

To Parents of Future Fourth Graders:

Thank you for choosing The Galloway School!!! We realize summer just began, but we are excited for the upcoming school year and want to provide you with the right tools to help your child be successful! **Reading is the foundation of all learning**, so developing a healthy reading life is essential to academic success across the board.

In this packet you will find nine reasons why reading is important for your child. **It also contains an assortment of quality children's literature for children of varying reading levels. THIS IS NOT A REQUIRED READING LIST.** It is simply a list of quality literature grouped by reading level so that you can help your child choose to read books that will challenge them and help them grow.

A common phrase teachers often hear is, "I don't care what they read, as long as they are reading." Warning! Warning! Not all books are created equal, therefore, just because your children are reading, and just because they read a book at their level, does not guarantee they will grow as a reader. It is important for your child to read at their independent reading level **and** that your child **CHOOSE** high quality literature. Each level in this packet contains books that possess depth and complexity, paired with high interest, to ensure your child's growth as a reader. Keep in mind, the higher the reading level, the more mature the content becomes making it very difficult to find books that will challenge your child while still being emotionally and socially appropriate. I recommend reading the summaries of the book and constantly discussing the book with your child. Best practice: Read with your child and discuss. That way you can protect them and/or help them work through processing sensitive subjects in a way that fits your belief system.

How can you help your child become a strong reader? Consistently reading aloud to your children and discussing the book as you read is **ONE OF THE BEST WAYS** to grow your children's fluency and comprehension levels!!! When you read aloud, choose a book from a reading level or two higher than their independent reading level. As a mom of Galloway students and a high school student, this is something I look forward to as a parent. Life is busy...I get it, but this is time well spent. So, turn off your phones and TVs, choose a book from the list, grab a tasty drink and enjoy reading and discussing with your child. You will be amazed at their thinking!!! You could even make it super special by going to a favorite coffee shop or smoothie shop and reading together once a week. Your child will treasure this time you spend with them.

Happy Summer Reading!!!

Why Reading is Important for Kids?

1. Reading expands their vocabulary.

While reading at the appropriate level, children will come across words they have never heard – prompting them to find out what they mean either through context, or looking it up then applying it to the context. Discovering rich vocabulary in the context of literature is a far more effective means to expand a person's vocabulary than simply memorizing

words and meanings, as it shows how to use the words in context. As a result of consistent exposure to rich vocabulary, children will add it to their vocabulary.

2. Reading builds readers. (Duh right? But too often we don't allow enough time to read... and reading for standardized tests is far different than becoming a proficient reader.)

Practice makes perfect, right? The best way to get better at reading is just to do it!

3. Reading helps build independence and self-confidence.

As children learn that they no longer must rely on their parents to read things to them, they develop a sense of independence. Through reading, they can begin to understand the world on their own. Self-selection of literature builds their interest and confidence!

4. Reading helps children make sense of the world around them.

As children learn to read, they can determine what things around them say – from signs to stickers to labels. Being able to read helps them understand the purpose these things serve. Reading also introduces children to things such as conflict (internal, external), resolution, suspense, point of view, text structure, and tone.

5. Reading leads to their future academic success.

Reading is the foundation of all other subjects, so it just makes sense we would invest in it deeply.

6. Reading enhances children's imagination.

As children read, they can begin to imagine the setting, what characters look like, and what they would do if they were in the characters' shoes. They are encouraged to think beyond themselves. Reading promotes global thinking.

7. Reading entertains children in a way that builds their minds, rather than destroying it.

Reading gives children something good to do, forcing them to really get into their imagination and therefore, to really get into the book as well. They make connections and applications to real life that can prove to be valuable as they grow and mature. Reading can also be a healthy escape from the stress of the world.

8. Reading improves grammar and language arts skills.

Through reading, children can see how individual authors compose their sentence structure and grammar. They are also exposed to authors' style and purpose, as well as color language (language style that exposes them to dialects of different cultures).

9. Reading improves writing skills.

Reading helps improve vocabulary, communication, and grammar skills; it ultimately improves their writing skills as well.

Reading is essential to just about everything in life – from cooking to driving to just getting through school. It is important to start at a young age and teach your child the value of reading so they will grow to practice it often and value their ability to do so.

Leveled Reading

*** Mrs. Gibler's Favorites

Blue and Bold: Don't leave childhood (or adulthood) without reading this!!!

Red and Bold: Fantastic literature, but mature topics. Great books to read aloud and discuss WITH your child, or have your child read in a book club! Some of my absolute favorites are in red...but elementary children are not ready to process these topics alone.

