

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to fourth grade! My goal this year is to help students take responsibility for their own learning. I help them gain organizational skills they will use the rest of their time here at Topeka Collegiate. They will put these specific skills into practice throughout each subject this year. I emphasize that students treat each other with respect and kindness, even when they have different opinions.

I have been at Topeka Collegiate for 25 years, both as a 4th grade teacher and the assistant director of the Summer Adventures program. Outside of school hours, I tutor students in a variety of grade levels, give private drum lessons, and love to hike, fish, and kayak. Biking is another hobby of mine, and I often ride to school. I also enjoy spending time with my four grandkids and avidly cheer on the Chiefs and the Royals.

Throughout 4th grade, we have many projects and beyond-the-book activities. Some of my favorite traditions include spending time with our book buddies, seeing the class grow in Friday Writing assignments, watching Book Project presentations, and preparing for our Class Assembly and Explorer Wax Museum. Students also enjoy participating in Math Competitions this year, as well as participating in our service learning project: the UNICEF Bake Sale. We also get to take a few local field trips, including the Native American Experience at the Topeka Zoo and visiting the One Room School House at the Kansas History Museum.

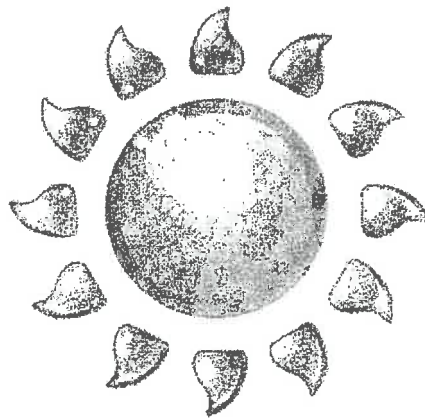
Attached to this letter are the 4th grade summer learning guidelines. Students will have both reading and writing activities, as well as math. Please encourage your child to read and write as much as they can throughout the summer months. I am looking forward to hearing all about the books your child reads this summer and spending next year together in fourth grade.

Sincerely,

Mr. Park



Topeka Collegiate  
Fourth Grade



Summer Enrichment  
Packet

## Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 4

As you prepare to enter fourth grade at Topeka Collegiate, you should do as much reading as you can throughout the summer months. Reading will help keep your mind active and help ensure that you are ready for your fourth grade year.

### Required:

For Fourth Grade Summer Reading you are required to read **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** by Judy Blume. If you have already read this book, please read it again as you complete the literature log activities included in this packet.

As you read the book, complete the questions and activities in the attached packet. Answer the questions as you read each chapter. Please do not wait until you have read the entire book to look at this log. After you finish reading the book, please write a handwritten letter to Mr. Park about the story.

In addition to reading Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, you are also required to read **at least ONE book off this year's William Allen White list** and complete the book summary sheet for the novel you have chosen. A list of these books is attached.

These are actual fourth grade assignments and they will be assessed and recorded the first week of school.

This packet is due, in its entirety, on the first day of school. Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Mr. Park

**This packet should be turned in on the first day of school**

**Visit the following website to learn more about Judy Blume: [www.judyblume.com](http://www.judyblume.com)**

**Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences.**

**Chapters 1-2**

1. What did Fudge do to the Yarby's suitcase? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. According to Peter, what was his biggest problem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Fudge do with the flowers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where did Peter live? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Tell about a time when you won something special or tell about your pet.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 3-4**

1. What did Peter's father do when Fudge didn't eat his cereal? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did Fudge eat his dinner on the floor? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who did Mrs. Thatcher blame for Fudge's accident? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. According to Peter, why don't leaves turn bright colors in the fall in New York City?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Grandma tell Fudge to get him to drink his milkshake? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Chapters 5-6**

1. What did Fudge do when he saw the saddle shoes Mr. Berman brought out? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Fudge do with his peas during lunch? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was Dr. Brown's rule about mothers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Chapters 7-8**

1. What other thing happened to cause Peter's parents to put a lock on his door? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Peter say he would do rather than take money from Fudge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was Sheila going to rewrite all their written work into the booklet? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What happened to the first poster? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Chapters 9-10

1. What did Fudge do with his popcorn during the movie? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What present did Peter get? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Mr. Hatcher make for dinner for Fudge and Peter? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What would the doctors have to do to Fudge if the medicine didn't work? \_\_\_\_\_

## Responding to the Story

Please write a hand-written friendly letter to Mr. Park about Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.

