

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer (2026) Reading

Dear Parents,

Another wonderful school year has come and gone. Students have worked hard and learned many things all year and, of course, are really looking forward to the summer break. I encourage your student to continue reading wonderful books this summer. I have provided several tips to encourage and/or motivate your student to read more this summer. **In addition, I am requiring 2 summer reading assignments for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. The first assignment is to read the chapter book *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, and the second assignment is to read the picture book *Thank you, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco.** You will find assignment details for both books listed below in this document. **You may complete both assignments in the same journal.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at my school email address: [lvillagomez@spsfw.org](mailto:lvillagomez@spsfw.org)

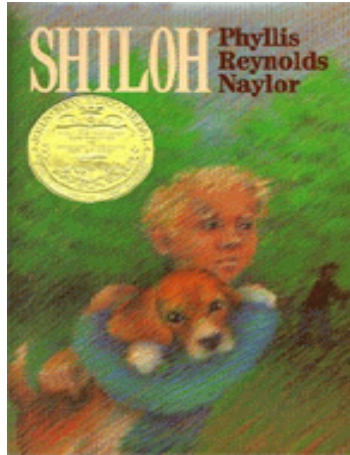
### Summer Reading Ideas

- visit a public library
- visit a bookstore
- listen to books in the car
- take turns reading
- find fun places to read
- try a new book series/ book genre
- read books, then watch the movie version and compare
- swap books with a friend
- have a book reading picnic on a blanket
- read books about places you hope to visit one day



**Happy Reading!!**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer (2026) Reading Assignment #1



### Background:

- *Shiloh* is a Newbery Medal-winning children's novel by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor and published in 1991. Naylor decided to write *Shiloh* after an emotionally taxing experience in West Virginia where she encountered an abused dog.

### Materials:

- 1 journal, crayons, pencils, chapter comprehension questions
- *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- **ISBN-10:** 0689835825 **or** **ISBN-13:** 978-0689835827

### Teacher Note:

- You must read *Shiloh*, answer the chapter comprehension questions in a journal, and complete 3 illustrations (in the journal) depicting scenes from the novel. As you read the book, you will start to develop an understanding of the several meanings (**themes**) in the book dealing with honesty and responsibility. ☺ ☺
- **This book is available in audio format from your public library.**

### Due Date:

- Your answered questions (in the journal) along with the 3 illustrations (in the journal) are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class and will be calculated as 1 reading test grade in the gradebook. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, we will discuss this novel; however, if not completed, 10 points will be deducted from the final grade.

### Grading:

- |                                                   |                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| • Chapters 1 – 5 with illustration                | 30 points (20 for questions; 10 for drawing) |
| • Chapters 6 – 10 with illustration               | 30 points (20 for questions; 10 for drawing) |
| • Chapters 11 – 15 with illustration              | 30 points (20 for questions; 10 for drawing) |
| • Turn it in on the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of school | 10 points                                    |

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100 points (**Reading Test Grade**)

## Questions to Guide Your Reading

**Directions:** Write each comprehension answer in your journal, and your answers should be written using keywords from the question. You must use information or examples from the novel to help explain your answers.

### Chapter 1: Examples

- How do you know that Marty likes animals?  
*I know that Marty likes animals because...* (answer in journal)
- Why isn't Marty's family allowed to have pets?  
*Marty's family is not allowed to have pets because...* (answer in journal)
- What does it mean when Marty gives the dog a name?  
*When Marty gives the dog a name it means...* (answer in journal)

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### Chapter 1

- How do you know that Marty likes animals?
- Why isn't Marty's family allowed to have pets?
- Why does Marty name the dog Shiloh?
- Who does Marty's dad think owns the dog?

### Chapter 2

- How does Marty's dad react when Marty tells him Shiloh has ticks?

### Chapter 3

- What does it say about Judd Travers's character that he does not name his dogs?
- What kind of dog owner is Judd?

### Chapter 4

- What has Marty made for Shiloh?

### Chapter 5

- Why does Judd Travers come to visit Marty's family?
- Does Marty tell Judd the truth?
- Explain Judd's character (his thoughts, his actions, his feelings, his words, etc...)

## **Chapter 6**

- In this chapter what are several of the secrets Marty is hiding from his family and Judd? Explain your answer.
- What kind of person is Judd Travers? Explain your answer.

## **Chapter 7**

- Why doesn't Marty tell David about Shiloh?
- After asking for more cookies for the walk home to give to Shiloh, Marty says to himself, "Seems I'm at the point where I'll do most anything for Shiloh . . . and right and wrong's all mixed up in my head." What does this mean?

## **Chapter 8**

- Why is Marty left alone home?
- How do the townspeople treat Marty's mother?
- Who finds out about Marty's secret?

## **Chapter 9**

- Who is the first person to discover Marty's secret?
- What does this person promise Marty?
- How does Marty feel about this promise?
- Who is the second person to discover Marty's secret?

## **Chapter 10**

- What does Marty hope will happen to Shiloh?
- Marty's father believes that Shiloh belongs with Judd, however; Marty thinks Judd is the wrong person for Shiloh. How does Marty try to convince his father that Judd is the wrong person and/or is mistreating Shiloh?
- Throughout this chapter Marty argues with his dad and tries to convince his dad to keep Shiloh. However, Mr. Preston says, "You've got to go by the law." (pg. 85) What exactly do you think this means? Explain your answer. Do you think that Marty understands? Explain your answer.

