

TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mandatory Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 4

Instructions: Students must read one of the books from the list below and complete one of the projects. Projects are due no later than September 9, 2016.

Friendship According to Humphrey, Betty G. Birney

After the holidays, Humphrey is shocked by a big surprise in Room 26—a new class pet! Humphrey tries to be welcoming, but Og the frog doesn't respond to any of his friendly squeaks or visits (remember, he has a lock-that-doesn't-lock). Plus, the students are so interested in Og, they almost stop paying attention to Humphrey altogether. Humphrey doesn't like the mad-bad-sad feelings he's had since Og came, but luckily he still gets to have adventures with different kids on the weekends. Friendship can be tricky, but Humphrey is an intrepid problem-solver. If any hamster can become buddies with a frog, he can.

Stone Fox, John Reynolds Gardner

Little Willy has a big job to do. When his grandfather falls ill, it is up to Willy alone to save their farm from the tax collector. Where can a ten-year old get five hundred dollars in a hurry? Then Willy sees a poster for the National Dogsled Race. A lot of other people want to win the race too, including Stone Fox, who has never lost a race in his life. Willy knows the terrain better than anyone. His dog, Searchlight, is as fast as the competition, but how can one boy and one dog be able to win the race and save the farm?

Who was Steve Jobs? Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso

Steve Jobs, adopted in infancy by a family in San Francisco, packed a lot of life into fifty-six short years of life. Now in this “Who Was?” biography, children will learn how his obsession with computers and technology at an early age led him to co-found and run Apple, in addition to turning Pixar into a groundbreaking animation studio. A college dropout, Jobs took unconventional steps in his path to success and inspired the best and the brightest to come with him and “change the world.”

Fourth Grade Fuss, Johanna Hurwitz

Yard sales, ice-skating, and surprise parties are just a few of the things that make fourth grade fun. But Julio and his friends know it's time to get serious when the class begins preparing for the big statewide test at the end of the year. Just thinking about it is enough to give anybody a stomachache!

Julio and his best friend, Lucas, are going to try every superstition in the book to make sure they pass. They'll wear their underwear inside out, use brand-new pencils, and even—gulp—study. But when test day comes, Julio finds out there are some surprises no one can prepare for!

Mr. Chickee's Funny Money, Christopher Paul Curtis

Mr. Chickee, the genial blind man in the neighborhood, gives 9-year-old Steven a mysterious bill with 15 zeros on it and the image of a familiar but startling face. Could it be a *quadrillion dollar bill*? Could it be real? Well, Agent Fondoo of the U.S. Treasury Department and his team of Secret Government Agents are determined to get that money back! But Steven and his best friends, Russell and Zoopy the giant dog, are more than a match for the Feds. After all, Steven is the president of the Flint Future Detectives Club, and the inventor of fantastic spying and detecting equipment such as the Snoopeeze 9000!

Summer Reading Project Choices

1. Interview a character from the novel. Create interview questions. Title it, "My Interview with ..." (Minimum of 6 questions)
2. Create a book cover for the novel.
3. Create a Venn diagram comparing/contrasting two characters from the book.
4. Create a comic strip explaining the basic plot of the book. You must create at least five pictures and include dialogue in each one.
5. Write a book review.
6. Give a "book talk" about the book. Follow the same guidelines for the book review.
7. Complete the study guide for the book you have chosen to read.
8. Summarize each chapter of the book. One paragraph per chapter, 3-5 sentences per chapter.
9. Continue the book by writing an extra chapter for it.

Book Cover Guidelines

Use these guidelines to help you complete summer reading activity # 2: Create a book cover for the novel.

- Include the title and author of the book.
- Include a saying of some kind that gives a hint of what the book might be about.
- Two quotes from literary critics or from your friends or family explaining why they think the book is worthwhile reading. You may have to research this or just simply get the quotes from people you know. Example: "Great book, I could not put it down!" Jimmy Smith, Linden Book Review. **(Please do not use the example).**
- Artwork/drawing that describes what the book is about. For example, a picture from a key scene from the book. You do not have to be a terrific artist. Try your best.
- **Everything should be spelled correctly.**

Book Review

(Complete All Three Pages)

Use these guidelines to help you complete summer reading activity # 5: Create a book cover for the novel. You may use the same guidelines if you are choosing activity # 6.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Main Characters: _____

Setting: _____

Reviewer's Opinions

Did the characters seem real? Pick one of them and write whether you liked him/her or disliked him/her. Cite examples from the book to support your opinion.

