

MAGNOLIA SCHOOL

4th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

All students entering fourth grade will be required to read *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Choose one novel from the list below for your second novel. All summer reading novels must be unabridged versions.

- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Poppy* by Avi
- *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden
- *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry
- *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

Journal Assignment Part One:

Writing in a journal is a great way to record your thoughts as you read a wonderful piece of literature. If you are a returning student, please use your summer reading journal you began working in last year. If you are new to Magnolia School, purchase an authentic, bound journal with lines marked for writing. You will use this journal for this year's assignment as well as summer reading assignments for years to come, so be sure to take care of it. On the cover or the first page, write your full name and decorate it. Remember to do your best work and write clearly and neatly for each entry.

As you read your two novels, create at least two entries for each novel. You will have a total of four journal entries about your reading.

First, write the title of the novel, the date, and the number for the entry. Then, include the following in each entry:

- Your thoughts and reflections in at least one paragraph (5-7 sentences). Here are some questions to consider:
 - What do you think about what has happened so far?
 - Who is your favorite character and why?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - What is the setting like? Describe it.
 - What was the most important part of the novel in your opinion and why?
 - What did you learn from the novel?
- Five words that were interesting or new to you and their definitions.
- A hand drawing representing a scene that took place in what you read or an important object related to the story. Be sure to write a sentence under the picture explaining what you drew.

Journal Assignment Part Two:

Read the following poems:

- "Hope" by Emily Dickinson
- "Introduction to the Songs of Innocence" by William Blake
- "Foreign Lands" by Robert Louis Stevenson
- "The Children's Hour" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Remember, poetry is meant to be read aloud! Choose one poem to copy into your journal, memorize it, and be ready to recite it on the first day of school. As you copy your poem into your journal, pay special attention to your penmanship. You are free to use colored pencils, pens, or special markers to make your handwritten copy of the poem beautiful.

**Your summer reading assignment will be due on the first day of school and will be for a grade.
Have fun reading!**

4th Grade Poetry Selections

“Hope” by Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I’ve heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

“Introduction to the Songs of Innocence” by William Blake

Piping down the valleys wild,
Piping songs of pleasant glee,
On a cloud I saw a child,
And he laughing said to me:

“Pipe a song about a Lamb!”
So I piped with merry cheer,
“Piper, pipe that song again;”
So I piped: he wept to hear.

“Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe;
Sing thy songs of happy cheer!”
So I sung the same again,
While he wept with joy to hear.

“Piper, sit thee down and write
In a book that all may read.”
So he vanish'd from my sight;
And I pluck'd a hollow reed.

And I made a rural pen,
And I stain'd the water clear,
And I wrote my happy songs
Every child may joy to hear.

“Foreign Lands” by Robert Louis Stevenson

Up into the cherry tree
Who should climb but little me?
I held the trunk with both my hands
And looked abroad in foreign lands.

I saw the next door garden lie,
Adorned with flowers, before my eye,
And many pleasant places more
That I had never seen before.

I saw the dimpling river pass
And be the sky's blue looking-glass;
The dusty roads go up and down
With people tramping in to town.

If I could find a higher tree
Farther and farther I should see,
To where the grown-up river slips
Into the sea among the ships,

To where the road on either hand
Lead onward into fairy land,
Where all the children dine at five,
And all the playthings come alive.

4th Grade Poetry Selections, continued

“The Children’s Hour”

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Between the dark and the daylight,
When the night is beginning to lower,
Comes a pause in the day's occupations,
That is known as the Children's Hour.

Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,
And Edith with golden hair.

A whisper, and then a silence:
Yet I know by their merry eyes
They are plotting and planning together
To take me by surprise

A sudden rush from the stairway,
A sudden raid from the hall!
By three doors left unguarded
They enter my castle wall!

They climb up into my turret
O'er the arms and back of my chair;
If I try to escape, they surround me;
They seem to be everywhere.

I hear in the chamber above me
The patter of little feet,
The sound of a door that is opened,
And voices soft and sweet.

From my study I see in the lamplight,
Descending the broad hall stair

They almost devour me with kisses,
Their arms about me entwine,
Till I think of the Bishop of Bingen
In his Mouse-Tower on the Rhine!

Do you think, o blue-eyed banditti,
Because you have scaled the wall,
Such an old mustache as I am
Is not a match for you all!

I have you fast in my fortress,
And will not let you depart,
But put you down into the dungeon
In the round-tower of my heart.

And there will I keep you forever,
Yes, forever and a day,
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,
And moulder in dust away!