

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2015 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists
For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5

PICTURE BOOKS

Knit Your Bit, by Deborah Hopkinson (2013)

Based on a true story from World War I, this simple picture book opens the door to conversations about working together, patriotism, and gender roles.

President Taft Is Stuck in the Bath, by Mac Barnett (2014)

This brash picture book lays bare the facts and rumors surrounding President Taft supposedly getting stuck in his bathtub on the day of his inauguration. Well-placed bubbles and splashes serve to save the President's dignity. Back matter includes photos and information about Taft's numerous commissioned bathtubs.

Winston & George, by John Miller (2014)

The special friendship between George, a rascally plover bird, and George, a patient crocodile, is tested and tested again by the bird's practical joking. The other animals urge Winston to just eat the irritating prankster and be done with it. Finally the teasing and "crying wolf" have unexpected consequences.

NONFICTION

My Country, 'Tis of Thee: How One Song Reveals the History of Civil Rights, by Claire Rudolf Murphy (2014)

The history of an iconic song reveals many aspects of the American fight for freedom. The text is enhanced with eye-catching and sometimes haunting illustrations layered with photographs and intricate paper designs.

You Wouldn't Want to Live Without..., various authors (2015)

Modern-day conveniences, such as cell phones and toilets, and the ingenious ways that people in the past made do without them are explored in this engaging series filled with bite-sized facts and humorous, cartoon illustrations.

Architecture According to Pigeons, by Speck Lee Tailfeather (2013)

From the vantage point of Speck Lee Tailfeather, a pigeon, one can see the world's best-known works of architecture. Each structure is described in historical, cultural, and aesthetic detail. Great for travelers and for aspiring architects or engineers.

Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands, by Katherine Roy (2014)

Action-packed illustrations will lure readers into learning about great whites, among the most fearsome, fascinating, and least understood of animals.

A Boy and a Jaguar, by Alan Rabinowitz (2013)

A true story about a boy who turns his stuttering into a voice to save the jaguars.

Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference (2006), *The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why, You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes* (2007), *Twenty-Odd Ducks: Why, Every Punctuation Mark Counts* (2008) by Lynne Truss

These books humorously show why punctuation is so important in conveying one's intended meaning!

CHAPTER BOOKS

The Only Thing Worse Than Witches, by Lauren Magaziner (2014)

Wanting to get away from Mrs. Frabbleknacker (the meanest teacher in school), Rupert Campbell becomes apprenticed to Witchling Two, who will need all the help she can get if she is to pass her witching exams. Friendship triumphs in this funny and magical read.

The Terrible Two, by Mac Barnett and Jory John (2015)

Dueling mischief-makers combine forces to carry out the biggest prank ever.

The Night Gardener, by Jonathan Auxier (2014)

Irish orphans Molly and Kip travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be. Eerie mystery and spine-chilling suspense served up with just the right amount of humor.

Glory Be, by Augusta Scattergood (2012)

A coming-of-age story about Glory, an eleven-year-old girl in Mississippi who becomes aware of the civil rights movement during the summer of 1964.

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.