

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

How is your summer coming along? We trust you are enjoying a little relaxation, extra fun, and freedom. This summer you have a reading assignment and a math assignment for 4th grade.

**READING:** You will be reading *How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor. This book can be found at your public library, or can be ordered online, new or used. The publisher is Scholastic. Along with reading the book, you will need to answer the questions attached.

Suggestions for successful summer reading:

Print out the questions prior to reading. Read the book with an adult, taking turns reading and stopping to discuss along the way. Enjoy reading in a cool, comfortable place. A chapter or two a day would be great. When you finish reading daily, look over the questions and try answering some as you go. Answers should be hand-written on the worksheet provided. If additional space is needed, you may write on a lined piece of paper and attach to the packet. Be prepared to turn in and begin discussing *How to Steal a Dog* on the second day of school in August!

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

Prodigy.com (general math concepts)

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.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

- 4th Grade Teachers



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

**Directions: Please write by hand 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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