Make sure to include:

- A heading (the date at the top)
- A greeting (Dear Mr. Park)
- A closing (Sincerely, your name)

In the body of your letter be sure to include:

- A starting sentence that states the book.
- Two of your favorite parts and WHY.
- A part of the story that reminds you of your life or of another book you've read and WHY.
- How the book made you feel and WHY.
- Any questions you would like to ask Mr. Park about the story or the author.



**Read at least one of the following books from the William Allen White list, and then complete a book summary sheet. Your book choice can be made from the 2019-2020 list, or the 2020-2021 Nominees list.**

## **2019-2020 William Allen White**

### **Children's Book Awards**

#### **Grades 3-5**

***Wishtree*** by Katherine Applegate

*Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories.* . . . Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever. Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, this is Katherine Applegate at her very best—writing from the heart, and from a completely unexpected point of view.

***Lucky Broken Girl*** by Ruth Behar

In this unforgettable multicultural coming-of-age narrative—based on the author's childhood in the 1960s—a young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed. Ruthie's plight will intrigue readers, and her powerful story of strength and resilience, full of color, light, and poignancy, will stay with them for a long time. Ruthie Mizrahi and her family recently emigrated from Castro's Cuba to New York City. Just when she's finally beginning to gain confidence in her mastery of English—and enjoying her reign as her neighborhood's hopscotch queen—a horrific car accident leaves her in a body cast and confined her to her bed for a long recovery. As Ruthie's world shrinks because of her inability to move, her powers of observation and her heart grow larger and she comes to understand how fragile life is, how vulnerable we all are as human beings, and how friends, neighbors, and the power of the arts can sweeten even the worst of times.

***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*** by Dusti Bowling

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

***The Loser's Club*** by Andrew Clements

Sixth grader Alec can't put a good book down. So when Principal Vance lays down the law—pay attention in class, or *else*—Alec takes action. He can't lose all his reading time, so he starts a club. A club he *intends* to be the only member of. After all, reading isn't a team sport, and no one would want to join something called the Losers Club, right? But as more and more kids find their way to Alec's club—including his ex-friend turned bully *and* the girl Alec is maybe starting to like—

Alec notices something. Real life might be messier than his favorite books, but it's *just* as interesting.

***Hello Universe*** by Erin Entrada Kelly

Erin Entrada Kelly's *Hello, Universe* is a funny and poignant neighborhood story about unexpected friendships. Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner *bayani* (hero). In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball. They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.

***Amina's Voice*** by Hena Khan

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community in this sweet and moving middle grade novel from the award-winning author of *It's Ramadan*, *Curious George* and *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*. Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. *Amina's Voice* brings to life the joys and challenges of a young Pakistani American and highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other.

***Pablo and Birdy*** by Alison McGhee

The seaside town of Isla has many stories, the most notable being the legend of the Seafaring Parrot. Locals claim that the Seafarer remembers every sound, every whisper, cry, laugh, or snort ever uttered. But, though there have been rumored Seafarer *sightings*, no one has actually seen the bird before. Other stories surround a boy named Pablo, who had washed up on shore in a blow-up swimming pool as an infant with only a lavender parrot as a companion. Now, on the eve of his tenth birthday, the stories are repeated. "At first I thought it was a huge fish," Emmanuel, the man who found and took Pablo in, says. Pierre, the baker's guess was a good one: Perhaps Pablo has come from an undiscovered country, one unknown to the rest of the world. Maybe the inhabitants there lived in tree houses, or underground. Or maybe he's a pirate baby. But Pablo wants the truth, and the only one who might know it is Birdy, his parrot. After all, she was there, holding onto the raft. But unlike most birds who live in Isla, Birdy can neither talk or fly. Or, at least, she never has. Until...one day, when strong winds begin to blow—winds similar to the ones that brought Pablo to shore—Birdy begins to mutter. Could Birdy be a Seafaring parrot? If she is, then she will be able to tell Pablo the true story of where he came from—of who tied him so lovingly and safely to that raft? But, if she is, that also means the second part of the Seafarer myth is true...that Seafaring Parrots will, eventually, fly away. As Pablo is buzzing with questions, hopes, and fears, an old saying echoes in his mind: *winds of change mean fortune lost or fortune gained*. And while the winds rise in Isla, Pablo holds tight to Birdy. Would losing his companion, his dearest link to his past, be that loss?

***Two Truths and a Lie*** by Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson

Did you know that there is a fungus that can control the mind of an ant and make it do its bidding? Would you believe there is such a thing as a corpse flower—a ten-foot-tall plant with a blossom that smells like a zombie? How about a species of octopus that doesn't live in water but rather lurks in trees in the Pacific Northwest? Every story in this book is strange and astounding. But not all of them are real. Just like the old game in this book's title, two out of every three stories are completely true and one is an outright lie. Can you guess which? It's not going to be easy. Some false stories are based on truth, and some of the true stories are just plain unbelievable. And they're all accompanied by dozens of photos, maps, and illustrations. Amaze yourself and trick your friends as you sort out the fakes from the facts!