What was the most interesting part of the book? Why?

Give Five Reasons Why You Would or Would Not Recommend This Book:

1.

2.

3.

4.

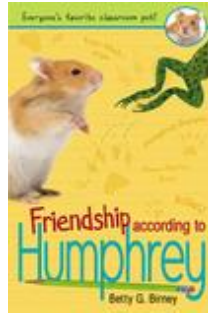
5.

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

Friendship According to Humphrey

by Betty G. Birney



Summary

After the holidays, Humphrey is shocked by a big surprise in Room 26—a new class pet! Humphrey tries to be welcoming, but Og the frog doesn't respond to any of his friendly squeaks or visits (remember, he has a lock-that-doesn't-lock). Plus, the students are so interested in Og, they almost stop paying attention to Humphrey altogether. Humphrey doesn't like the mad-bad-sad feelings he's had since Og came, but luckily he still gets to have adventures with different kids on the weekends. Friendship can be tricky, but Humphrey is an intrepid problem-solver. If any hamster can become buddies with a frog, he can.

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences using as much detail as possible. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What happened the first time that Humphrey left his cage and went over to visit Og?

2. Why did Martin Beam scream when he was on the bus?

3. What did Mandy and Abby do at night, after they came home and found one another's things on each other's beds?

4. Why did Mrs. Brisbane tell Kirk that he had to stay in for recess?

5. What did Tabitha tell Seth about Smiley?

6. What did Mrs. Brisbane tell Tabitha about Tabitha's foster mother?

7. What happened when Humphrey was trapped underneath the bag of treats in Room 26?

8. What happened when Principal Morales and Mrs. Brisbane came into the classroom on Saturday morning after Humphrey and Og had been left alone for two nights?

9. Why were Seth, A.J., Mandy, and Heidi surprised when they opened their Valentine's Day cards?

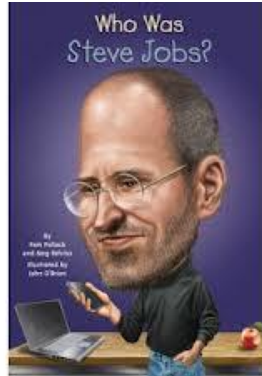
10. At the end of the book, Humphrey understood what it meant when Og splashed. Tell what it means.

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

Who Was Steve Jobs?

by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso



Summary

Steve Jobs, adopted in infancy by a family in San Francisco, packed a lot of life into fifty-six short years of life. Now in this “Who Was?” biography, children will learn how his obsession with computers and technology at an early age led him to co-found and run Apple, in addition to turning Pixar into a ground-breaking animation studio. A college dropout, Jobs took unconventional steps in his path to success and inspired the best and the brightest to come with him and “change the world.”

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences using as much detail as possible. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What was the name of the company that Steve Jobs started in 1976?

2. How did Steve Jobs get the name for his company?

3. Who worked with Steve Jobs to get his company started?

4. What age did Steve become a millionaire?

5. Why was Steve hard to work for?

6. Steve had sort of a power over his employees called RDF. What does that stand for and what does it mean?

7. What were some of the other companies that Steve Jobs worked for in his lifetime?

8. What company did Steve's company "team up" with and make a 150 million dollar deal?

9. What are some of the current devices that were developed by Steve?

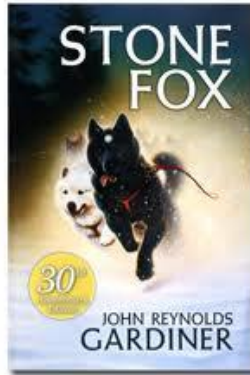
10. When did Steve die? What were his last words?

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GUIDE

Stone Fox

by John Reynolds Gardiner



Summary

Little Willy has a big job to do. When his grandfather falls ill, it is up to Willy alone to save their farm from the tax collector. Where can a ten-year old get five hundred dollars in a hurry? Then Willy sees a poster for the National Dogsled Race. A lot of other people want to win the race too, including Stone Fox, who has never lost a race in his life. Willy knows the terrain better than anyone. His dog, Searchlight, is as fast as the competition, but how can one boy and one dog be able to win the race and save the farm?

