

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2015 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists
For Students Entering Grade 3

PICTURE BOOKS

The Memory of an Elephant: An Unforgettable Journey, by Sophie Strady (2014)

Marcel, an elephant, recalls a lifetime of adventure. This oversize picture book is replete with facts about a variety of topics—vehicles, musical instruments, desserts, and of course elephants.

Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist, by James Solheim (2010)

Students who keep a diary or enjoy journaling will get a kick out of the musings of a newborn writer.

Sparky, by Jenny Offill (2014)

Who says a pet has to be a lot of work? Meet Sparky, a very sweet sloth.

NONFICTION

What's New? The Zoo! A Zippy History of Zoos, by Kathleen Krull (2014)

Before you go to the zoo this summer, take a look at the history of zoos in this book.

Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes, by Nicola Davies (2104)

An introduction to the strange realm of microbes: their minute size, their vast numbers, their diverse forms, and their varied roles in shaping our world as they consume plants, animals (alive or dead), even soil and rocks.

Gus & Me, by Keith Richards (2014)

Fans of the Rolling Stones will surely enjoy this story of how Keith Richards got his first guitar, and everyone can relate to a special moment between a boy and his grandfather.

Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla, by Katherine Applegate (2014)

The extraordinary real story of Ivan, a gorilla captured as a baby and caged for almost thirty years in a mall to attract shoppers. Gradually, public pressure mounted until a better way of life for Ivan was found.

Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space, by Dominic Walliman (2013)

Professor Astro Cat shares all he knows about space—about our solar system, our universe, gravity, space exploration, satellites, stargazing, even the possibility of extraterrestrial life. With retro illustrations and cool design features, this is a book for astronomy beginners as well as enthusiasts.

The Incredible Life of Balto by Meghan McCarthy (2011)

Balto, a sled dog, raced across Alaska to deliver a life-saving serum to the people of Nome. The story shows his rise to fame, his sad middle years, and his return to a safe space at the Brookside Zoo.

CHAPTER BOOKS

A Tangle of Knots, by Lisa Graff (2013)

Everyone has a talent, and eleven-year-old Cady's is knowing the perfect cake for everyone she meets. A series of seemingly unconnected people and events in a slightly magical setting interweaves to reveal her destiny. Includes cake recipes.

Punished! by David Lubar (2006)

When Logan and his friend Benedict get in trouble for roughhousing in the library, Logan is “*pun-ished*” with a series of word-themed challenges. A quick, funny read that is full of word play.

CHAPTER BOOKS IN A SERIES

Humphrey's Tiny Tales, by Betty G. Birney (2014)

Humphrey's Really Wheely Racing Day (2014) and *Humphrey's Playful Puppy Problem* (2014) are the first two installments of this beginning chapter book series starring everyone's favorite class pet.

The Life of Ty, by Lauren Myracle (2013, 2014)

Penguin Problems (2013); *Non-Random Acts of Kindness* (2014)

Ty is the quintessential dreamer full of big ideas and wacky plans. Whether he is battling the family cat with a Dustbuster or smuggling a baby penguin out of the aquarium, he is always in the middle of a well-intended, big-hearted scheme.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL (CYRM) NOMINEES, 2015-2016

A Dog Called Homeless, by Sarah Lean (2012)

Fifth-grader Cally Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother, who died a year earlier; but Cally's sense of loss and isolation are bridged in unusual ways—through visions of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog.

True (...Sort Of), by Katherine Hannigan (2011)

Delly's quick temper and impulsive nature always land her in trouble, until her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new classmate, Ferris, help her find a way to be good—and happy—again.

Wildwood, by Colin Meloy (2011)

Prue's life takes an extraordinary turn when crows kidnap her baby brother. To rescue him, Prue must venture into the Impassable Wilderness, a forest in Portland, Oregon, accompanied by a classmate, Curtis. They discover that the forest is a complex world filled with uniformed animals, peaceful mystics, and other fantastic beings engaged in a violent struggle over the freedom of this wilderness.