacific Ocean. Instead, through a twist of fate, he lands on Krakatoa, a legendary island of unimaginable wealth, eccentric inhabitants, and fantastic balloon inventions. **Newberry Medal winner**

Duffey, Betsy. Cody Unplugged. Cody is convinced he cannot survive a week at camp without television or video games. (Series)

Fleischman, Sid. The Whipping Boy. The story of orphan, Jemmy, who must take whippings for the royal heir, Prince Brat. **Newberry Medal winner**.

Fritz, Jean. Leonardo's Horse. Examines the life of Leonardo da Vinci, focusing on his unfinished sculpture of a huge horse in the late 1400's and how his project was not completed until 1999.

George, Jean Craighead. How to Talk to Your Dog and How to Talk to Your Cat. These books describe how dogs and cats communicate with people through their behavior and sounds and also explain how to talk back to them using sounds, behavior, and body language.

George, Jean Craighead. Nutik, the Wolf Pup. When his older sister Julie brings home two small wolf pups, Amaroq takes care of the one called Nutik and grows to love it even though Julie tells him it cannot stay.

Gutman, Dan. Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure. With their ability to time travel using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really called his shot when he hit the home run in the third game of the World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Haas, Jessie. Runaway Radish. When Radish, the pony, grows too big for the girls who own him, he goes to live at a horse camp where there are always new children for him to train.

Hamilton, Virginia. The Girl Who Spun Gold. This beautifully illustrated folk tale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

Henry, Marguerite. King of the Wind. Ancestor to the thoroughbred horse we know today, Sham and the mute stable boy, Agba, travel from Morocco to France and England before Sham's true greatness as a racehorse is discovered. **Newberry Medal**.

Henry, Marguerite. Misty of Chincoteague. Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for yearly auction.

Herman, Gail. Just Like Mike. When Michael Brown's mom marries Mr. Jordan, everything changes in this funny and appealing story.

Hinton, S.E. The Puppy Sister. A puppy is transformed into a girl in this funny fantasy adventure.

Jones, Jennifer. Dear Mrs. Ryan, You're Ruining My Life. In an effort to get his mother to stop writing about him in her books, Harvey and his best friend try to make a romantic connection between her and their school principal.

Key, Alexander. The Forgotten Door. A story about a boy from another world who, by accident, enters this one.

King-Smith, Dick. Lady Lollipop. A quick-witted swineherd and a pig named Lollipop are royally rewarded after they reform a spoiled princess.

Kline, Suzy. Horrible Harry Goes to the Moon. Inspired by his third-grade class's study of the moon, Harry announces that he is going there. (Series)

Krensky, Stephen. Pearl Harbor. A dramatic moment of World War II is brought to life in an easy-to-read format.

Krensky, Stephen. Shooting for the Moon: Amazing Life and Times of Annie Oakley. A fine introduction to the life of Annie Oakley from age five to her starring role in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Lindgren, Astrid. Pippi Longstocking. Pippi is an irresistible nine-year-old who lives alone and manages to get involved in numerous escapades (Series)

Littlesugar, Amy. Freedom School. This fictionalized version of the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project tells the story of a little girl who does not let being scared get in her way.

Lovelace, Maud Hart. Betsy-Tacy. Best friends Betsy and Tacy share many experiences while growing up. (Series)

Lowry, Lois. Zooman Sam. Sam involves his whole family when he decides to be a zookeeper for Future Job Day at school (Series)

MacDonald, Betty. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle. Loved by both children and their parents, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle always knows just the right way to solve any problem (Series)

MacLachlan, Patricia. Caleb's Story. The stranger who shows up on the Witting family's farm turns out to be their long-lost grandfather who presence forces Jacob to deal with his past.

Moss, Marissa. Brave Harriet: The First Woman to Fly the English Channel. The first American woman to have received a pilot's license describes her April, 1912, solo flight across the English Channel, the first such flight by any woman.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. Ann's Story, 1747. A young girl in eighteenth-century Williamsburg wants to become a doctor like her father, but is not allowed to study Latin or mathematics

Nixon, Joan Lowery. Maria's Story, 1773. In Williamsburg, Virginia, two years before the start of the American Revolution, nine-year-old Maria worries that her widowed mother will lose her contract to publish official reports and announcements for the British government because she prints anti-British articles in their family run newspaper.

Norton, Mary. The Borrowers. A human boy befriends one of the "little people" in a fascinating miniature world where the inhabitants skillfully "borrow" what they need.

O'Brien, Robert C. Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH. Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse, seeks advice from a colony of unusual rats. (Series)

Park, Barbara. Skinnybones. Alex is the smallest kid on the baseball team, but very good at wisecracking in this funny story.

Polacco, Patricia. Mr. Lincoln's Way. When Principal Lincoln discovers that Eugene, the school bully, knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance.

Rodowsky, Colby. Not My Dog. Ellie learns to love Preston, a dog she has inherited, although she really wants a puppy of her own.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. Riding Freedom. A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst tells how she ran away from an orphanage, posed as a stable boy, and moved to California, fooling everyone with her appearance.

Rylant, Cynthia. Thimbleberry Stories. Nigel Chipmunk shares a pleasant life with his friends Dipper, the hummingbird, Little Owl, Copper, the butterfly, Claudius, the garter snake, and Mudpuppy, the salamander.

Scieszka, Jon. Hey, Kid, Want to Buy a Bridge. Thanks to a magical book, Fred, Sam, and Joe inadvertently travel through time to 1877 New York City where they and their future great granddaughters help them to find a way back to their own time.

Scieszka, Jon. Sam Samurai. Joe, Fred, and Sam are transported to 17th century Japan where they infuriate a Samurai warrior, encounter their great granddaughters, and save their lives by reciting an ancient form of poetry.

Selden, George. The Cricket in Times Square. A touch of magic comes to Times Square as Chester learn about city life.

Speare, Elizabeth George. The Sign of the Beaver. Twelve-year-old Matt gets to know an Indian boy and his grandfather while trying to survive on his own in the wilderness until his father returns. Newberry Honor book

Stanley, Diane. Joining the Boston Tea Party. With the help of Grandma's magic hat, the twins Liz and Lenny travel back to colonial times where they meet an ancestor, Ben Reed, and join in the Boston Tea Party. (The Time Traveling Twins series)

Stanley, Diane. Roughing It on the Oregon Trail. Twins Liz and Lenny, along with their time-traveling grandmother, join a group of pioneers journeying west on the Oregon Trail in 1843. (The Time Traveling Twins series)

Taylor, Theodore. The Trouble with Tuck. Classic, inspiring story of a dog who triumphs against all odds.

Wallace, Bill. A Dog Called Kitty. Ricky is afraid of dogs until this persistent stray dog wins his love over time.

Warner, Gertrude. The Boxcar Children. Four orphans set up housekeeping in an old boxcar. (Series)

White, E.B. Charlotte's Web. Wilbur the pig is desolate when he learns he is to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until Charlotte the spider befriends him.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. The Castle in the Attic. A miniature castle comes to life for ten-year-old William when he shrinks to fit into its adventures.

Wright, Betty Ren. A Ghost in the Family. Chad and his friend, Jeannie, solve the mystery of a stolen diamond bracelet while visiting Aunt Rosebud's haunted boarding house.