

**Planet Omar series**  
by Zanib Mian

J MIAN  
10-year-old Omar is the middle child in his British Muslim family and is nervous about his first day at a new school. With journal-like drawings that highlight Omar's imagination and humor, this series is full of Omar's energy and curiosity, giving readers a fast-paced story full of accessible cultural information.

**Shirley & Jamila Save Their Summer**  
by Gillian Goerz

J GRAPHIC GOERZ  
It's summer, and ten-year-old Jamila Waheed is dreading making friends in her new town. When mothers force a "friendship"

between Jamila and Shirley Bones, things are definitely awkward until Shirley is "hired" to solve the mystery of a missing lizard, creating excitement in the neighborhood.

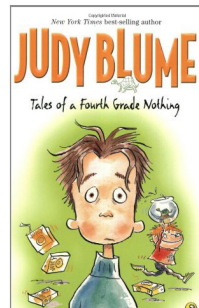


**The Silver Arrow**  
by Lev Grossman

J GROSSMAN  
Kate's daily life is pretty boring until her eccentric Uncle Herbert sends her a magical train for her 11th birthday. With her younger brother, Kate greets and cares for exotic talking animals who come aboard at stops around the world. This fantasy tale is perfect for animal lovers.

**Stella Diaz series**  
by Angela Dominguez

J DOMINGUEZ  
As Mexican-American Stella Diaz navigates 3rd and 4th grades in her Chicago elementary school, she shows her passion for art and ocean conservation, but is shy when speaking up in Spanish and English. Stella's day-to-day life is upbeat and relatable, and features real-world cross-cultural experiences.



**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**  
by Judy Blume

J BLUME  
Peter's two-year-old brother, Fudge, is such a troublemaker that Peter feels like a fourth grade nothing, totally overlooked by his parents. Fudge's temper tantrums



**Ways to Make Sunshine and Ways to Grow Love**  
by Renee Watson

J WATSON  
When 4th grader Ryan Hart's family moves to another neighborhood, times are tough, but Ryan's positive energy helps her renew friendships and bring sunshine to her new community. This heartwarming series is from an award-winning #OwnVoices author.

are over the top, messy, (and pretty funny) but when Peter's pet turtle goes missing, Peter just can't take it anymore.

**Reading reconnects us.** That's why your family's summer reading experience is even more meaningful this year.

These diverse books are highly recommended by librarians, educators, and professional reviewers because they offer compelling stories, complex and appealing characters, and expressive language and vocabulary. Books enable older children to personally connect with the inner lives of characters, consider decision making strategies, and learn more about the world and how we live in it.

When Simsbury readers of all ages participate in our **2021 Summer Reading program**, we can share the stories and information we find within books and discover how reading helps us all reconnect to each other.

**Reading Reconnects Us**

**Raising Readers**  
at the Simsbury Public Library

For more book lists, visit [simsburylibrary.info/children/raising-readers/](https://simsburylibrary.info/children/raising-readers/)

725 Hopmeadow Street  
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(860) 658-7663 option 4

- SimsburyPublicLibrary
- SimsburyPublicLibrary
- SimsburyPublicLibrary: Children's Room

# Recommended Summer Reading Grades 3-4







**Aster and the Accidental Magic and Aster and the Mixed Up Magic**  
by Thom Pico

J GRAPHIC PICO  
After moving from the city to a small town in the mountains, Aster prepares to be bored only to meet a mysterious old woman (who gives her a dog) and a trickster spirit (who gives her three magic wishes).



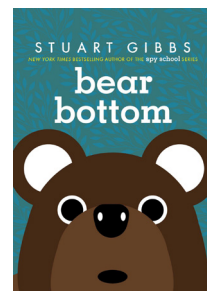
**Fart Quest series**  
by Aaron Reynolds

J REYNOLDS  
This wacky fantasy series presents three apprentices who must discover

the quest they think they were destined for. Full of illustrations, potty humor, and magical friendships.

