

Summer Reading ABCs and Assignments

Dear Parents of Entering 4th Graders:

What is the best way to make summer reading effective for your child? According to a recent study by James Kim, associate professor of education at Harvard University, educators and parents need to follow the ABCs:

“Access to books. It’s critical that kids have access to a wide variety of books over the summer months, but we know that access alone doesn’t make a strong impact.

Books that match readers’ ability levels and interests. For young people’s reading skills to improve, they need to read books that align with their own reading levels. Reading books that are too easy or too hard won’t help!

Comprehension, as monitored and guided by an adult, teacher or parent. The most important piece to making summer reading effective is the help of an adult who can ask questions and guide kids to better understand what they are reading.”

The incoming 4th Graders are required this summer to read the book listed below and complete a book report. Your child can read his/her books independently, with someone, or to someone.

To help boost fluency and comprehension, make the reading process more interactive at home by reading with your child and using these guided reading strategies: ask questions about the story and allow your child to ask questions; summarize or ask your child to summarize; reread hard-to-understand passages.

Required Reading:

- Read any book from the *I Survived...* series and complete Cereal Box Book Report (directions and expectations attached)

Required Religion:

- The Adventures of Flat Jesus Project (directions and expectations attached)

These assignments are due the first week of school. Please review the expectations for the specific due date. These reports will count toward the first trimester grades.

Blessings,
Ms. Alonso

Cereal Box Book Report

Students will decorate a real cereal box with the illustrations and information related to a book from the *I Survived...* series. I expect a lot of time, effort and hard work to be put into these reports. This is not an assignment that should be completed in one night. Directions should be followed, and a copy of the rubric that will be used to grade the book report has been attached.

FRONT OF THE BOX: Use a piece of white or light colored paper to cover the front of your cereal box. You will probably want to create the cover before gluing it to your box. Include the name of the cereal and a picture. Invent a name for the cereal that is related to the title of the book and sounds like a real cereal. Do not use the exact title of the book. Choose a shape for the cereal as well as colors and ingredients that all relate to the book. **For example:** for Dog Man Brawl of the Wild you can use a name like Puppy Crisps, a sweet cereal in the shape of dog bones or for Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, you might invent a cereal called Wizard Wands, a toasted cereal in the shape of miniature lightning bolts.

RIGHT SIDE OF THE BOX: Make a list of ingredients that includes the story elements CHARACTERS and SETTING. Under the heading "Ingredients", list the main characters and write a sentence about each one. Then describe the setting.

LEFT SIDE OF BOX: Write a summary that describes the book. Try to use words that will "grab" the reader's attention and make them want to buy your cereal. The summary must be at least three paragraphs. The summary would be best typed, to fit in the required writing length.

BACK OF BOX: Design a game that is based on the book. It can be a puzzle, a word search, a word scramble, a maze, a crossword puzzle, a hidden pictures illustration, or any other fun activity that might be found on the back of a cereal box. Make sure it includes information from the book.

TOP OF BOX: Include the title, author, number of pages, and number of stars you would give this book if you were a book critic. Also, include your name. The maximum number of stars would be five. Use the template on the attached sheet.

PRIZE: Cereal boxes often include prizes. Your prize must be something related to the topic of the book. You can even include a picture on the front of your box to let the reader know what is inside the box.

YOUR CEREAL BOX BOOK REPORT IS DUE TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023.

Cereal Box Report Rubric

Name: _____

	Points Earned	Points Possible
Book was read by the specified due date and the presenter was prepared and organized during the presentation in class.		15
Cereal Box is neat, colorful and attractive		15
The front and top of the box is complete and thoughtfully done. The top includes the title of the book, the author's name, and your name, The front includes the name of the cereal (related to the book) and an original illustration.		15
The back of the box is complete and thoughtfully done.		15
The left side of the box is complete and accurate with at least 3 full paragraphs.		15
The right side of the box is complete and accurate		15
Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct.		10
Total		100

The Adventures of Flat Jesus

Jesus promises us that he is always with us and will go wherever we go. First, color and cut out Flat Jesus. Then bring Flat Jesus around with you and journal. Be sure to take pictures of your adventures with him.



