

Dear Families,

I'm so excited to be your child's reading and writing teacher next year! To help keep their reading skills strong and build on all the progress they made this past year, I'm assigning a summer reading activity. The goal is to encourage your child to keep practicing how they read, think about, and respond to a book.

Summer Reading Assignment:

Each student is required to read *one* book from the list provided in the assignment. You don't need to purchase the book—each title is available to borrow from the Manchester Community Library. If you run into any trouble finding a copy, just let me know and I'll be happy to help.

While students at the intermediate level are growing as independent readers, your support continues to be important. Encouraging your child to read aloud occasionally and engaging them in brief discussions can help strengthen comprehension and critical thinking skills. Here are a few conversation starters you might use:

- **What just happened in that part?** (Summarize key events.)
- **What do you think will happen next? Why?** (Make predictions with evidence.)
- **What problem is the character facing?** What advice would you give them? (Explore conflict and character.)
- **What did you think about the ending?** (Reflect and evaluate.)

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns about the assignment at smurphy@maplestreetsschool.com.

Enjoy your summer—and happy reading!

Warmly,
Siobhan Murphy

Summer Reading Assignment for Rising 4th Graders

In order to complete the assignment, please follow each of the steps that I have outlined below.

1. Choose a book from the following list of titles:

Chocolate Fever by Robert Kimmel Smith

Henry Green is a boy who loves chocolate. He likes it bitter, sweet, dark, light, and daily; for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks; in cakes, candy bars, milk, and every other form you can possibly imagine. Henry probably loves chocolate more than any boy in the history of the world. One day-it starts off like any other day-Henry finds that strange things are happening to him. First he makes medical history with the only case of Chocolate Fever ever. Then he finds himself caught up in a wild and hilarious chase, climaxed by a very unusual hijacking!

Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. The rabbit was very pleased with himself, and for good he was owned by a girl named Abilene, who treated him with the utmost care and adored him completely.

And then, one day, he was lost.

Kate DiCamillo takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the top of a garbage heap to the fireside of a hoboes' camp, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. And along the way, we are shown a true miracle — that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

For a full hour, he poured lemonade. The world is a thirsty place, he thought as he nearly emptied his fourth pitcher of the day. And I am the Lemonade King.

Fourth-grader Evan Treski is people-smart. He's good at talking with people, even grownups. His younger sister, Jessie, on the other hand, is math-smart, but not especially good with people. So when the siblings' lemonade stand

war begins, there really is no telling who will win—or even if their fight will ever end. Brimming with savvy marketing tips for making money at any business, definitions of business terms, charts, diagrams, and even math problems, this fresh, funny, emotionally charged novel subtly explores how arguments can escalate beyond anyone's intent.

2. **Read the book:** Take your time to enjoy the story and get to know the main character! As you read, consider the following questions:
- What problem is the character facing in the story and how does he or she solve it?
 - Does the character change throughout the story? If so, how? What events cause the character to change?
 - What lesson does the character learn?

In order to help you write your paragraph, I've included a graphic organizer that you can complete while reading your book.

3. **Respond to the book:** In a complete paragraph, describe the main character. Your paragraph (**5 sentences**) should include:

- ☐ A topic sentence: State the book's title, the author, and the character's name. Describe what he or she is like (personality, traits).
- ☐ Three sentences that provide evidence to support your description: What does the character do in the story (actions or important choices) or what does the character feel (motivation)?
- ☐ A concluding sentence: Wrap up your paragraph.
- ☐ Check for spelling and punctuation.

Bring your paragraph with you on the first day of school! We will share our books and characters during the first week of 4th grade.

**‘ If you don’t like to read, you
haven’t found the right book. ’**

J.K. Rowling

LIST OF CHARACTER TRAITS

active	funny	outgoing
adventurous	gentle	peaceful
affectionate	generous	pleasant
alert	good	polite
ambitious	graceful	popular
bold	grateful	powerful
bright	groovy	quick
brave	happy	quiet
calm	helpful	quirky
cheerful	honest	rational
clever	honorable	reliable
confident	hopeful	responsible
cool	humorous	sensational
cooperative	intelligent	sensible
courageous	interesting	serious
courteous	jolly	skillful
curious	joyful	smart
daring	joyous	thankful
dependable	kind	thoughtful
determined	lively	trustworthy
eager	loving	understanding
easygoing	loyal	useful
energetic	mature	victorious
excited	mysterious	virtuous
expert	nice	warm
faithful	noble	wordy
fair	nurturing	youthful
friendly	obedient	
fun	original	

Character Analysis Graphic Organizer

Character's Name and Trait: Use the list of character traits to help you identify one that describes your character.

Because



Reason #1:

Is this what the character **does,**
says or **feels/thinks?**
(Circle one)

Reason #2:

Is this what the character **does,**
says or **feels/thinks?**
(Circle one)

Reason #3:

Is this what the character **does,**
says or **feels/thinks?**
(Circle one)

Name: _____

Summer Reading Assignment
Response to Reading Paragraph

[illegible]