



# Summer Reading Assignment

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Boyd-Moline Library Media Center  
The First Academy

## Summer Reading Assignment

God wants us to love others even when they are different from us. When we are kind to others we are showing God's love through our actions.

John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

### Assignment:

1. Read one of the books listed below.
2. Create a double-bubble map comparing two characters from the novel.
3. Write a paragraph explaining what you can do this year in fourth grade to show God's love.

### Books

#### *The Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate

*The Wishtree* tells a story of kindness, friendship, and hope and tackles the concept of anti-Muslim bigotry. 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.

BL: **4.2** - AR Pts: **3.0**.

#### *A Land Remembered, Student Edition* by Patrick Smith

In fourth grade Social Studies, you will learn the history of Florida. Get ready for this exciting unit by reading *A Land Remembered* (Volume 1 & 2). This sweeping story that emerges is a rich, rugged Florida history featuring a memorable cast of crusty, indomitable Crackers battling wild animals, rustlers, Confederate deserters, mosquitoes, starvation, hurricanes, and freezes to carve a kingdom out of the swamp.

Volume 1 BL: **5.3** - Pts: **12.0**. Volume 2 BL: **5.7** - Pts **9.0**

#### *Beezus and Ramona* by Beverly Cleary

In fourth grade we discuss the importance of displaying the fruits of the spirit in all our relationships. Beezus and Ramona dig into the challenges in sibling relationships and gives us room to explore how we can demonstrate those traits with those that are the most challenging. Four-year-old Ramona has an imagination that makes her a menace to everyone around her, particularly her older sister, nine-year-old Beezus.

BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **3.0**.

*Blown Away!* by Joan Harlow

In fourth grade Science, you will learn about the atmosphere and weather systems. *Blown Away!* introduces students to a personal experience with hurricanes and will help set up the atmosphere unit. This book's setting takes place in the summer of 1935 and in the sleepy Florida Keys. Thirteen-year-old Jake Pitney's life is quiet and easy. But all of this changes once Jake begins helping out the town's eccentric fisherman, Sharkey, with work. On a trip to Key West, Jake is dumbfounded when Sharkey buys a mule named Jewel and her faithful sidekick, a dog named Rudy. Despite their troublemaking ways, Jake grows fond of the mischievous duo and their owner. All the while, Jake is trying to befriend Mara, the new girl in town, whose life has been filled with sadness. During the Labor Day holiday, an unpredictable Atlantic hurricane hits Jake's hometown with devastating speed and power, reducing the island to shambles. Jake is determined to find his family, along with Sharkey and Mara. But he may need help from some unlikely sources.

BL: **4.3** - Pts: **6.0**

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

In fourth grade students will explore biblical themes such as perseverance, which are present throughout this book. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression.

BL: **5.3** – AR Pts: **6.0**

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal? This story invites readers to examine the themes of friendship and acceptance, common in the lives of fourth graders.

BL: **3.9** - AR Pts: **4.0**

*Serafina's Promise* by Ann Burg

In fourth grade students will explore poetry in Language Arts and this book is a great introduction to this writing style. Eleven-year-old Serafina's life in Haiti is filled with chores and struggle, but she dreams of a brighter future that includes school and becoming a doctor. As her family faces a natural disaster and separation, she remains determined to help her family and achieve her dreams.

BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **3.0**

*The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan

From the time he is a young boy, Neftalí hears the call of a mysterious voice. Even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself, Neftalí knows he cannot ignore the call. He listens and follows as it leads him under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain on an inspiring voyage of self-discovery that will transform his life and,

ultimately, the world. This gives students another take on poetry as they watch a young poet grow into his calling.

BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **4.0**

*The Great Greene Heist* by Jackson Greene

Jackson Greene swears he's given up scheming. Then school bully Keith Sinclair announces he's running for Student Council president, against Jackson's former friend Gaby de la Cruz. Gaby wants Jackson to stay out of it -- but he knows Keith has "connections" to the principal, which could win him the presidency no matter the vote count. So Jackson assembles a crack team: Hashemi Larijani, tech genius. Victor Cho, bankroll. Megan Feldman, science goddess. Charlie de la Cruz, reporter. Together they devise a plan that will take down Keith, win Gaby's respect, and make sure the election is done right. If they can pull it off, it will be remembered as the school's greatest con ever -- one worthy of the name THE GREAT GREENE HEIST. This book provides students the opportunity to examine and consider the trait of integrity.

BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **7.0**

*The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes

In fourth grade students will explore biblical themes such as treating others with kindness and respect, this book can lead to great conversations about our struggle with sin and why it's so important to point others to Jesus through our actions. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time it's too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda's classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again."

