

# Green Acres School

## Suggestions for Reading

### For Students Entering 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

This is a list of suggested books, taken from several sources, including Green Acres student recommendations. Try other books by these authors, too. We hope that your child's schedule will allow for many relaxing times to read and ponder.

Alexander, Lloyd. **Time Cat**

Jason and his magic cat travel through time to visit countries all over the world during different periods in history.

Applegate, K A. **Animorphs** (series)

Humans morph into animal form.

Avi. **Poppy** (series)

Poppy, the deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

Avi. **Windcatcher**

While learning how to sail, eleven-year-old Tony becomes involved in searching for a 200-year-old shipwreck.

Avi. **Perloo the Bold**

Perloo, who has been chosen to succeed Jolaine as leader of the furry underground people called Montmers, finds himself in danger when her evil son seizes control of the burrow.

Babbitt, Natalie. **The Search for Delicious**

The innocent task of polling the kingdom's subjects for personal food preferences provokes civil war in a zestful spoof of taste and society.

Barton, Chris. **Day-Glo Brothers**

Before 1935, fluorescent colors did not exist. Barton discusses how two brothers worked together to create the eye-popping hues.

Bauer, Marian Dane. **Runt**

Runt, the smallest wolf cub in the litter, seeks to prove himself to his father (King) and the rest of the pack.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks**

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.

Birney, Betty G. **The World According to Humphrey** (series)

Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

Bond, Michael. **A Bear Called Paddington** (series)

After Mr. and Mrs. Brown find a small bear at Paddington Station in London, they take him home, where the fun begins.

Borden, Louise. **The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H. A. Rey**

Biographies of the two individuals who fled Paris in 1940 because the Germans were advancing and later wrote children's literature featuring Curious George.

Bryant, Annie. **Beacon Street Girls** (series)

Boy trouble, alpha girls, and family problems keep things stressful for the Beacon Street Girls.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. **A Little Princess**

When wealthy Sarah Crewe becomes penniless, she is at the mercy of Mrs. Minchin. (Related titles are available.)

Butler, Dori Hillestad. **Trading Places with Tank Talbott**

Jason, who would rather work on his horror movie screenplay than learn to swim, finds an unlikely ally in Tank, the class bully, who is being forced to take ballroom dance lessons.

Byars, Betsy. **The Not Just Anybody Family** (series)

With a young brother in the hospital, a grandfather in jail, and their mother traveling with a rodeo, Maggie and Vern try to settle family problems.

Cameron, Ann. **The Most Beautiful Place in the World**

Growing up with his grandmother in a small Guatemalan town, seven-year-old Juan discovers the value of hard work, the joy of learning, and the location of the most beautiful place in the world.

Clements, Andrew. **The Landry News**

Cara Landry starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to begin teaching again, but there are also unexpected consequences.

Clements, Andrew. **Frindle**

Nick Allen gets into trouble creatively, but when he urges classmates to replace the word "pen" with "frindle," the situation really gets out of control.

Cooper, Susan. **The Boggart** (series)

The Volnik family unwittingly returns to Canada from Scotland with the boggart, a mischievous spirit who enjoys using modern technology to enhance his practical jokes.

Coville, Bruce. **Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher** (series)

Small for his age but artistically talented, Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon egg.

Dahl, Roald. **The BFG**

After she is snatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Sophie and the BFG plan how to save the world from other man-eating monsters.

D'Aulaire, Ingri. **D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths**

A classic introduction to the Greek myths.

Delaney, M.C. . **Birdbrain Amos**

When Amos the hippopotamus advertises for a bird to help him with his bug problem, the tick bird that answers his ad creates a different set of problems for him by building a nest on Amos' head.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn Dixie**

India Opal Buloni is friendless in a new town until she finds a stray dog outside the supermarket.

DiTerlizzi, Tony. **The Field Guide** (series)

The first book in the *Spiderwick Chronicles*. When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt

Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.

Dowell, Frances. **Phineas L. Maguire Erupts!**

Phineas (Mac) worries when he is assigned the new kid as his partner in a science fair project, but he finds some unexpected talents in the boy.

Downer, Ann. **Hatching Magic**

Can Theodora Oglethorpe set things right with a 13<sup>th</sup>-century wizard and his pet dragon?