The Flat Jesus Project

The incoming 4th grade class will be completing the Flat Jesus Project that goes alongside the popular reading book series, Flat Stanley. In the book Stanley is flattened by a falling bulletin board. Stanley soon finds that there are many advantages to being flat. One of the advantages is that now he can visit his friends by traveling in an envelope.

This summer you will be completing the Flat Jesus Project. This visible expression of faith reminds us that Jesus is with us wherever we go!

Students will make Flat Jesus (outline included) and will complete a journal (**at least 10 entries**) documenting Flat Jesus's adventures. In these journals students will include where they have taken Flat Jesus and what they have done. In addition to a journal, students will create a poster showcasing their adventures with Flat Jesus. Students will present their Flat Jesus adventures the first week of 4th grade. Even if your family is not taking any trips please encourage your son/daughter to take Flat Jesus on every day trips. Pictures are HIGHLY encouraged and the students love to share them with the class.

In addition to Flat Jesus's adventures with your child, you and your child will select a friend or relative (preferably out of state) where you will mail your Flat Jesus, along with the attached letter and the journal for the host to record information about their city and state. Flat Jesus, the journal, and any other mementos are to be returned to the original sender. The journals written by a friend/relative DO NOT count toward the required 10 journal entries.

Please create a poster of Flat Jesus and his adventures. When displaying pictures, please include captions. Students will need to complete the journals and map of where Flat Jesus visited. Please make sure journal entries are in students' best penmanship and are written in complete sentences. A copy of the rubric that will be used to grade this assignment has been attached.

Your Flat Jesus Project is due Tuesday, August 22, 2023!

Flat Jesus Project Rubric

Name: _____

	Points Earned	Points Possible
Writing uses proper sentence structure for each entry of the required 10 (capitals and ending punctuation)		50
Poster includes name of friend or relative that received Flat Jesus and name of city, state, or country that Flat Jesus visited		15
Presentation: is knowledgeable about topic, speaks clearly, and is not moving around while presenting		20
Project is neat, legible, and turned in by the specified due date		15
Total		100

****Letter to friend/relative receiving Flat Jesus**

Dear _____,

Our 4th grade class is involved in a very fun and exciting project based on the book “Flat Stanley” written by Jeff Brown. In the book a boy named Stanley is flattened by a falling bulletin board. One of many advantages that the now “Flat” Stanley can visit friends by traveling in an envelope.

In this project, the students make paper Flat Jesus and mail them to a friend or relative. You have been chosen to be a very special part of our project. We hope that you will treat Jesus like a guest in your home/city. Please take him when you can and record each of his adventures in the journal provided. Photos, postcards and other mementos are great too!

You may keep Flat Jesus for 1-2 weeks. We would appreciate it if you would mail Jesus back by August 1, 2023. Upon his return, students will create a poster documenting all the adventures Flat Jesus has experienced.

We hope you will help us with this project by making Jesus a welcome guest in your home and some aspects of your life. Our goal is to learn about many different places and how Jesus is with us everywhere.

Thank you,
Ms. Rodriguez and the 4th Grade Class

****Journal Entry Example for student**

Date: _____ _____ City and State: _____ _____	What is special to your location? _____ _____ _____
Weather: _____ _____ _____ _____	Other interesting facts... _____ _____ _____ _____

Date: _____ _____ City and State: _____ _____	What is special to your location? _____ _____ _____
Weather: _____ _____ _____ _____	Other interesting facts... _____ _____ _____ _____

****Journal Entry Example from friend/relative**

Name: _____ Date: _____ _____ City and State: _____ _____	What is special to your location? _____ _____ _____
Weather: _____ _____ _____	Other interesting facts... _____ _____ _____

_____	_____
_____	_____

<p>Name: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>City and State: _____ _____</p>	<p>What is special to your location?</p> <p>_____ _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Weather: _____ _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>Other interesting facts...</p> <p>_____ _____ _____ _____</p>