

KINSTAR RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2007

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Samuel Adams*. Holiday House, 2005. The life of Sam Adams, one of our Revolutionary heroes who spoke out about unfair British taxes imposed on the colonists, is portrayed in this picture biography.

Appelt, Kathi. *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers: How a First Lady Changed America*. HarperCollins, 2005. This is a biography of Lady Bird Johnson (wife of President Lyndon Johnson) who reminded citizens about the importance of conserving natural resources, as well as promoting the beautification of cities and highways by planting wildflowers.

Atwater, Richard. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. First published 1938. The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortune of Mr. Popper. Newbery Honor book.

Avi. *Poppy's Return*. HarperCollins, 2005. In this ongoing Dimwood Forest adventure, Poppy travels to her childhood home to save the other mice there from destruction by a bulldozer.

Birney, Betty. *Friendship According to Humphrey*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. When Humphrey the hamster returns to Mrs. Brisbane's class after the winter break he finds a new class pet.

Blume, Judy. *Double Fudge*. Dutton 2002. His younger brother's obsession with money and the discovery of the long-lost cousins, Flora and Fauna, provide many embarrassing moments for twelve-year-old Peter.

Brown, Don. *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein*. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Albert Einstein, a subject uncommon to young readers, is introduced in this picture book that portrays how his brilliance often caused him to be the odd boy in school and in life.

Butcher, Nancy. *It Can't Be Done, Nellie Bly! A Reporter's Race Around the World*. Peachtree, 2003. In this factual account, newspaper reporter, Nellie Bly, races another reporter to travel around the world in fewer than eighty days.

Byars, Betsy. *The SOS File*. Henry Holt, 2004. The students in Mr. Magro's class submit stories about their biggest emergencies to the SOS file, and read them aloud for extra credit.

Byrd, Robert. *The Hero and the Minotaur*. Dutton, 2005. Follow the Greek hero Theseus as he overcomes challenges on the road, defeats the Minotaur and becomes the wise and just ruler of Athens.

Child, Lauren. *Clarice Bean Spells Trouble*. Candlewick Press, 2005. Spelling causes lots of trouble for Clarice.

Chocolate, Debbi. *Pigs Can Fly!: The Adventures of Harriet Pig and Friends*. Cricket Books, 2004. In four stories, Harriet Pig realizes her dream to fly, helps a friend, trains for a swim race, and repays a mouse that saved her life.

Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona's World*. Morrow, 1999. Enjoy the adventures of nine-yearold Ramona as she experiences the ups and downs of fourth grade, tries to be a good role model for her new baby sister, Roberta, and delights in her new bestfriend, Daisy.

Cleary, Brian P. *Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry*. Carolrhoda Books, 2004.

This clever, comical introduction to various types of poetry, including limericks, concrete poems, and haiku, is sure to start some giggles!

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Class Clown*. Simon & Schuster, 2002. Jake acts like a class clown in order to cheer up his teacher.

Cole, Joanna. *Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Imperial China*. Scholastic, 2005. Ms. Frizzle and friends travel back 1000 years to experience the culture and geography of China.

Colfer, Eoin. *The Legend of Spud Murphy*. Miramax Books, 2004. When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing town librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.

Connor, Leslie. *Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel*. Houghton, 2004. Miss Bridie emigrates to America in 1856 choosing to bring with her a shovel which she keeps with her and uses throughout her life.

Craft, Mahlon F. *Sleeping Beauty*. SeaStar Books, 2002. A beautiful and beloved princess, cursed by the one fairy who was not invited to her christening, pricks her finger on her sixteenth birthday and falls asleep for one hundred years.

Crawley, Dave. *Cat Poems*. Wordsong, 2005. Playfully illustrated poems describe the behaviors of cats.

Crowell, Cressida. *How to Train Your Dragon*. Little, Brown, 2004. Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan by catching and training a dragon.

Dahl, Roald. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. First published 1964. Charlie finds the winning ticket in a Wonka Bar and is rewarded for his kindness.

Dyer, Heather. *The Fish in Room 11*. Scholastic, 2004. Toby, an orphan living in a hotel by the sea, finds the love and support of a real family when he meets Eliza Flot, a mermaid living with her family under the dock.

Easton, Patricia Harrison. *Davey's Blue Eyed Frog*. Clarion 2003. A bossy talking frog that claims to be a princess in need of a kiss causes Davey to think and then rethink how to help her.

Farris, Christine. *My Brother, Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing up with The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Simon & Schuster, 2003. The reader views the early life of Martin Luther King, Jr. as seen through the eyes of his older sister.

Florian, Douglas. *Zoo's Who: Poems and Paintings*. Harcourt, 2005. Short poems and zany illustrations combine in a tribute to favorite zoo animals.

Friedman, Laurie. *Mallory vs. Max*. Carolrhoda, 2005. Eight-year-old Mallory feels left out when her brother gets a dog that becomes the center of attention.

Gardiner, John R. *Stone Fox*. First published 1980. Willie hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.

Gibbons, Gail. *Owls*. Holiday House, 2005. This illustrated introduction to owls covers various species, life cycles, behaviors, and more.