Duffey, Betsy. **Cody Unplugged** (series)

Concerned that his television and video habits have gotten out of hand, Cody's parents send him to Camp Bear, where he learns to experience real life rather than virtual reality.

Erickson, John R. **The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog** (series)

Hank the Cowdog, Head of Ranch Security, is framed for the murder of a chicken and becomes an outlaw with the coyotes.

Farley, Terri. **Phantom Stallion** (series)

A wealth of horse stories for equine lovers.

Fleischman, Paul. **The Dunderheads**

When the mean teacher crosses the line one too many times, the misfit students teach her a lesson.

Giovanni, Nikki. **Rosa**

The retelling of the historical event that occurred when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man.

Gorman, Carol. **Dork in Disguise** (series)

When his family moves, science-loving Jerry resolves to shed his "dork" image.

Grahame, Kenneth. **The Reluctant Dragon**

The boy who finds the dragon in the cave knows it is a kind, harmless one, but how can he convince the frightened villagers and, especially, St. George the dragon killer that there is no cause for concern?

Green, Michelle Y. **A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson**

A biography of Washingtonian Mamie Johnson, one of three women to play in the Professional Negro League, discusses the challenges she faced as a black woman to make her way into professional baseball.

Gutman, Dan. **The Babe & Me** (series)

Part of *The Baseball Card Adventure* series. With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the chance to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

Hahn, Mary Downing. **Stepping on the Cracks** (series)

While Margaret and Elizabeth both have brothers overseas fighting in World War II, they are at home fighting against Gordy, the class bully.

Hale, Bruce. **The Big Nap: A Chet Gecko Mystery** (series)

Chet Gecko, "the best lizard detective" at his school, investigates why his classmates have become model students.

Hamilton, Virginia. **Cousins**

Concerned that her grandmother may die, Cammy is unprepared for the accidental death of another relative.

Hill, Kirkpatrick. **The Year of Miss Agnes**

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

Horvath, Polly. **The Trolls**

Aunt Sally entrances the Anderson children with hilarious family stories at bedtime. But what happened to their father as a child that forever after distanced him from his siblings?

Hughes, Langston. **The Negro Speaks of Rivers**

Watercolor illustrations accompany the author's poem about the strength and courage of African American people throughout history.

Hunter, Erin. **The Warriors** (series)

Adventurous animal fantasies involving cat clans.

Ibbotson, Eva. **Island of the Aunts**

Three aging aunts need help caring for their magical animals and resort to kidnapping. (Related titles are available.)

Jacques, Brian. **Redwall** (series)

Mice, rats, weasels, and rabbits engage in great battles of good and evil in this beloved series.

Jarrell, Randall. **The Animal Family**

A lonely hunter living in the wilderness near the sea gains a family made up of a mermaid, a bear, a lynx, and a boy.

Jenkins, Steve. **Down Down Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea**

A top-to-bottom look at the ocean from birds and waves to thermal vents and ooze. Half the earth's surface is covered by water more than a mile deep.

Jenkins, Steve. **Never Smile at a Monkey**

Some creatures have developed unusual ways of protecting themselves or catching prey, and this can make them unexpectedly hazardous to your health. In this picture book you'll find out what you should never do if you encounter one of these surprisingly dangerous animals.

Jonell, Lynne. **Secret of Zoom**

Ten-year-old Christina lives a sheltered life until she discovers a secret tunnel, an evil plot to enslave orphans, and a mysterious source of energy known as zoom.

Katz, Alan. **Smelly Locker**

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," are presented with new words and titles such as "Heavy Backpack!" and "I Don't Want to Do Homework!"

King-Smith, Dick. **The Water Horse**

In 1930 on the coast of Scotland, eight-year-old Kirstie finds a large egg that hatches into an unusual sea creature, and as he grows her family must decide what to do with him.

King-Smith, Dick. **Harry's Mad**

Harry's legacy from his great-uncle, a talking parrot, proves to be a much more exciting gift than he ever imagined.

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. **The Canada Geese Quilt**

A small gem of a book about ten-year-old Ariel, who worries that the coming of a new baby and her grandmother's serious illness will change the warm familiar life on her family's Vermont farm.

Klise, Kate. **Regarding the Fountain**

When the principal asks a fifth grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results. (Related titles are available.)

