

GARDEN FIELDS JMI SCHOOL SUGGESTED READING LIST – Year 4

The following book list contains titles to appeal to children aged 8-9 in Year 4. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but merely a suggested guide. The books consist of a range of titles suitable for all ability ranges within this age group, including reluctant readers and the most able. Most of these books are available in the school library.

	<p>Watership Down by Richard Adams</p> <p>Fiver could sense danger. Something terrible was going to happen to the warren - he felt sure of it. So did his brother Hazel, for Fiver's sixth sense was never wrong. They had to leave immediately, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so begins a long and perilous journey of a small band of rabbits in search of a safe home. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, but here they face their most difficult challenge of all . . .</p>
	<p>The Eddie Dickens Trilogy by Philip Ardagh</p> <p>Eddie Dickens is a resourceful Victorian boy who has to cope with vague parents, a mad uncle and an even madder aunt. <i>Awful End</i>, <i>Dreadful Acts</i>, and <i>Terrible Times</i> tell the story of Eddie Dickens in a series of strange adventures.</p>
	<p>The Parent Agency by David Baddiel</p> <p>A brilliantly funny story about a boy who makes a very rash wish! Barry is not the first boy in the world to say "I wish I had better parents" but in his case, the third time he says it, there are some quite startling results. Barry's list of complaints against his parents is a long one. And it starts with his terrible name. He goes on to blame them for being so boring, being so mean to him about letting him play out and, above all, for never giving him an exciting birthday party! But, when the posters on Barry's walls come alive and his heroes Messi and James Bond give Barry the chance to choose his own parents, just what kind of parents would he choose? Parenting is far harder than Barry had ever imagined!</p>
	<p>The Peppermint Pig by Nina Bawden</p> <p>Johnnie was only the runt of the litter, a little peppermint pig. He'd cost Mother a shilling, but somehow his great naughtiness and cleverness kept Polly and Theo cheerful, even though it was one of the most difficult years of their lives.</p>
	<p>Frozen Fish Fingers by Jason Beresford</p> <p>When danger is near, best friends Gary, Ruby, Bel and Morris become superheroes. The Chimp can swing from the rooftops, KangaRuby has a magical pocket, Bel's voice can shatter glass and Slug Boy, well he's a bit sluggish. The gang are thrilled to win a school trip to Transyllovakia. But amid all the skiing and snow-filled fun, something strange is afoot. It starts with a runaway toilet and rapidly snowballs into a wild and dangerous adventure.</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume</p> <p>Life with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing mashed potatoes on the walls at Hamburger Heaven, or trying to fly, he's never far from trouble. He's an almost three-year-old terror who gets away with everything, and Peter's had it up to here! When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge for too long. Way too long! How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Great Elephant Chase by Gillian Cross</p> <p>When the elephant came to town, Tad and Cissie went to the show like everyone else. Little did they know it would change their lives forever. Because of the elephant, they get involved in a chase across America, by train, by flatboat, and steam boat.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Matilda by Roald Dahl</p> <p>Matilda's parents have called her some terrible things, but the truth is she's a genius and they're the stupid ones. Underestimating Matilda proves to be a big mistake as they, along with her spiteful headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, discover when Matilda uses her very special power to get the better of them.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide by Tony DiTerlizzi</p> <p>After their parents' divorce, the Grace kids - twins Jared and Simon and their older sister Mallory - move with their mum to the decaying old mansion belonging to their ancient great-aunt Lucinda, who has been sent off to an asylum. But before they can even unpack, Jared begins to notice that they're not alone in the house. There's something living there with them. His investigations eventually lead to an old book filled with pictures of fantastic creatures - Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You - and an even bigger mystery - the disappearance of his great-great-uncle and Lucinda's father, Arthur Spiderwick.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh</p> <p>Harriet M. Welsch is a spy. In her notebook, she writes down everything she knows about everyone, even her classmates and her best friends. Then Harriet loses track of her notebook, and it ends up in the wrong hands. Before she can stop them, her friends have read the always truthful, sometimes awful things she's written about each of them. Will Harriet find a way to put her life and her friendships back together?</p>

