

## Summer Reading Assignment for Students Entering Fourth Grade

Required Reading: “*Catherine Called Birdy*” by Catherine Cushman\*

In addition to the required reading book, students are also expected to read four additional books of their choosing and select an assignment to complete. Students may complete a project on either *Catherine Called Birdy* or on one of their chosen books.

Assignment Options:

- 1) Write a letter to the author of the book. In your letter, make sure you include:
    - a) At least three questions
    - b) Your review of the book
    - c) Include who your favorite character is and why.
    - d) Include your favorite part of the book and why.
  
  - 2) Act out a scene with your friends (this only applies if your friends read the same book as you.)
    - a) You must have a clear setting.
    - b) Everyone must be in a costume related to the story.
    - c) Everyone must have a part.
    - d) You must be able to turn in your project in DVD or digital form. (You may email your project to me over the summer at [srschwartz@philasd.org](mailto:srschwartz@philasd.org)).
    - e) Provide a paragraph description of what is occurring in the scene.
  
  - 3) Create a diorama of a scene from the book
    - a) Your diorama can be made of any material as long as it is clear that the scene is related to the book.
    - b) Provide a paragraph description of your diorama.
  
  - 4) Write a one page report on your book.
    - a) Your book report must be typed using size 12 font, double spaced. You should summarize the overall plot of the story, describe the major characters, write about your favorite part of the book and explain why it is your favorite part. Include your review of the book.
  
  - 5) Diary Entry
    - a) Write five diary entries from the perspective of one of the characters in your chosen book. It can be either from the perspective of a major character or minor character as long as the facts align with what is in the book. Each diary entry should be at least ten (10) sentences long.
- The fourth grade curriculum is very rigorous. In order to prepare students to be ready to engage in the historical thematic, I have chosen *Catherine Called Birdy* as a fun way to learn about everyday life in the Middle Ages. This book may be challenging for some students. I highly encourage parents to read this book with their child, and/or borrow the audio cd from your local library and have your child listen and follow along with their copy of the book, if you see your child needs additional support. If you find that your child is struggling despite these suggestions, please contact me at [srschwartz@philasd.org](mailto:srschwartz@philasd.org) and we can make further accommodations.