***Princess Cora and the Crocodile*** by Laura Amy Schlitz

Princess Cora is sick of boring lessons. She's sick of running in circles around the dungeon gym. She's sick, sick, sick of taking three baths a day. And her parents won't let her have a dog. But when she writes to her fairy godmother for help, she doesn't expect that help to come in the form of a *crocodile*—a crocodile who does *not* behave properly. With perfectly paced dry comedy, children's book luminaries Laura Amy Schlitz and Brian Floca send Princess Cora on a delightful outdoor adventure — climbing trees! getting dirty! having *fun!* — while her alter ego wreaks utter havoc inside the castle, obliging one pair of royal helicopter parents to reconsider their ways.

***Beyond the Bright Sea*** by Lauren Wolk

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger. Vivid and heart-wrenching, Lauren Wolk's *Beyond the Bright Sea* is a gorgeously crafted and tensely paced tale that explores questions of identity, belonging, and the true meaning of family.

## **2020-2021 William Allen White Nominees List**

***Granted*** by John David Anderson

A fairy on her first assignment as a granter finds the job she has dreamed of doing is not cut and dried—and the world is full of danger. A faithful dog and a friend help her find her way.

***Small Spaces*** by Katherine Arden

Book-loving sixth grader Olivia is warned by a woman with a 100-year-old diary to “keep to the small spaces”. On a field trip, she finds the graves of the people in the diary. When the bus breaks down on the way home, she and her friends must heed that advice.

***Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendships*** by Irene & Charles Waters

Authors Latham and Waters use the fictional setting of a fifth grade classroom to share poems about growing up and discovering differences and commonalities.

***The Season of Styx Malone*** by Kekla Magoon

Ten-year-old Caleb narrates the story of a summer in rural Indiana when he and his eleven-year-old brother meet sixteen-year-old Styx Malone, who teaches them about “escalator trading” and about life as he’s learned it.

***Bob*** by Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead

Ten-year-old Livy returns to her Gran’s home in Australia after five years away to discover “a small zombie wearing a chicken suit”—her forgotten friend Bob. Together they search to find what Bob is and where he belongs.

***Thirty Minutes over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot’s World War II Story*** by Marc Tyler

In 1942, a Japanese pilot dropped bombs in the woods near a small town in Oregon, hoping to start a fire. Twenty years later, he returned to apologize, give money for library books, and plant a tree at the bomb site. This true story illustrates a question raised by the author: “He went from fighting to uniting. Which took more courage?”

***Inkling*** by Kenneth Oppel

Ethan finds he can’t draw the cartoons he promised for his group at school. His illustrator father has artist’s block. His sister wants a puppy. They all miss their mom. Inkling solves all these problems and more by jumping off a page of Ethan’s father’s work. New problems are created as Inkling begins devouring books—and he reflects what he reads, good or bad. Ethan and his dad must work together to restore Inkling back to the paper from which he rose.

***Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere*** by Barb Rosenstock

This non-fiction book details the 1930 ocean dive of an engineer and an explorer in their invention—a hollow metal ball that allows them to explore the deepest depths of the ocean. Will Otis and Will survive the maiden voyage of the Bathysphere to tell what they’ve seen?

***Pass Go and Collect \$200: The real story of How Monopoly was Invented*** by Tanya Lee Stone

The true story of how Monopoly was invented begins in 1903, when Lizzie Magie invented “The Landlord’s Game” and patented it. Thirty years later, Charles Darrow tried to sell his version of the game to Parker Brothers. Eventually Lizzie got \$500, while Darrow made millions on the game still played today.

***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang

Ten-year-old Mia, the child of Chinese immigrants, helps her family manage the California hotel where they live. Mia wants to be a writer and finds plenty of subject matter in her daily life. Loosely based on Yang’s own life.



**Main Problem:** (A brief summary of the main problem(s) in the story; you may share one or two big events that happen, as well.)

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**Your Opinion and Recommendation of the Novel:** (Be sure to tell why you have this opinion and why you would recommend it to the people you are recommending it to.)

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## Summer Math Practice

Please use the following websites to practice your math skills this summer!

[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)

[www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org)

[www.funbrain.com/numbers.html](http://www.funbrain.com/numbers.html)

[www.arcademicskillbuilders.com](http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com)

[www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com)

*A minimum of 30-45 minutes per week is suggested for your child to practice his or her math facts and skills.*

