
2026 Required Summer Reading | ENTERING 4th Grade

Summer is a great time to relax, explore new adventures through books, and continue growing as a reader! Reading helps strengthen fluency, build vocabulary, spark imagination, expand knowledge, and maintain strong comprehension skills. To help prevent the “summer slide” that can happen during long breaks from school, students are required to complete a summer reading assignment prepared by their grade level (see below).

We have also included several reading resources and programs, many offering fun prizes and incentives to encourage students to keep reading all summer long!

- Sign up for your local library summer reading program:
 - The City of Copperas Cove Library summer reading program kicks off on Tues, May 26. Unearth a Story and earn prizes: <https://copperascove-tx.whofi.com/calendar/event/1318791>
 - The City of Harker Heights summer library program kicks off May 27. Unearth a Story: <https://harkerheights.readsquared.com/>
 - The Killeen Public Library summer reading program with prizes when completed. Check it out here: <https://www.killeentexas.gov/171/Libraries>
- American Library Association summer reading lists: <https://www.ala.org/news/2026/04/alsc-releases-2026-summer-reading-lists>
- MWR Library Summer Reading program. Sign up and check it out at Casey Memorial Library at Fort Hood. <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/libraries/summer-reading-program>
- Pizza Hut Camp Book It! Meet your monthly reading goals and earn a free, one-topping personal pan pizza. <https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>
- The Second Lady of the United States Summer reading challenge: Download the log. Read 12 books, earn a personalized certificate, an America 250th anniversary-themed bookmark, and a special link to receive a prize. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/read/>

Entering 4th Grade

Required reading: Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. Students must also complete the attached worksheet. It is due **Thursday, August 13, 2026**.

Pick at least one additional book to read.

The Research is In!

Students who continue using IXL throughout the summer are more likely to maintain — and even improve — their fall assessment scores, including MAP results.

Read more about the research here: [IXL Summer Learning Research Blog](#)

Returning students will continue to have access to their IXL accounts all summer long. Just a little practice each week can make a big difference!

Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep striving for excellence!

NAME _____

4th Grade Summer Required Reading

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

***Due on the first day of school, August 13, 2026**

Title: _____

Author: _____

1. Setting (give at least three specific details with text evidence to support your information)

a.

b.

c.

2. Main Characters (identify at least 3 main characters and describe their traits in detail)

a.

•

•

•

b.

•

•

•

c.

•

•

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3. Is this book written in “first person” or “third person”? Discuss and give specific examples from the story as evidence of first person or third person.

NAME _____

4. Discuss the plot of the story (or draw and label the plot diagram on a separate sheet of paper) describing each part of the plot. What is the theme of the book?
5. What is the conflict of the story. What characters or events caused the conflict?
6. How would you change the story.
7. What is a significant event in the story? Why is it significant?
8. What is one interesting event you especially liked in the story? Tell why you liked this part.
9. On a separate sheet of paper write a summary of the story. Be sure to use proper paragraph form. Check your punctuation and capitalization. Use complete sentences.