Goodall, Jane. *Rickie and Henri: A True Story*. Penguin, 2004. A frightened orphan baby chimpanzee meets a shaggy dog, and a bond is formed.

Greene, Stephanie. *Owen Foote, Mighty Scientist*. Clarion, 2004. Owen and his best friend Joseph enter their tadpole project in the science fair, but when problems occur and some of the tadpoles die, the boys must find a way to salvage both the project and their friendship.

Haas, Jessie. *Birthday Pony*. Greenwillow, 2004. Grandma Aggie tries to help her granddaughter Jane and the high-spirited pony Popcorn become riding partners.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Janey and the Famous Author*. Clarion, 2005. Third-grader Janey is so excited about meeting her favorite author that she almost ruins the day for her entire class.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The Girl Who Spun Gold*. Blue Sky Press, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folk tale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

Harlow, Joan Hiatt. *Thunder From the Sea*. Simon & Schuster, 2004. In an adventure just right for dog lovers, Tom and Thunder encounter adventure and suspense.

Herzog, Brad. *T is for Touchdown: A Football Alphabet*. Sleeping Bear Press, 2004. Full page colorful illustrations highlight an alphabetical introduction to both the nuts and bolts and history of football.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Mister and Me*. Puffin Books, 1998. In a small Louisiana mill town in 1940, Jolene does not want her Momma to marry the logger who is courting her, but even her bad behavior does not drive him away.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *Oh, No! Where Are My Pants? And other Disasters: Poems*. HarperCollins, 2005. Poetry describing those “disaster days” when things go badly is sure to hit home with every reader.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Billy and the Rebel: Based on a True Civil War Story*. Atheneum, 2005. During the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, a mother and son shelter a young confederate deserter.

Howe, James. *It Came from Beneath the Bed!* Atheneum, 2002. With help from his Uncle Harold, Howie, a wired-haired dachshund, writes a story in which he saves the world from a science experiment gone awry.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *Fourth Grade Fuss*. HarperCollins, 2004. Julio and his best friend Lucas share adventures in the fourth grade, including preparing to take the end-of-year statewide test.

Jenkins, Alvin. *Next Stop Neptune: Experiencing the Solar System*. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Amazing facts about planets, moons, asteroids, and everything in between will enthrall all space science enthusiasts.

Jennings, Patrick. *The Weeping Willow*. Holiday House, 2002. While trying to build a “boys only” tree house, Ike and his best friend Buzzy argue so much that Ike builds his sister Mem a playhouse.

Johnston, Tony. *The Spoon in the Bathroom Wall*. Harcourt, 2005. In this Arthurian legend spoof, Martha encounters an evil principal, a bully, and a giant spoon.

King-Smith, Dick. *The Golden Goose*. Knopf, 2005. A golden goose seems to have magical powers which bring much good luck and joy to the farmer and his family.

Kline, Suzy. *Herbie Jones Moves On*. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2003. Readers will be surprised by the ending of this book as Herbie and his friend Raymond, whose family is moving, try to thwart the sale of Raymond’s house.

Krull, Kathleen. *Houdini: World’s Greatest Mystery Man and Escape King*. Walker, 2005. Meet Harry Houdini, master escape artist, in this picture book biography.

Leedy, Loreen and Pat Street. *There’s a Frog in My Throat: 440 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me*. Winslow Press, 2002. Animal idioms we hear every day are explained with humor and colorful illustrations.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg*. Disney Press, 2005.

Follow fairy Prilla in her quest to save Never Land despite her feelings of inadequacy and frustration over being a “no-talent fairy.”

Locker, Thomas and Joseph Bruchac. *Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder*. Fulcrum, 2004. Beautiful full page illustrations accompany this brief, but informative biography of one of America's most outspoken advocates for taking care of our environment.

Lowry, Lois. *Gooney Bird and the Room Mother*. Houghton, 2005. In this second story about Gooney Bird Greene, the second-grader saves the day by finding her class a surprise room mother.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *More Perfect Than the Moon*. Joanna Cutler Books, 2004. In this fourth book after *Sarah Plain and Tall*, Cassie uses her journal to express her feelings about a new baby in the family.

MacLean, Christine. *Mary Margaret and the Perfect Pet Plan*. Dutton Children's Books, 2004. Mary Margaret, desperate for a pet, develops a plan to get the cuddly, furry pet of her dreams, despite the fact that her father is allergic to both cats and dogs and her mother is expecting a baby and feeling “crabby.”

Markle, Sandra. *Outside and Inside Mummies*. Walker, 2005. Explore a variety of mummies and the new technologies developed to help study them.

Mayer, Marianna. *Pegasus*. Morrow Junior Books, 1998. Join the young hero Bellerophon and his legendary winged-horse Pegasus as they battle the fierce Chimera monster in this beautifully illustrated story from Greek mythology.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody Declares Independence*. Candlewick, 2005. Visiting Boston gives Judy the idea to declare her independence which leads her to learn the price of freedom is responsibility.