Kramer, Stephen P. **Hidden Worlds: Looking Through a Scientist's Microscope**

Kramer provides a wealth of information on how scientists study the world as he takes readers behind the scenes of scientist/photographer Dennis Kunkel's life. But it is Kunkel's astonishing photographs that star here.

Le Guin, Ursula K. **Catwings** (series)

Four young cats with wings leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live and finally meet two children with kind hands.

Lindbergh, Anne. **The People in Pineapple Place**

Feeling alone and friendless when he moves from Vermont to the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, August Brown discovers a wondrous fantasy street and experiences thrilling adventures with his new playmates. (Related titles are available.)

Lin, Grace. **Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

Look, Lenore. **Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things**

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

Look, Lenore. **Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters**

When Alvin's father takes him camping to instill a love of nature like that of their hometown hero Henry David Thoreau, Alvin makes a new friend and learns that he can be brave despite his fear of everything.

Lowry, Lois. **Number the Stars**

During the German occupation of Denmark, Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Lowry, Lois. **Anastasia Krupnik** (series)

Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother.

Lupica, Mike. **Travel Team**

Twelve-year-old Danny Walker is cut from his travel basketball team and forms his own very special team.

Mann, Elizabeth. **The Great Pyramid** (series)

Thousands of farmers left their homes to chisel 2,300,000 stones to build this structure 4,500 years ago. Some other titles in this informational series include *The Roman Colosseum*, *The Panama Canal* and *The Great Wall*.

McGraw, Eloise. **The Moorchild**

Feeling that she is neither full human nor "folk," a changeling learns her true identity and attempts to find the human child whose place she had been given.

Montgomery, Sy. **Quest for the Tree Kangaroo**

Follows conservation scientist Lisa Dabek to Papua New Guinea's cloud forest in search of Matschie's tree kangaroo.

McKay, Hilary. **Saffy's Angel**

Saffy, a member of an eccentric English family, searches for a memento from her past. (Related titles are available.)

McKissack, Patricia C. **Abby Takes a Stand**

Gee recalls for her grandchildren what happened in 1960 in Nashville, Tennessee at age ten when she passed out flyers while her cousin and other adults held sit-ins at restaurants and lunch counters to protest segregation.

Morgenstern, Susie. **A Book of Coupons**

Elderly Monsieur Noel, an unconventional teacher, gives coupons for dancing in class and sleeping late that are bound to get him in trouble with the school principal.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh** (series)

When Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, he hides it from his family and the real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. **Bad News for Outlaws**

As a U.S. Marshal -- and former slave who escaped to freedom in the Indian Territories -- Bass was cunning and fearless. For three decades, Bass was the most feared and respected lawman in the territories.

Nobleman, Marc. **Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman**

Chronicles the lives of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster as teenagers and creators of Superman.

O'Brien, Robert. **Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH**

A field mouse calls on her friends, the laboratory rats, to help her move her home and her younger son, who is ill, from the path of the farmers tractor.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Silverwing** (series)

When a newborn bat becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys.

Orr, Wendy. **Nim's Island**

Nim loves her island home and the animals she shares it with even while her scientist father is away doing research, but trouble is on the way and a new e-mail friend could be the only one who can help.

Patron, Susan. **The Higher Power of Lucky**

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

Pullman, Philip. **Spring-Heeled Jack**

The adventures of three orphans in Victorian England. A high-spirited spoof with an abundance of comic-style illustrations. (Related titles are available.)

Robinson, Nick. **Making Paper Airplanes That Really Fly**

Twenty origami planes that look great and fly like birds.

Rodda, Emily. **Rowan of Rin** (series)

Young Rowan confronts a dragon in order to help the people of Rin find out what has cut off their water supply. A well written fantasy adventure series.

Rodowsky, Colby. **Not My Dog**

Eight-year-old Ellie has to give up her life-long dream of getting a puppy after her parents agree to take in the dog that Great-Aunt Margaret can no longer keep.

Rumford, James. **Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad**

As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war.

Ryan, Pam. **Riding Freedom**

A historical novel based on the life of Charlotte Parkhurst, who disguised herself as a boy at 12 and made a life for herself working with horses.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes**

A different kind of story about a boy sent to a camp for troubled youth and the lessons he learns there about friendship and hard work.

Scieszka, Jon. **Summer Reading Is Killing Me!** (series)

Fred accidentally sticks his summer reading list between the pages of the time-warping books and the "Time Warp Trio" boys are off on another adventure.

