



# BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

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## SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 4 - SEPTEMBER, 2010

*Books suggested on this list are meant for individual student reading AND shared reading. Parents should continue to read aloud to their children long after the children have mastered independent reading. Hearing a book read aloud that would be too difficult for the child to read alone develops increased vocabulary as well as greater understanding of the language through contextual cues. Above all, it is a wonderful opportunity for special time with your child.*

### FICTION

BELLAIRS, JOAN. **THE GHOST IN THE MIRROR**

Rose Rita Pottinger and Mrs. Zimmerman are transported back to 1828 to save the Weiss family from a wicked wizard.

CREECH, SHARON. **GRANNY TORRELLI MAKES SOUP**

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

--- **LOVE THAT DOG**

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

DAHL, ROALD. **MATILDA**

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

DALGLEISH, ALICE. **THE COURAGE OF SARAH NOBLE**

An eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness, and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.

FARLEY, WALTER. **THE BLACK STALLION**

Young Alec Ramsay is shipwrecked on a desert island with a horse destined to play an important part in his life. Following their rescue their adventure continues in America.

FLEISCHMAN, SID. **THE MIDNIGHT HORSE**

Touch enlists the help of The Great Chaffalo, a ghostly magician, to thwart his Great-Uncle's plans to put Touch into the orphan house and swindle The Red Raven Inn away from Miss Sally.

FUNKE, CORNELIA. **INKHEART**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can “read” fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

GWYNNE, FRED. **THE KING WHO RAINED**

A little girl pictures the things her parents talk about, such as a King who rained, bear feet, and the foot prince in the snow.

--- **A CHOCOLATE MOOSE FOR DINNER**

A little girl pictures the things her parents talk about, such as a chocolate moose, a gorilla war, and shoe trees.

HAAS, JESSIE. **RUNAWAY RADISH**

When Radish the pony grows too big for the girls who own him, he goes to live at a horse camp where there are always new children for him to train.

HELPRIN, MARK. **A CITY IN WINTER**

Driven to avenge the death of her royal parents and reclaim her lost Kingdom, a daring young heroine and would be Queen journeys to the besieged city on the plain to seek out its evil conqueror, the Usurper.

HOWE, JAMES. **BUNNICULA**

A mystery-comedy as told by Harold the dog about Chester, a well-read cat, and the family’s new pet: a vampire bunny!

KJELGAARD, JAMES. **BIG RED**

The story of a champion Irish setter and a trapper’s son, who grew up together, roaming the wilderness.

MONTGOMERY, LOUISA MAY. **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES**

The classic story of Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, who is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

PARK, BARBARA. **MICK HARTE WAS HERE**

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident.

ROCKWELL, THOMAS. **HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS**

A humorous story about two boys who set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.

SCIESZKA, JON. **SUMMER READING IS KILLING ME**

At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children’s books.

SMUCKER, BARBARA. **JACOB'S LITTLE GIANT**

Everyone treats Jacob like a baby until his father gets involved in an exciting experiment, raising giant Canada geese to help save them from extinction. It's Jacob's job to take care of them, feeding them and protecting them from predators, even chasing away hunters.

TCHANA, KATRIN. **THE SERPENT SLAYER: AND OTHER STORIES OF STRONG WOMEN**

A collection of twenty traditional tales from various parts of the world, where each main character is a strong and resourceful woman.

WILDER, LAURA INGALLS. **LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE**

The classic tale of a family traveling from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie, where they build a house, meet neighboring Native Americans, build a well, and fight a prairie fire.

**NON-FICTION**

GERSTEIN, MORDICAI. **THE MAN WHO WALKED BETWEEN THE TOWERS (CALDECOTT MEDAL)**

A lyrical story of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

LEEDY, LOREEN, AND STREET PAT. **THERE'S A FROG IN MY THROAT! 440 ANIMAL SAYING A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME**

Imaginative and amusing collection of saying about animals. Each expression is explained. Also includes an index to the different animals.

**BIOGRAPHY**

ANDERSON, WILLIAM. **PIONEER GIRL: THE STORY OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER**

Recounts the life story of the author of the "Little House" books, from her childhood in Wisconsin to her old age at Rocky Ridge Farm.

FRITZ, JEAN. **LEONARDO'S HORSE**

Describes how a dream to sculpt a gold horse was passed from Leonardo da Vinci, to Charles Dent, to Nina Akamu. Upon completion, the statue was given to the city of Milan as a gift from the United States. This title is sure to create a lot of interest among young art, history, and horse lovers.

**POETRY**

SILVERSTEIN, SHEL. **WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS**

--- **THE LIGHT IN THE ATTIC**

--- **FALLING UP**

## **AUTHORS/SERIES**

- ERIC WILSON BOOKS
- CANADIAN LIVES SERIES
- HUNTER, BERNICE THURMAN. **BOOKY** SERIES
- HURWITZ, JOHANNA. **ALDO** SERIES
- LE GUIN, URSULA. **CATWINGS** SERIES, EARTHSEA FANTASIES
- LOWRY, LOIS. **ANATASIA KRUPNIK** SERIES