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	<p>War Boy by Michael Foreman</p> <p>Brilliantly observed in words and pictures, War Boy is a first hand, eye-witness view of growing up in World War Two. Michael Foreman grew up in Lowestoft where bombing raids causing terrible damage were common as planes flew in over the North Sea. But amid the real dangers, Foreman and his friends made the best of their extraordinary circumstances enjoying a childhood with many familiar ingredients such as playing loads of football and belonging to different gangs and many unfamiliar ones including spotting and identifying enemy planes, playing ping pong on Morrison shelters and making rude noises with their gas masks.</p>
	<p>The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett</p> <p>When Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody says she is the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It is true, too. Mary is pale, spoilt and quite contrary. But she is also horribly lonely. Then one day she hears about a garden in the grounds of the Manor that has been kept locked and hidden for years. And when a friendly robin helps Mary find the key, she discovers the most magical place anyone could imagine...</p>
	<p>Groosham Grange by Anthony Horowitz</p> <p>Sent to Groosham Grange as a last resort by his parents, David Eliot quickly discovers that his new school is a very weird place indeed. New pupils are made to sign their names in blood; the French teacher disappears every full moon; the assistant headmaster keeps something very chilling in his room...What's the meaning of the black rings everyone wears? Where do the other pupils vanish to at night? Most important of all, how on earth can David get away - alive?</p>
	<p>The Flying Classroom by Erich Kastner</p> <p>Martin's school is no ordinary school. There are snowball fights, kidnappings, cakes, a parachute jump, a mysterious man called 'No-Smoking' who lives in a railway carriage and a play about a flying classroom. As the Christmas holidays draw near, Martin and his friends - nervous Uli, cynical Sebastian, Johnny, who was rescued by a sea captain, and Matthias, who is always hungry (particularly after a meal) - are preparing for the end-of-term festivities. But there are surprises, sadness and trouble on the way - and a secret that changes everything.</p>
	<p>The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart</p> <p>'Are You a Gifted Child Looking For Special Opportunities?' Dozens of children respond to this peculiar advert in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests. Only four children - Reynie, Kate, Sticky and Constance - succeed. Their mission is a secret. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden labyrinth of the school's underground tunnels is more than your average school supplies.</p>

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	<p>The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis</p> <p>The Chronicles of Narnia have enchanted millions of readers over the last fifty years and the magical events described in C.S. Lewis's immortal prose have left many a lasting memory. For here is a world where a witch decrees eternal winter; where there are more talking animals than people; and where battles are fought by Centaurs, Giants and Fauns</p>
	<p>The Girl With The Sunshine Smile by Karen McCombie</p> <p>Warm and wise tale about new families. Everyone comments on Meg's sunny smile, and she's put it to good use as a model for her mum's range of bridesmaids' dresses at wedding fairs. It's always been just Meg and Mum, but then Mum meets Danny and is swept off her feet - right onto a grotty old river barge. Soon Meg is discovering the 'joys' of river living in a house full of boys, and there's not much call for her sunshine smile...</p>
	<p>The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo</p> <p>The inspiring magic of a white lion brings friendship and hope to a lonely ten year old. Miserable at his boarding school, Bertie runs away. He is rescued by a kind old lady who tells him of how another Bertie, a little boy from a long time before, saved an orphaned lion cub in Africa. The symbol of the white lion becomes an emblem of hope as well as a link across generations.</p>
	<p>The Borrowers by Mary Norton</p> <p>Pod, Homily and daughter Arrietty of the diminutive Clock family fit out their subterranean quarters with the titbits and trinkets they've "borrowed" from "human beans", employing matchboxes for storage and postage stamps for paintings. The persistent pilfering goes undetected until a boy comes to live in the country house. Curiosity drives Arrietty to commit the worst mistake a Borrower can make: she allows herself to be seen.</p>
	<p>I Funny (Middle School series) by James Patterson</p> <p>Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian - even if he always seems to 'choke' in the spotlight. When Jamie finds out about a contest called the Funniest Kid on the Planet, he knows it's time to face his fears and enter. But are the judges rewarding him out of pity because he happens to be in a wheelchair, like his bullying cousin Stevie suggests? And will Jamie ever share the secret of his troubled past - and reason for his disability - instead of hiding behind his comedy act?</p>
	<p>Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce</p> <p>Lying awake at night, Tom hears the old grandfather clock downstairs strike . . . eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . . Thirteen! When Tom gets up to investigate, he discovers a magical garden. A garden that everyone told him doesn't exist. A garden that only he can enter . . .</p>