## **Chapter 11**

- What are some of the bad things that resulted from Marty keeping Shiloh?
- How does Marty feel after he tells David all about Shiloh? what happened to him?
- Why does Doc Murphy visit Marty's house?

## **Chapter 12**

- What is Marty willing to do to keep Shiloh?
- Why did Marty's dad make him tell Judd Travers? What happened when Judd came to the Preston's house?
- Do you think there is any chance now that Judd will let Marty have the dog?

## **Chapter 13**

- What does Marty do in this chapter that proves to be dangerous for him?

## **Chapter 14**

- All throughout the novel Marty believed that if he can keep Shiloh, he would be so joyful. What things makes him feel different now?

## **Chapter15**

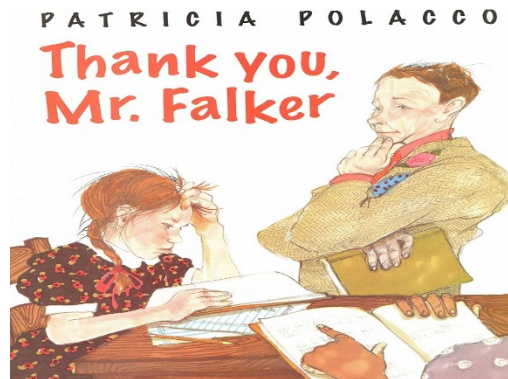
- Should Marty have discussed the situation with Judd to his parents? Why or why not?
- How does Marty get to keep Shiloh?

**St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Rubric for 2025-2026**

1. The student writes journal responses in complete sentences.
2. The student writes three or more sentences to answer each question.
3. The student responds to questions by self-questioning, retelling, predicting, or assuming the role of a character.
4. The student's experiences and opinions are clear.

|                       | <b>Excellent<br/>20</b>                              | <b>Very Good<br/>15</b>                                                | <b>Fair<br/>10</b>                                                           | <b>Poor<br/>5</b>                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapters 1 -5</b>  | The student completes the task with no major errors. | The student completes the task with only a few major and minor errors. | The student completes the task with some major errors and many minor errors. | The student fails to complete the task. |
| <b>Chapters 6 -10</b> | The student completes the task with no major errors. | The student completes the task with only a few major and minor errors. | The student completes the task with some major errors and many minor errors. | The student fails to complete the task. |
| <b>Chapters 11-15</b> | The student completes the task with no major errors. | The student completes the task with only a few major/minor errors.     | The student completes the task with some major errors and many minor errors  | The student fails to complete the task. |

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer (2026) Reading Assignment #2



### Background:

- *Thank you, Mr. Falker* is a children's picture book by author and illustrator Patricia Polacco. It tells the story of a young girl who loves to draw but severely struggles with reading. Her love for drawing helps her to escape the bullying she faces at school. She continues to struggle to read until a caring and understanding schoolteacher recognized her reading disability as dyslexia.

### Materials:

- 1 journal, crayons, pencils, chapter comprehension questions
- *Thank you, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco

### Teacher Note:

- You must read *Thank you, Mr. Falker*, answer the comprehension questions in a journal, and complete 1 illustration (in the journal) depicting a scene from the picture book. As you read the picture book, you will start to develop an understanding of the several meanings (**themes**) in the book, dealing with perseverance, bullying, caring, and confidence. ☺ ☺
- **You may read this book in audio format if available at your local public library.**

### Due Date:

- Your answered questions (in the journal) along with the 1 scene illustration (in the journal) are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class and will be calculated as 2 reading homework grades in the gradebook.

### Grading:

- |                                                   |                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • 10 Comprehension Questions                      | 50 points (10 questions x 5) |
| • 1 Scene Illustration                            | 40 points (drawing)          |
| • Turn it in on the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of school | 10 points                    |
|                                                   | -----                        |
|                                                   | 100 x 2 (200 points total)   |

## Questions to Guide Your Reading

**Directions:** Write each comprehension answer in your journal, and your answers should be written using keywords from the question. You must use information or examples from the novel to help explain your answers. All answers must be legible to the teacher, and the journal must be kept neat.

### Examples

- What did the grandpa drizzle on top of a small book?  
*The grandpa drizzled.....on top of the book.* (answer in journal)
- What is the name of the little girl?  
*The name of the little girl is .....* (answer in journal)
- What does the little girl enjoy doing with her family?  
*The little girl enjoys..... with her family.* (answer in journal)

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- What did the grandpa drizzle on top of a small book? What does this represent? Explain your answer.
- What is the name of the young girl?
- What does the young girl enjoy doing with her family? Explain in detail.
- What happened to the young girl once she entered kindergarten? What happened to her once she entered 1<sup>st</sup> grade?
- What is the one thing the young girl enjoys doing in school? Why?
- Where does the young girl move to? Does she enjoy her new school? Explain.
- Who is the new person the young girl meets in 5<sup>th</sup> grade? Explain.
- Who is Eric? Explain.
- What does Mr. Falker help the young girl do? Explain in detail.
- What is the young girl able to accomplish at the end of the story? Explain in detail.