BL: **5.4** - AR Pts: **1.0**

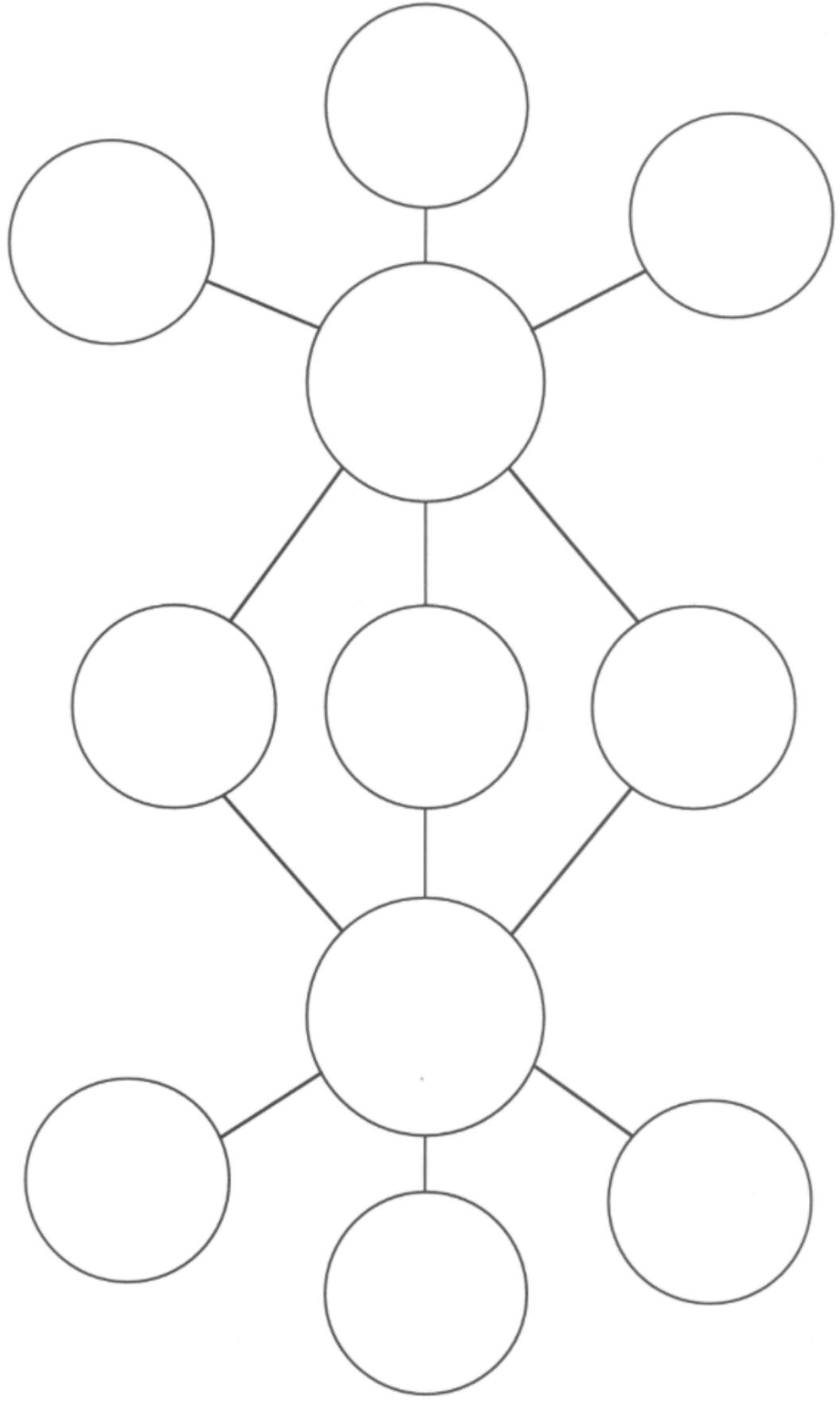
*Voices in St. Augustine* by Jane Wood

In 4th grade Social Studies, we will learn about and visit the oldest city in Florida, St. Augustine. Students will enjoy seeing the city through the eyes of a thirteen-year-old boy, Joey Johnson, who hears voices. Only he can't find the people who belong to them. His curiosity leads him on a quest where he learns more than just history about the Nation's Oldest City, St. Augustine. He discovers he has a special connection to the past -- something that changes his life forever.

BL: **4.7** - Pts: **3.0**

**Double Bubble Map**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**Double Bubble Map for Comparing (similarities) and Contrasting (differences)**