

Dear Future Fourth Grade Families,

The fourth grade teachers have put together a summer packet to help students prepare for fourth grade. This packet will help students prepare and review skills that will be necessary for September. The fourth grade supply list is included (the list will also be available on the Northwood website). All supplies should be sent in with the student on the first day of school.

Below is a list of titles that have been chosen by the teachers. These books are readily available at local bookstores and libraries. Your child is expected to read one of the books below:

- Frindle by Andrew Clements
- A Series of Unfortunate Events: A Bad Beginning (book #1) by Lemony Snicket
- Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
- Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia by Margaret Cousins
- Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

After your child has read one of the above books they will need to complete two of the activities listed below. These activities are to be completed and ready to perform/present the first day of school. A detailed description of each activity is attached.

- Activity #1- Create a rap or song to be performed about the book.
- Activity #2- Create a diorama about your favorite scene from the book. Include a two paragraph description of your diorama.
- Activity #3- Write/Type 5 blog posts (similar to a journal/diary entry) written from the perspective (point of view) of one of the characters in the book.
- Activity #4- Write/Type an email to the author of the book offering suggestions about how you would change a part of the story. This email must be at least 2 paragraphs in length.
- Activity #5- Write/Type a book review giving the positive and negative features of the story. This review must be at least 2 paragraphs in length.

**Also included is a practice page of cursive writing. Each student is expected to be able to write and understand cursive writing upon entering fourth grade. Please have your child practice daily.

**Multiplication is an essential skill to have in 4th grade math. These facts are to be memorized. You can purchase multiplication flashcards at a local dollar store or create your own. Your child will need to know from the 0 to the 12 times tables.

Activity #1 **Rap/Song**

Perform a rap or song that pertains to the book. A rap/song could be created to describe the characters, setting, or plot. Be creative!!! You can have music in the background (which you will need to provide) to assist you with this task. You may also use props to enhance your act, or you can simply get up and sing your heart out! The rap/song should be less than 2 minutes in length.

Activity #2 **Diorama**

Create a shoebox diorama of your favorite scene from the book you read. It is important that you label the items in your scene. Add a background, color, and decorate!! The audience should be able to look in your shoebox and get a clear understanding of what you are attempting to portray. You must also write a 2 paragraph description of the scene you created (cursive or typed).

Activity #3 **5 Blog Posts**

Pretend you are a character in the book you read and you are posting to your personal blog site. Write five blog posts (similar to journal/diary entries) from your perspective. Each blog post should be at least one paragraph long. They can be typed & printed or hand-written in cursive on loose leaf paper. *Make sure to include the title and author of the book as well as the name of your character!

Some blog post ideas: difficult things that happen in the story, your thoughts about something that happened in the book, your ideas about another character, feelings toward your role in the book, how you change in the story, etc.

Activity #4 **Write an Email to the author**

(The author wants to know about any changes that you want in the story.)

Write or type an email to the author of the story. Tell the author how a part of the story or the ending should be different. This email should be at least 2 paragraphs (cursive or typed) and should tell the author how he/she should change specific characters or events in the story. Make sure that you give lots of details about the characters and their actions in the story. Don't forget to capitalize all names and the beginning words of all sentences.

Activity #5 **Book Review**

1. At the top of your paper, tell the name of the book and author.
2. Write or type a book review giving the positive and/or negative features of the story. Tell what you liked about the book, or didn't like about the book and why. This should be 5-7 sentences.
3. Include a summary of the book. The summary should be 5-7 sentences and should be written in your own words. Make sure to include the characters, setting, problem, and solution in your summary.
4. Your book review should be written in cursive on loose leaf paper or typed.

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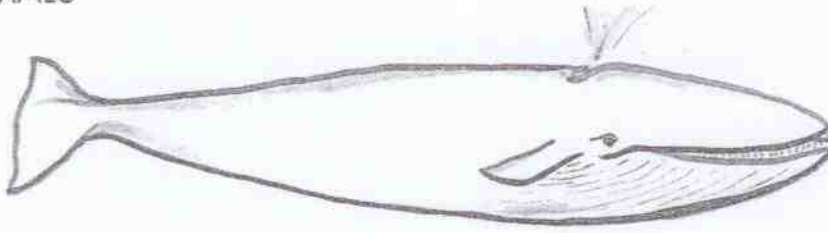
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MARINE MAMMALS



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Seals bark, whales sing, and

polar bears roar. They are social

marine mammals. They live in

groups and care for their young.

Fur or blubber keeps them warm,

even in the coldest water. These

mammals have adapted to marine life.