

Dear Families of Soon-to-Be 4th Graders,

We hope you enjoy your summer, relaxing and having fun with your family and friends. Over your break you will have a reading assignment, math assignment, and handwriting practice pages for 4th grade.

**READING:** You will be required to read *How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor. This book can be found at your public library, or can be ordered online. As you read the book, you will also need to answer the questions attached below.

Please print out the questions before reading. Read the book with an adult, taking turns reading and stopping to discuss along the way. When you finish reading daily, look over the questions and try to answer some as you go. **Answers should be handwritten on the worksheet provided. If additional space is needed, you may write on a lined piece of paper and attach to the packet.** Since you will be REQUIRED to take the AR test for this story the first FULL week of school in August, reading it near the end of summer may be best, so you don't forget all the important details. Please be prepared to turn in the completed questions on the second day of school in August! We'll discuss the novel, sharing connections and insights.

A great way to keep up your child's vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency is utilizing some amazing technology. Here are some apps/websites we like:

- **Spark Reading for Kids** - stories that build critical thinking skills and reading comprehension
- **Inference Ace** - helps build inference skills through fun games
- **Reading IQ** - Digital learning library app with over 7,000 award-winning books and childhood classics

**MATH:** These are some of the concepts your child learned this year in math. It would be wise to spread the review over a number of days this summer. Please do not allow your child to try to get it all done in one or two sittings. Also, this would be a great time to "reteach" a concept if you see your child still struggling in some areas.

**\*If there is a concept that your child struggles with this summer, can you please add a STAR or a note to the top of the worksheet. This will help Mrs. Hathaway identify which concepts to review and/or reteach during fourth grade!**

Another great way to review is to play games on the computer. Here are some websites we like:

- [Prodigy.com](https://www.prodigy.com) - general math concepts
- [Quizlet.com](https://www.quizlet.com) - math facts review

Short daily review of facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division helps keep students on top of their game

Lastly, your child is to turn their completed packet in to their 4th grade teacher in August on the second day of school.

**Handwriting:** Please complete your practice cursive review handwriting pages over the summer. Be ready to turn it in on the second day of school in August.

We look forward to seeing you!

**4th Grade Teachers**

*Mrs. Klappenback*

*Mrs. Hathaway*

*Miss Greder*

*How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor  
Reading Questions

Directions: Please hand write your answers to the questions below.  
Remember to write in complete sentences using the space provided. If  
additional room is needed, please continue answers on a separate sheet  
of paper and then attach to the packet.

\*Please note that some questions are asking more than one question!

1. Read page 1 of the story. What do we already know about Georgina from just  
one page of text?

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2. Where are Georgina and her mother and brother living at the beginning of the  
story? Why are they living there?

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3. Define *homelessness*. Is Georgina's homelessness similar or different to what you thought homelessness was? How is it similar/different?

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4. How does Georgina come up with the idea of stealing a dog? What is her plan?

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5. Georgina knows that stealing a dog is wrong, but does it anyway. Have you ever done something that you knew was wrong because you felt like you had no other choice? How did you feel after doing it?

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6. Why does Georgina think Carmella is going to be rich?

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7. Compare Georgina's life with her friend Luanne's. What are some differences in how the girls live?

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8. Luanne notices some changes in Georgina's appearance and personality. If you were Luanne and knew there was something wrong with your friend, what do you think you would do?

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9. Mookie shares two mottos with Georgina. Choose one of them and explain what you think it means. Use an example from the story.

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10. Compare and contrast Mookie's homelessness to Georgina's. How is it the same or different?

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11. There are two times that Mama uses her "mean voice" with Georgina. Why do you think she does this? Do you think Mama is really a mean person?

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12. Think of the problems that could come up from stealing a dog. How does Georgina think about these problems in her list of rules? Does she address the problems, and how?

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13. Find one time when Georgina gets frustrated with Toby. Why do you think she is impatient with him?

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14. Re-read the last 4 pages of the book. Do you think it has a happy ending? Explain why or why not.

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15. If you could interview one person from the story, who would you interview?

Write down 3 questions that you would ask in your interview.

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