Some books will appear on more than one level... and that's ok.

Level M:

- Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco***
- Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Sophie Blackall and Lindsay Mattick
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
- Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
- Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows
- Magic Treehouse: Polar Bears Past Bedtime by Mary Pope Osborne
- Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola
- Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
- Koko's Kitten by Francine Patterson
- The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas

Level N:

- Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco***
- Dr. Desoto by William Steig***
- The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein***
- Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears by Verna Aardema
- Shoeshine Girl by Clyde Robert Bulla
- Stellaluna by Janel Cannon
- The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume
- The Lotus Seed by Sherry Garland

Level O:

- Just the Way You Are by Max Lucado***
- Clementine by Sarah Pennypacker
- Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
- The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary***
- The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- The Legend of the Bluebonnet by Tomie dePaola
- The Boy of the Three Year Nap by Dianne Snyder
- The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
- You Are Special by Max Lucado

- Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki
- Mystery at the Club Sandwich by Doug Cushman

Level P:

- Mr. Popper's Penguins Richard and Florence Atwater***
- The Hundred Penny Box by Sharon Bell Mathis***
- The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes***
- Sideways Stories from the Wayside School by Louis Sachar
- Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
- I Can Hear the Sun by Patricia Polacco
- So You Want to be President? By Judith St. George

Level Q:

- James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- Mr. Popper's Penguins Richard and Florence Atwater***
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
- Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary
- Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
- The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Savage Carlson***
- There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar
- The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
- 14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy***
- The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka***

Level R:

- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Road Dahl
- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White***
- Frindle by Andrew Clements
- Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor***
- Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo***
- The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White***
- The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks***
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen***
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr***
- The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman***
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- Mr. Popper's Penguins Richard and Florence Atwater***
- Christmas Tapestry by Patricia Polacco***
- James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- Revolution is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine

- Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff
- 14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy***
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Level S:

- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson***
- From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg***
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson
- The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden***
- The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies
- The Quilt by Gary Paulsen***
- The Rough-Faced Girl by Rafe Martin
- Ida B by Katherine Hannigan
- A Boy Called Slow by Joseph Bruchac
- My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen***
- 14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy***

Level T:

- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson***
- The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare
- The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo***
- Rosa by Nikki Giovanni
- Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo
- Souder by William Armstrong***
- The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden***
- From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg
- My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen***
- Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- Kira, Kira by Cynthia Cadohata
- Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse**
- Love That Dog by Sharon Creech
- A Boy Called Slow by Joseph Bruchac
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Level U:

- The BFG by Roald Dahl
- Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
- Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis***
- Wonder by R.J. Palacio
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry***
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo***

- Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo
- The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare***
- The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo***
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt***
- A Boy Called Slow by Joseph Bruchac
- Ginger Pye by Eleanor Estes
- A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park***
- Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool
- The Watson's Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis***
- Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya***

Level V:

- The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare***
- Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
- Holes by Louis Sachar***
- Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
- A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen***
- Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff***
- A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck
- Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller by Sarah Miller
- The Fighting Ground by AVI
- Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio by Peg Kehret
- When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
- Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
- Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya***

Level W:

- The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare***
- The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
- Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor***
- Crispin: The Cross of Lead by AVI
- Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney***
- The City of Ember by Jean DuPrau
- Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis***
- Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
- The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
- Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya***

Level X:

- [Code Orange](#) by Caroline B. Cooney***
- [Double Identity](#) by Margaret Peterson Haddix***
- [Found](#) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- [Gathering Blue](#) by Lois Lowry
- [Fish in a Tree](#) by Linda Mullaly Hunt
- [Out of the Dust](#) by Karen Heese
- [Fever 1793](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson
- [The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales](#) by Virginia Hamilton***
- [Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust](#) by Allan Zullo
- [Jacob Have I Loved](#) by Katherine Patterson***
- [Faithful Elephants](#) by Yukio Tsuchiya***

Level Y:

- [The Giver](#) by Lois Lowry***
- [When Zachary Beaver Came to Town](#) by Kimberly Willis Holt
- [Milkweed](#) by Jerry Spinelli***
- [The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak***
- [My Brother Sam is Dead](#) by Christopher Collier

Level Z:

- [Red Scarf Girl](#) by Ji-Li Jiang
- [The Giver](#) by Lois Lowry***
- [The Diary of a Young Girl](#) by Anne Frank***
- [The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak
- [Uglies](#) by Scott Westerfield***
- [Johnny Tremain](#) by Michael McCurdy