**The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee**  
by Julie Leung

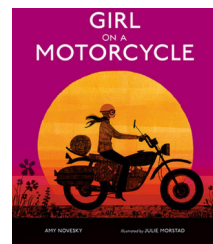
JB LEE  
This inspiring picture book biography of Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman to fly for the U.S. Air Force, depicts Hazel's challenges and amazing achievements.



**Funjungle series**  
by Stuart Gibbs

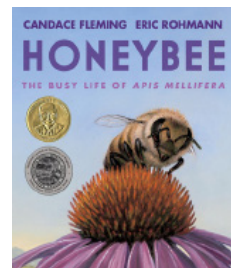
J GIBBS  
The newly released 7th book in the popular bestselling FunJungle mystery series features 12-year-old Teddy Fitzroy's family trip to a ranch near Yellowstone

National Park where he tries to track down missing bison and a stolen necklace after a grizzly bear makes a surprising appearance.



**Girl on a Motorcycle**  
by Amy Novesky

J OLDER NOVESKY  
This poetic picture book biography introduces readers to an extraordinary Frenchwoman who was the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world alone.



**Honeybee**  
by Candace Fleming

J 595.79 FLE  
This beautifully illustrated picture

book details a close-up view of a single honeybee, taking readers inside the hive, out to the flowers, and into the complicated life cycle of this amazing insect.



**The Ickabog**  
by J.K. Rowling

J ROWLING  
In the peaceful kingdom of Cornucopia, best friends Daisy and Bert try to overcome personal losses while the legendary Ickabog appears to threaten their community. This fantasy adventure presents a serious battle of good vs. evil, with strong friendships and inspiring family loyalty.

**Last Kids on Earth series**  
by Max Brallier

J BRALLIER  
When Jack Sullivan's hometown is hit with a monster apocalypse, he can't survive on his own, and recruits a team of surviving friends and enemies to help fight the freaky Zombies and the Blarg. This illustrated novel is action-packed with lots of gross-out moments.

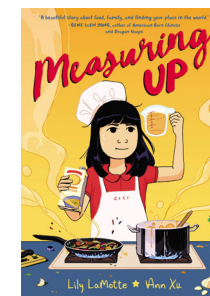


**Lion of Mars**  
by Jennifer Holm

J HOLM  
11-year-old Bell has spent his whole living in the U.S. colony—on Mars. His chores involve space dust, and his food is mostly algae-based, but Bell has lots of questions about why the adults in the space colony have certain rules, and some serious secrets.

**Locker 37 series**  
by Aaron Starmer

J STARMER  
This page-turning illustrated school adventure series focuses on the 4th graders at Hopewell Elementary who have access to the problem-solving magic of Locker 37.



**Measuring Up**  
by Lily LaMotte

J GRAPHIC LAMOTTE  
12-year-old Cici immigrates from Taiwan to Seattle, leaving behind her beloved grandmother, A-ma. Cici decides to enter a cooking competition to win the money she needs for A-ma's plane ticket, creating an emotional graphic novel full of hope.



**Mr. Tiger and Betsy series**  
by Sally Gardner

J GARDNER  
Eight-year-old Betsy lives with her ice-cream-making dad and mermaid mom on a small island. To transform a princess (who is currently a toad), Betsy needs the help of Mr. Tiger, his circus of Gongalongs, and a mountaintop giant.

**My Father's Dragon trilogy**  
by Ruth Stiles Gannett

J GANNETT  
This classic trilogy follows the unexpected adventures of Elmer Elevator on Wild Island where dragons live and wild animals can talk.

**No Place for Monsters**  
by Korey Merritt

J MERRITT  
Full of spooky black-and-white illustrations, this scary monster mystery takes place in a suburbia where nightmares seem to come to life. "New kid" Levi isn't sure what's going on, but when his little sister goes missing, he finds a new friend, and together they fight their fears.



**Our Universe series**  
by Stacy McAnulty

E NATURE MCANULTY  
These humorous but very informative picture books are a great way to introduce readers to planetary science without overwhelming them. To date, this popular series includes the titles *Mars!*, *Ocean!*, *Sun!* and *Earth!*