



Dear Incoming 4th Grader,

May 20, 2011

Happy summer vacation! To help you continue strengthening all the knowledge you have worked so hard to gain over the last 9 months in third grade, we have put together a summer reading assignment. With this letter you will find 2 separate "Book Report" assignments. Look over each of them and choose your favorite! Yes, you only need to complete 1 out of the 2! And you get to choose the book. Please make sure that the book you choose is an appropriate reading level. Many books have the reading level on the back (Ex: RL4). The chapter book should be a minimum of 140 pages. A list of recommended authors is included. Please make sure to write in neat cursive and use complete sentences when doing your reports. Be sure to attach the form you completed to your finished assignment.

Fourth grade is a year filled with comprehensive math concepts. It is essential that when you come in August, you have mastered your multiplication facts (addition and subtraction too!). This means you need to review these facts daily! Recall of each fact should be **3 seconds or less. A list of ideas to help make reviewing fun is in this packet. You also received your user name and password for IXL and a chart of games to play or the alternative paper packet. Either the chart, filled in and signed, or the packet, completed with all work showing, and signed, must be turned in on Monday, August 29th. Completion of the summer math assignment is mandatory and will be your first math grade.**

We will also be studying the state of Maryland in the fall. Miss Werthmann visited each third grade class and gave each student a colored piece of paper with the name of a county in Maryland. All students are **strongly encouraged** to visit their assigned county **by October 1**. Please take pictures and gather information such as postcards, brochures and newspapers about their county. If you are unable to visit the county you are assigned, please go to the website for this county and request information from the Visitor's Center. Please don't change the county you report on without checking with Miss Werthmann at her school email address: bwertmann@schooloftheincarnation.org as we want each county represented in the reports. Thank you for your support in this project.

Have a great summer!

The 4th Grade Team

PS: The book report **and** completed (and signed) math books are due on the first day of school, August 29. **They will be graded.**

A Lesson Learned

Many books teach lessons that can help us in our daily lives. Think about the book you read. What lessons did you learn? Did the main character help you learn the lesson? Did one of the other characters teach you a lesson?

Answer the following questions in complete sentences to organize your thoughts. Use the answers to help you write a 5-7 sentence paragraph about your lesson learned on a separate piece of paper.

(Paragraph can be written in cursive on loose-leaf or on the computer.)

Completed form must be attached to the paragraph.

Book Title: _____

Which character taught you a lesson?

What did the character do?

What did you learn?

If something like this happens to you, explain what you will do.

Summarizing

Summarizing is not always easy to do. If your family told you to pack a small bag with only your favorite and most important things, could you do it in one minute? Summarizing is like that. A summary includes only the most important things. You can easily figure out the most important things in a story by asking who, what, where, when, why, and how questions. For some books, you may not use all of these. In a summary, you need to include:

- *who* the story is about
- *what* happens
- *when* it happens
- *where* it happens
- *why* it happens



Summaries are always short. They should be only 5-7 good sentences.

In the spaces below, answer the following questions to figure out the most important things in the book you have read. Use the ideas in the answers to write your own summary in cursive on a piece of loose leaf paper or type it on the computer.

(Paragraph needs to be 5-7 GOOD sentences. This completed summary page MUST be attached to your written summary to receive full credit.)

Summary Questions

Who was the main character? _____

Tell about the main character: _____

Where did the story take place? _____

What was the characters problem? What happened to him/her? _____

How was the problem solved? How did it work out? _____

IDEAS FOR MASTERING MULTIPLICATION FACTS

Timed Drills: Using a worksheet with 50-100 problems, set a timer for 3 minutes and see how many can be completed accurately. Record the amount and then keep track of your progress. **Speed (immediate recall) is vital for success with 4th grade Math skills.**

Flash cards: With a partner, flash multiplication facts, allow no more than 3 seconds. Create 2 piles: got right and got wrong. Continue to study the ones you get wrong. Each day do all the cards and watch the get right pile grow. It is fun to write the amounts on a chart to see daily growth.

Dice Game (2-4 players): Roll two dice and multiply the number. Play 5 rounds and add the products. The highest total at the end wins!

Check out these Math web-sites: Some even have a timed drills option! For additional websites (including a worksheet generator) see wordpress.com under intermediate, 4th grade, math.

www.aplusmath.com

www.teachrkids.com

www.coolmath4kids.com

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHY

In 4th grade, the students will be required to memorize the 50 states and their capitals. For online practice, you can check out:

www.maps.com/FunFacts.aspx?nav=MS .

There are different online games for identifying both the states and their capitals.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORS FOR 3RD TO 4TH GRADE

Matt Christopher
Betsy Byars
Clyde Bulla
Beverly Cleary
Roald Dahl
Alice Dalgliesh

Jude Watson (Science
Fiction)
Laura Ingalls Wilder
Bill Wallace
E.B. White
Laurie Lawlor

Deborah and James Howe
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Barbara Parks
Donald Sobol
American Girl Series