Miller, Debbie S. *The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail*. Walker & Co., 2002. The exciting account of the dog relay to bring diphtheria serum to Nome in 1925 is enhanced by incredible illustrations by nature artist John Van Zyle.

Mills, Claudia. *Perfectly Chelsea*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. Nine-year-old Chelsea's experiences, which include a fight with her best friend, making mistakes in the handbell concert, and saying goodbye to the only church minister she has ever known, help her to accept that things change and that people, including herself, are not perfect.

Morgan, Clay. *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*. Dutton, 2003. After being marooned on an island near New Zealand, Jack, an orphaned cabin boy from San Francisco, becomes allied with a group of dogs that protect the local sheep from the wild dogs.

Morpurgo, Michael. *McElderry Book of Aesop's Fables*. Simon & Schuster, 2004. Lively language enriches twenty-one favorite fables which are perfect for reading aloud and sharing.

Nagda, Ann Whitehead. *Meow Means Mischief*. Holiday House, 2003. A stray kitten turns out to be the perfect way to help Rana make friends in her new school and to feel more comfortable with her grandparents.

Nolan, Lucy. *Down Girl and Sit: Smarter Than Squirrels*. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. In this humorous story told from the dogs' point of view, two dogs named Down Girl and Sit try to make the neighborhood safe.

Parks, Linda Sue. *The Firekeeper's Son*. Clarion, 2004. Set in 19th century Korea, Sang-hee must take over his father's important job of lighting the mountain top fire.

Pinkney, Jerry. *Noah's Ark*. SeaStar, 2002. With award winning illustrations, the author retells the biblical story of the great flood and how Noah and his family responded to God's call to save life on earth.

Prelutsky, Jack. *If Not For the Cat*. Greenwillow, 2004. This is a beautifully illustrated collection of animal Haiku verses.

Pringle, Laurence. *Snakes! Strange and Wonderful*. Boyds Mills, 2004. Explore the unique hunting, eating, traveling, climbing, and swimming behaviors of snakes around the world in this fascinating non-fiction book.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Dirt on Their Skirts: the Story of the Young Women Who Won the World Championship*. Dial, 2000. Margaret experiences the excitement of watching the 1916 championship game of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball league.

Reiche, Dietlof. *Freddy In Peril: Book Two In the Golden Hamster Saga*. Scholastic, 2004. When the evil Professor Fleischkopf attempts to kidnap Freddy in order to dissect his brain and discover why he can read and write, Freddy needs the help of his humorous and talented friends to outsmart the villain.

Rumford, James *Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing*.

Houghton, 2004. This bilingual biography is about the man who developed a language and alphabet for the Cherokee people.

Ruurs, Margaret. *My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought to Children Around the World*. Boyds Mills, 2005. Librarians around the world deliver books by camels, elephants, and other outlandish modes of transportation.

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Octopus*. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Whistler and Lila, two of the mice children who live in a lighthouse, meet a young octopus when they visit the beach during low tide.

Scieszka, Jon. *Oh Say, I Can't See*. Penguin, 2005. Samantha, Joe, and Fred time warp to Revolutionary War days where they must convince George Washington and his men to cross the Delaware.

Silverstein, Shel. *Runny Babbit: A Billy Sook*. HarperCollins, 2005. Readers will have fun with Runny Babbit and his topsy-turvy poetry.

Simon, Seymour. *Guts: Our Digestive System*. HarperCollins, 2005. Simon takes a fascinating romp through the human body's digestive system. Mills, 2005. Learn all about guardian dogs and how they are trained to guard farm animals, protecting them from outside dangers

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to Be an Explorer?* Philomel, 2005. Humor abounds in this book featuring both men and women explorers

Tang, Greg. *Math Potatoes: Mind-Stretching Brain Food*. Scholastic, 2005. Colorful rhymes and riddles help make math more accessible and fun.

Turner, Pamela S. *Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog*. Houghton, 2004. Relates the true story of a dog who accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years.

Urbigit, Cat. *Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs: How They Guard Sheep*. Learn all about guardian dogs and how they are trained to guard farm animals, protecting them from outside dangers.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Meet the Gecko*. Random House, 2005. Nolan, a true hero, helps his favorite TV hero outsmart a reporter who has been stalking him.

Willey, Margaret. Clever *Beatrice and the Best Little Pony*. Atheneum, 2004. Clever Beatrice seeks out the village breadmaker to come up with a plan to protect her pony.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. *The Castle in the Attic*. Holiday House, 1985. A miniature castle comes to life for ten-year-old William when he shrinks to fit into its adventures.

Wisniewski, David. *The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups: The Second File*. HarperCollins. 2001. Creative reasons behind rules made by grownups for children are laugh-out-loud funny.

Yolen, Jane. *Mightier Than the Sword: World Folktales for Strong Boys*. Silver Whistle, 2003. A collection of 14 folktales from around the world demonstrates the triumph of brain over brawn and strength in compassion and kindness.

Compiled by: Dr. Rashmini Segarajasinghe-Ernest
Curriculum Specialist
Kinstar International Bilingual Schools