

**May 18, 2016**

**Dear Upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders,**

I am excited to get to teach you language arts next year! Over the summer, to keep those reading skills sharp please read at least one book. Below is a list of suggested books that are perfect for upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders but you can choose any book. Please choose 1 book you have never read before, read it over summer break, and complete a project from the choices below. Be ready to share your project when school starts. I am so excited to see what you will create! Have a great summer and happy reading!

**Sincerely,**

**Mrs. Spata**

**[Jasmine.spata@eku.edu](mailto:Jasmine.spata@eku.edu)**

## 2017 Kentucky Bluegrass Awards Master List for Grades 3-5

**Crenshaw**/Katherine Applegate. Feiwel and Friends, 2015.

Jackson's imaginary friend, a giant cat named Crenshaw who eats purple jelly beans, comes back into the soon-to-be fifth-grader's life to help him cope with the anxiety caused by his family's financial struggles and impending homelessness demonstrating the power of friendship and resilience.

**Fish in a Tree**/Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2015.

Ally, a girl with dyslexia who has always been able to hide her inability to read with disruptive distractions, has a new teacher, Mr. Daniels, who recognizes the bright and creative girl she is and helps build her confidence to see that there's a lot more to her and everyone else than a label.

**Fuzzy Mud**/Louis Sachar, Delacorte Press, 2015.

Fifth-grader Tamaya and seventh-grader Marshall take a shortcut home from school in an effort for Marshall to avoid a fight with bully Chad Hilligas, but their detour leads them to discover a dangerous, "fuzzy" substance that proves harmful for humans and threatens to be an environmental disaster.

**A Handful of Stars**/Cynthia Lord. Scholastic Press, 2015.

When her blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar, twelve-year old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family are in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and, based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship while painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather. As the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches, however, Lily and Salma are confronted with some of the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.

**Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France**/Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. Candlewick Press, 2015.

During a visit to France during the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin shows the development and practice of the scientific method to help determine if the invisible force that Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer claimed he was using to cure patients was genuine.

**Old Wolf**/Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Nashoba, a older wolf struggling to keep his status as the pack leader, decides to trust Merla, a clever raven, to lead him to find desperately needed food in the Colorado woods where they encounter thirteen-year-old Casey, a boy whose hunting experience comes from a computer game, and who now must make difficult choices in the tense meeting between three very different hunters.

**Paper Wishes**/Lois Sepahban. Margaret Ferguson Books, an imprint of Farrar, Straus, & Giroux (BYR), 2016.

Near the start of World War II, ten-year-old Manami, her parents, and grandfather are evacuated from their home and peaceful sea life on Bainbridge Island and sent to Manzanar Relocation Camp, an ugly, dreary internment camp in the desert for Japanese-American citizens, whose conditions are made worse by the guilt and sadness Manami feels over the loss of her grandfather's beloved dog, Yujiin.

**The Terrible Two**/ Mac Barnett, illustrated by Kevin Cornell. Amulet Books, 2015.

When master prankster Miles Murphy moves to sleepy Yawnee Valley, he challenges the local, mystery prankster in an epic battle of tricks, but soon the two join forces to pull off the biggest prank ever seen.

**Tucky Jo and Little Heart**/Patricia Polacco. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015.

During World War II, a fifteen-year-old soldier from Kentucky meets a sweet, young girl in the Philippines who helps him remember what he is fighting for as he helps her and others of her village avoid starvation, and many years later she returns his kindness.

**The War That Saved My Life**/Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2015.

Nine-year-old Ada, a young girl with a clubbed foot, and her little brother, Jamie are evacuated from their squalid apartment in London during World War II to a much sweeter life in the English countryside with Susan Smith, a grieving woman who helps Ada to begin to heal physically and emotionally from the abuse and neglect of an ignorant, poverty-stricken mother.

# Summer Reading Project Choices

Choose 1 project to complete about the book you read for your summer reading project.

Be ready to present this project to your class.

<p><b>MOBILE</b></p> <p>Tell about characters, setting, and plot by writing down summaries of each. On the back of these summaries, draw or print pictures that go with them. Hang these from a hanger/ your own creation to create a mobile.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Make your own creation of a "hanger" into something that relates to the book.</p>	<p><b>Power Point Presentation</b></p> <p>Use Power Point to create a slideshow of the characters, setting, and most important parts of the book. Keep your presentation between 5-7 slides if possible.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Include videos/ pictures of important parts of your book.</p>	<p><b>Book Jacket</b></p> <p>Create a NEW book cover for the book you read. Be sure to tell about the plot, characters, and setting without giving away the ending. Be sure to design a new cover for the book.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Look up facts about the author and include an "All About the Author" section.</p>
<p><b>Collage</b></p> <p>Create a collage with pictures/ quotes/ drawings/etc. about the main idea of your book. Include characters and setting in your collage.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Make your collage into the shape of an important item in your book.</p>	<p><b>DIORAMA</b></p> <p>Create a 3-D scene of the most important part of the story. Use a mix of handmade and premade props.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Make the outside of the diorama an important object related to your book.</p>	<p><b>Comic Strip</b></p> <p>Create an ORIGINAL comic strip of the most important part of the story. Include characters and speech bubbles for dialogue. Illustrate the setting in each comic box.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Turn this into your own mini comic book about your book. Decorate a cover.</p>
<p><b>Diary</b></p> <p>Pretend you are one of the characters in your book and create a diary from their point of view. Tell what is going on in the story from the characters' point of view.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Create 2 diary entries from 2 different characters' point of view.</p>	<p><b>Brochure</b></p> <p>Create a brochure that includes detailed information about characters, plot, setting, quotes, etc. from your book. Don't forget to add pictures or drawings.</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Create an opinion panel where you give your opinion of the book.</p>	<p><b>CEREAL BOX</b></p> <p>Decorate an old cereal box to represent your book. Include illustrations, main characters, setting, plot, author, quotes, etc. (those might be under the "ingredients" section).</p> <p><i>Bonus:</i> Design a game/puzzle on one panel of the box that also goes with your book.</p>