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences using as much detail as possible. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What kind of a relationship do Grandfather and Willy have?

2. How do little Willy and Searchlight manage to harvest the crop of potatoes?

3. How does little Willy get ready for winter?

4. Tell about the idea Willy gets to make some money after he visits Lester's General Store.

5. Why doesn't Stone Fox speak to anyone?

6. What important understanding takes place between Stone Fox and little Willy?

7. How does the race begin? At what time?

8. What shortcut can Willy take in the race course that no one else dares to take?

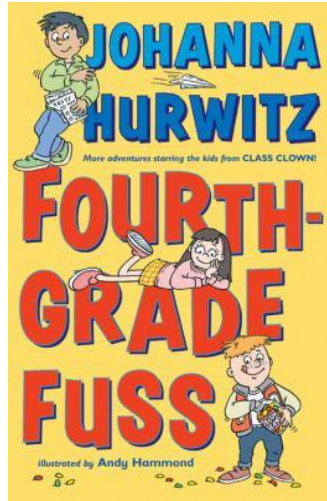
9. What happens to Searchlight as they approach the finish line?

10. How does Stone Fox stop the race?

STUDY GUIDE

Fourth Grade Fuss

by Johanna Hurwitz



Summary

Yard sales, ice-skating, and surprise parties are just a few of the things that make fourth grade fun. But Julio and his friends know it's time to get serious when the class begins preparing for the big statewide test at the end of the year. Just thinking about it is enough to give anybody a stomachache!

Julio and his best friend, Lucas, are going to try every superstition in the book to make sure they pass. They'll wear their underwear inside out, use brand-new pencils, and even—gulp—study. But when test day comes, Julio finds out there are some surprises no one can prepare for!

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences using as much detail as possible. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What was the name of the fourth grade teacher?

2. What seems to be a concern to Julia and Cricket when they compare their fourth grade class with the others in the school?

3. What did Julio's grandmother want to buy for Ramon as a surprise?

4. How much money did Lucas's parents make from the garage sale?

5. What kind of party did Zoe Mitchell have in December?

6. According to the examiner, what was the reason why Ramon failed his driver's test?

7. According to Mrs. Schraalenburgh, why were so many students dressed improperly for photo day?

8. What was special about Julio's tenth birthday party?

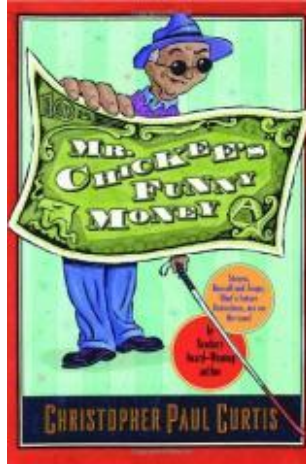
9. Why was Julio unable to take the state test?

10. When Julio returned to class after taking the make-up test, what did his classmates **not** notice?

STUDY GUIDE

Mr. Chickee's Funny Money

by Christopher Paul Curtis



Summary

Mr. Chickee, the genial blind man in the neighborhood, gives 9-year-old Steven a mysterious bill with 15 zeros on it and the image of a familiar but startling face. Could it be a *quadrillion dollar bill*? Could it be real? Well, Agent Fondoo of the U.S. Treasury Department and his team of Secret Government Agents are determined to get that money back! But Steven and his best friends, Russell and Zoopy the giant dog, are more than a match for the Feds. After all, Steven is the president of the Flint Future Detectives Club, and the inventor of fantastic spying and detecting equipment such as the Snoopeeze 9000!

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences using as much detail as possible. Bring this study guide with you to school on the first day.

1. What was in the envelope that Mr. Chickee gave to Steven?

2. What was the name of the dog?

3. According to Steven's dad, who is the "Godfather of Soul"?

4. Where did Mom suggest they take the bill for a “second opinion”?

5. What did Steven forget inside Agent Fondoo’s office?

6. What is the name of the spy equipment Steven claims to have invented?

7. According to Steven, how is he able to control Zoopy?

8. How long did Steven’s dad ground him for riding a dog down Dort Highway and then falling off Kearsley Damn?

9. Who did Russell ask to be a Flint Future Detective?

10. What gift did Agent Fondoo give to Steven’s dad?
