Dear Incoming Fourth Graders and Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming each of you into our Fourth Grade community! In order to prepare you for what we will be learning about California history, we are requiring that each student read:

Riding Freedom

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan ISBN#: 0-439-08796-1

A packet that accompanies this novel is attached to this letter. Each student needs to:

* Put their name and date heading on the packet
* Reply to all the questions in complete sentences
* Give complete and detailed responses
* Check their work for capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar
* Write neatly and legibly

Please bring the book and the completed packet on the first day of class.

Have a wonderful summer filled with fun, relaxation, and wonderment! We’ll see you at the beginning of the school year!

The Fourth Grade Teachers

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Journal Entry:** Pretend you are Charlotte as a little girl living at the orphanage. Describe what you are like, and what it has been like growing up there. Then tell about your plans for the future. Use details from the text in your description.

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**Visualizing**

Good readers visualize, or make a “mind movie” when they read. It helps them see the story in their mind. We use drawing to practice visualizing.

Visualize Charlotte when she ran away from the orphanage. Draw a picture of how she looked after she cut her hair and changed her clothes.

**Making Connections**

Good readers make connections to text. It helps them understand what they read. Please make the three connections as shown below.

**Text to Text: (**Compare Charlotte to Biddy Mason or a character you have read about in another book.)

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**Text to Self:** (Connect yourself to any character in the book)

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**Text to World:** (How does any one event in the book connect to something you know about the world?)

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