Shalant, Phyllis. **Bartleby of the Mighty Mississippi**

After being abandoned in a pond, Bartleby, a pet turtle, meets many other creatures, learns to survive in the wild, and decides to go in search of his birthplace.

Shannon, George. **More True Lies: 18 Tales for You to Judge**

What's the truth? Short folktales and stories challenge the reader to figure out where the truth lies.

Siegel, Siena. **To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel**

How the author became a ballerina, from her early dreams in Puerto Rico to dance class in Boston to her debut performance on stage with the New York City Ballet.

Sierra, Judy. **Thelonius Monster's Sky-High Pie**

A monster earnestly bakes a fly pie for his monster friends. Illustrated by New Yorker cartoonist Koren.

Singh, Vandana. **Younguncle Comes to Town**

In a small town in northern India, three siblings await their father's youngest brother, Younguncle, who is said to be somewhat eccentric.

Slote, Alfred. **My Trip to Alpha I**

Natives of the planet Alpha I kidnap Jack's Aunt Katherine and substitute a computerized dummy that is programmed to give away her vast mining fields.

Smith, Robert Kimmel. **Chocolate Fever**

A young boy who loves to eat chocolate all day develops a disease called Chocolate Fever and decides to run away.

Snicket, Lemony. **A Series of Unfortunate Events** (series)

Three orphans survive darkly humorous misadventures as they go from home to home and book to book directed by their well meaning but bumbling guardian. Lively vocabulary.

Sobol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown Boy Detective** (series)

The son of the Idaville police chief opens his own detective agency in this popular series. Each chapter is a mystery for the reader to solve before learning how Encyclopedia Brown solved it.

Sperry, Armstrong. **Call It Courage**

A Polynesian boy, called a coward for being afraid of the sea, sets out to conquer his fear.

Spyri, Joanna. **Heidi**

The classic story of a Swiss orphan who is heartbroken when she must leave her beloved grandfather and their happy home in the mountains to go to school and to care for an invalid girl in the city.

Stanley, Diane. **Leonardo da Vinci**

A biography of the Italian Renaissance artist and inventor who, at about age 30, began writing the famous notebooks that contain the outpourings of his amazing mind. See the author's other biographies, too. Also enjoy biographies by Jean Fritz, David Adler, and Robert Quackenbush.

Steig, William. **Abel's Island**

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Taylor, Sydney. **All of a Kind Family** (series)

A classic series based on the author's life growing up in Manhattan as part of a poor Jewish immigrant family just before World War I.

Torrey, Michele. **The Case of the Gaspig Garbage** (series)

Drake Doyle and Nell Fossey combine their detective and scientific investigation skills to solve a variety of cases.

Van de Velde, Vivian. **Smart Dog**

Amy finds her life growing more complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent talking dog who has escaped from a university lab.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Secret Identity** (series)

In this first book of the *Shredderman* series, Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman!

Vos, Ida. **Hide and Seek**

A young Jewish girl living in Holland tells of her experiences during the Nazi occupation, her years in hiding, and the aftershock when the war finally ends.

White, E. B. **Trumpet of the Swan**

A voiceless trumpeter swan is determined to learn to play a trumpet. Also enjoy *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*.

Wiles, Deborah. **Love, Ruby Lavender**

When her quirky grandmother goes to Hawaii for the summer, Ruby learns to survive on her own in Halleluia, Mississippi. A charming, funny, and deeply touching story.

Wilson, Jacqueline. **Double Act**

Ten-year-old twins Ruby and Garnet try to deal with the big changes in their lives when their father starts dating and they face the possibility of being separated.

Winter, Jonah. **Dizzy**

A look at the life and times of the African American musician and "ambassador of jazz" who introduced the world to "bebop."

Winter, Jeanette. **Wangari's Trees of Peace**

A biography of Wangari Maathai, the environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, who was determined to help keep Kenya's forest from being cut down.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Show Way**

The making of "Show ways," quilts that once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves, is a tradition passed from mother to daughter.

Yee, Lisa. **Millicent Min, Girl Genius**

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

Yee, Lisa. **Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time**

After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong must struggle to pass his summer school class, keep his failure a secret from his friends, and satisfy his academically demanding father.