



**Doane Academy**  
**2011 Summer Reading List**  
for students entering **Fourth Grade**



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June 2011

Dear Parents:

There is no pursuit more valuable or rewarding for children than reading. As children read, they develop vital verbal skills. Equally important, they encounter new experiences, new ideas and issues, new people, new emotions. Reading expands options, feeds the imagination and teaches thinking. Through reading, children come to know their world and themselves a little better.

The suggested reading lists we have developed for the Lower School are designed both for summer and for supplementary reading during the year. We have sought to make the selections appropriate for each grade. You will find, however, that the books do range in level of challenge and subject matter, and we strongly encourage you to help your children select those books best suited to their interests and reading skills.

Our goal in providing these suggested readings is to encourage the habit of reading for pleasure, not to generate book reports or graded exercises. What children read is less important than the act of reading and the enjoyment that reading brings. The more children read for pleasure, the more they will want to read, and growth in reading speed, comprehension, and confidence will surely follow.

Reading can be a marvelous sharing experience. Encourage your children to talk about what they have read. Your interest will feed their excitement. You may even wish to read some of the selections yourselves!

Happy Reading!

***The Lower School Faculty***

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*All students need to read **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by **Judy Blume** and be prepared to discuss it the first week of school. You should also read three other books this summer.*

**Animal Stories**

The Summer of Riley by Eve Bunting  
The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden  
King of the Wind by Marguerite Henry  
The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary  
Shiloh by Phyllis Naylor  
Big Red by Kjelgaard  
Black Beauty by Anna Sewell  
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater  
Native American Animal Stories by Joseph Bruchac  
Old Yeller by Fred Gipson  
Souder by William Armstrong  
The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford  
Poppy by Avi  
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

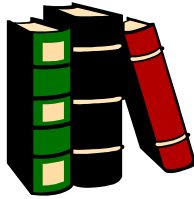
**Biographies/Autobiographies**

Babe Ruth: One of Baseball's Greatest by Greensey Van Riper  
Harriet Tubman by George Sullivan  
I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King by Margaret Davidson  
Sacajawea by Olive Burt  
Talking Leaves – The Story of Sequoyah by Bernice Kohn  
Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina by Maria Tallchief  
Walking the Road to Freedom by Jeri Ferris  
What Are You Figuring Now?, A Story About Benjamin Banneker by Jeri Ferris  
The Wright Brothers by Russell Freedman  
Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing by James Rumford

**Folklore, Myths, Legends, Fairy Tales, Fantasies**

Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop  
The Indian in the Cupboard (series) by Lynn Reid Banks  
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien  
The Borrowers (series) by Mary Norton  
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl  
Do-It-Yourself Magic by Ruth Chew  
James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl  
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster  
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

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**Mysteries, Adventures, Science Fiction**

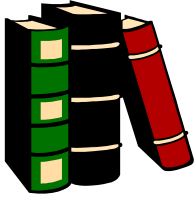
Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective (series) by Donald Sobol  
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle  
Wait Til Helen Comes by Mary Downing Hahn  
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh  
A Wind in the Door by Madeline L'Engle  
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling  
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli  
Harry Potter (series) by J. K. Rowling  
Haunted House by Peggy Parish  
Homer Price by Robert McClosky  
Goalkeeper in Charge or any of the Matt Christopher sports themed books  
Ramona Quimby, Age Eight (series) by Beverly Cleary  
Frindle by Andrew Clements  
Henry Huggins (series) by Beverly Cleary  
My Teacher is an Alien by Bruce Coville  
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

**Historical Fiction**

Addie Across the Prairie by Laurie Lawlor  
Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh  
Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Brink  
Charley Skedaddle by Patricia Beatty  
Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter  
Kate Heads West by Pat Brisson  
Little House on the Prairie (series) by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
The Fighting Ground by Avi  
Wingwalker by Rosemary Wells  
My America or Dear America (series)

**Humorous Stories**

Chocolate Fever by Robert K. Smith  
Freckle Juice by Judy Blume  
Howliday Inn by James Howe  
Freaky Friday by Mary Rodgers  
The Great Brain (series) by John Fitzgerald  
Jennifer Murdley's Toad by Bruce Coville  
The BFG by Roald Dahl  
How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell  
Fudge-a-Mania by Judy Blume



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**Poetry**

Dakota Dugout by Ronald Himler

Random House Book of Poetry for Children by Jack Prelutsky

Sing a Song of Popcorn

Talking to the Sun by Kenneth Koch and Kate Farrell

Where the Sidewalk Ends (and other books) by Shel Silverstein

It's Raining Pigs and Noodles: Poems by Jack Prelutsky

Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems by Joyce Kilmer

**Feelings, Values, Family, Friends**

Anastasia Krupnik by Lois Lowry

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary

Don't Make Me Smile by Barbara Park

Forever Friends by Candy Dawson Boyd

Henry and Beezus by Beverly Cleary

I Would If I Could by Betty Miles

Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

Me, My Goat and My Sister's Wedding by Stella Peosner

Missing May by Cynthia Rylant

Mom, the Wolfman and Me by Klein

Operation: Dump the Chump by Barbara Park

Soup by Robert Peck

The Kid in the Red Jacket by Barbara Park

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleisch

The Boy Who Owned the School by Gary Paulsen

The Best School Year Ever by Barbara Robinson

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech

**Non Fiction**

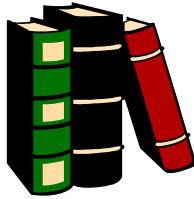
Discover America by National Geographic Society

The Ancient Cliff Dwellers of Mesa Verde by Caroline Arnold

Village of Blue Stone by Stephen Trimble

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Catherine Thimmesh

Read anything that is of interest to you.



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Use the enclosed reflection log to take notes as you read. You'll be sharing 3 of the books you read with your class. Write down what you thought as you read, any words you didn't know, basically have a conversation with yourself while reading.

## Five Finger Method

Choose a book. To find out if it is right for you, read a full page of print. For every word you find to be tricky or do not know, put up a finger.

If at the end of the page you have:

**0 or 1 fingers the book is too easy**

**2 or 3 fingers the book is just right**

**4 or 5 fingers the book is too hard**