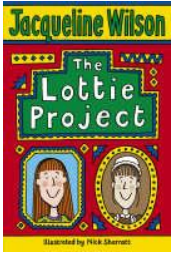
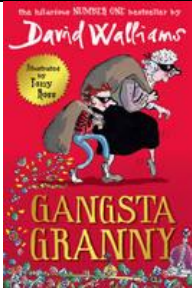
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	<p>Dark Materials Trilogy: Northern Lights by Phillip Pullman</p> <p>Part one of Philip Pullman’s magnificent trilogy. His ‘Dark Materials’, is the story of Lyra, a young girl with an exceptional destiny. Brought up in Jordan College, Oxford Lyra uncovers a secret about her mysterious guardian which leads to some dangerous questioning. It also marks the beginning of Lyra’s search for her friend Roger, a search that takes her to the ice kingdoms of the North where armoured bears rule. Lyra’s courage and stubborn determination lead her on this mission of incredible danger in this brilliant and imaginative story.</p>
	<p>Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome</p> <p>Having set sail for the island in the middle of the lake in their boat Swallow, the four Walker children set up camp and enjoy their freedom and independence. Then the two Blckett sisters arrive in their boat Amazon. How the two families co-exist and become firm friends as they enjoy shared adventures in the outdoors is a perfect introduction to a very different way of life.</p>
	<p>The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks</p> <p>The Indian in the Cupboard is the first of five gripping books about Omri and his plastic North American Indian – Little Bull – who comes alive when Omri puts him in a cupboard. For Omri, it is a dream come true when the plastic American Indian he locks into the old cupboard comes to life. Little Bull is everything an Indian brave should be – proud, fearless and defiant. But being in charge of a real, live, human being is a heavy responsibility, as Omri soon discovers. And when his best friend, Patrick, is let in on the secret, he soon realises that life-changing decisions lie ahead.</p>
	<p>Goth Girl and the Fete Worse Than Death by Chris Riddell</p> <p>Preparations for the Ghastly-Gorm Garden Party and bake-off are under way. Celebrity cooks are arriving at the hall for the big event and, true to form, Maltravers, the indoor gamekeeper, is acting suspiciously. Elsewhere at Ghastly-Gorm Ada's wardrobe-dwelling lady's maid Marylebone has received a marriage proposal. Ada vows to aid the course of true love and find out what Maltravers is up to, but amidst all this activity, everyone, including her father, appears to have forgotten her birthday! (Sequel to <i>Both Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse</i>.)</p>
	<p>Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan</p> <p>Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends -- one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena -- Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods. (5 books in series.)`</p>

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	<p>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J. K. Rowling</p> <p>Harry Potter's summer has included the worst birthday ever, doomy warnings from a house-elf called Dobby, and rescue from the Dursleys by his friend Ron Weasley in a magical flying car! Back at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for his second year, Harry hears strange whispers echo through empty corridors - and then the attacks start. Students are found as though turned to stone . Dobby's sinister predictions seem to be coming true.</p>
	<p>A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket</p> <p>There is nothing to be found in the pages of A Series of Unfortunate Events but misery and despair. You still have time to choose another international best-seller to read. But if you must know what unpleasanties befall the charming and clever Baudelaire children read on . . . In The Bad Beginning the three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune and cold porridge for breakfast. Then again, why trouble yourself with the unfortunate resolutions?</p>
	<p>Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead</p> <p>When Georges moves into a new apartment block he meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Soon Georges has become his spy recruit. His first assignment? To track the mysterious Mr X, who lives in the flat upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: what is a game and what is a lie? How far is too far to go for your only friend?</p> <p>Winner of the 2013 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and shortlisted for the 2014 Carnegie Medal.</p>
	<p>The Hundred Mile An-Hour-Dog by Jeremy Strong</p> <p>Trevor's mum has offered him £30 to walk the dog every day of the holidays. But Streaker is no ordinary dog, she's a rocket on four legs with a woof attached! Trevor enlists the help of best friend Tina to keep Streaker under control - with some hilarious results!</p>
	<p>Hetty Feather by Jacqueline Wilson</p> <p>London, 1876 and Hetty Feather is just a tiny baby when her mother leaves her at the Foundling Hospital. The Hospital cares for abandoned children - but Hetty must first live with a foster family until she is big enough to go to school. Life in the countryside is hard but with her 'brothers' Jem and Gideon, she helps in the fields and plays imaginary games. But Hetty's happiness is threatened once more when she is returned to the Foundling Hospital. The new life of awful uniforms and terrible food is a struggle for her. But now she has the chance to find her real mother. (Series.)</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">The Lottie Project by Jacqueline Wilson</p> <p>Hi! I'm Charlie (DON'T call me Charlotte - ever!). History is boring, right? Wrong! The Victorians weren't all deadly dull and drippy. Lottie certainly isn't. She's eleven - like me - but she's left school and has a job as a nursery maid. Her life is really hard, just work work work, but I bet she'd know what to do about my mum's awful boyfriend and his wimpy little son. I bet she wouldn't mess it all up like I do ...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Gangsta Granny by David Walliams</p> <p>Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma. 1) She was once an international jewel thief. 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the crown jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr Stink by David Walliams</p> <p>"Mr Stink stank. He also stunk. And if it was correct English to say he stinked, then he stinked as well..."</p> <p>It all starts when Chloe makes friends with Mr Stink, the local tramp. Yes, he smells a bit. But when it looks like he might be driven out of town, Chloe decides to hide him in the garden shed. Now Chloe's got to make sure no one finds out her secret. And speaking of secrets, there just might be more to Mr Stink than meets the eye... or the nose.</p>