

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2016 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists
For Students Entering Grades 1 and 2

PICTURE BOOKS

Princess Sparkleheart Gets a Makeover, by Josh Schneider (2014)

Amelia loves Princess Sparkleheart, and they do almost everything together. Princess Sparkleheart has “an accident,” and Amelia and her mother repair her. Will someone else in the household now love Princess Sparkleheart too?

Leo: A Ghost Story, by Mac Barnett (2015)

Leo, a child ghost, leaves his home when its new occupants fear him. He soon meets Jane and discovers the wonder and joy of a true friend. Cut-paper collages capture Leo’s emotional journey.

Gaston, by Kelly DiPucchio (2014)

Gaston works hard at being a proper pooch along with his poodle sisters. But after a chance encounter with a bulldog family in the park, Gaston questions where he belongs. In the end he discovers that family is about love, not appearances.

Ice Cream Summer, Peter Sís (2015)

Replying to his grandfather’s letter to tell him all the things he’s learned that summer, Peter doesn’t mention the one subject everything revolves around. It turns out Peter and his grandfather are like-minded!

Rude Cakes, by Rowboat Watkins (2015)

Rude cakes never say thank you, never apologize, and never take turns. One such cake, two-tiered and pink, terrorizes her fellow pastries until a large Cyclops teaches her a lesson in manners.

Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run! An Alphabet Caper, by Mike Twohy (2016)

When a bouncing ball wakes a sleeping mouse, it’s the beginning of an alphabet adventure.

Rufus the Writer, by Elizabeth Bram (2015)

Instead of a lemonade stand, Rufus sets up a story stand. Business is brisk, and the customers are delighted.

Lenny & Lucy, by Philip C. Stead (2015)

Homemade guardians Lenny and Lucy protect Peter and his dog from the dark, scary woods and help him find fun and friendship at his new home.

Waiting, by Kevin Henkes (2015)

In this gentle story of five animal figurines waiting together by the window, readers and characters meet new friends, observe the unhurried passage of the seasons, and anticipate what may come next.

NONFICTION

Hippos Are Huge! by Jonathan London (2015)

The hippo, with its monstrous jaw and razor-sharp tusks, is the most dangerous animal in Africa. This book is filled with fascinating facts about the fierce but sometimes playful hippopotamus.

Beatrix Potter and Her Paint Box, by David McPhail (2015)

Even from a young age Beatrix Potter loved to paint the bunnies, mice, and other pets who shared her family home. These characters later came to life in her beloved stories. Add this simple, accessible, illustrated biography as a companion read-aloud the next time *Peter Rabbit* is enjoyed.

Gingerbread for Liberty, by Mara Rockliff (2015)

Based on a true story, readers will enjoy learning how a German baker used his talents to help the Americans during the Revolutionary War. A good read aloud for Independence Day.

I'm Trying to Love Spiders, by Bethany Barton (2015)

Even if you don't love spiders, this book is so much fun, you may not realize how much you're learning about them.

CHAPTER BOOKS

James to the Rescue, by Elise Broach (2015)

When Marvin the beetle goes collecting with his family he needs James's help to save Uncle Albert before it's too late. Based on characters from *Masterpiece* (2008) and *The Miniature World of Marvin and James* (2015), both by Elise Broach.

The Cat on the Mat Is Flat and ***The Big Fat Cow that Goes Kapow***, by Andy Griffiths (2009, 2010)

Two very funny books composed of numerous short stories for beginning readers.

Mrs. Noodlekugel, Mrs. Noodlekugel and Four Blind Mice, and ***Mrs. Noodlekugel and Drooly the Bear***, by Daniel Pinkwater (2012, 2013, 2015)

Join Nick and Maxine and their unusual babysitter/neighbor Mrs. Noodlekugel as they make ginger mice cookies, visit the eye doctor, and try to teach a bear to dance.

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same, ***Ling & Ting: Share a Birthday***, ***Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly***, and ***Ling & Ting: Together in All Weather***, by Grace Lin (2010, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Identical twins Ling and Ting have fun in these irresistible early readers.

Piper Green and the Fairy Tree and ***Piper Green and the Fairy Tree: Too Much Good Luck***, by Ellen Potter (both 2015)

Piper Green always says what's on her mind (even when she probably shouldn't). Can the Fairy Tree in her front yard help Piper adjust to her new teacher? In book two, Piper's friend Jacob informs her that too much good luck can equal bad luck.