

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2016 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists
For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5

PICTURE BOOKS

The Good Lion, by Beryl Markham, adapted by Don Brown (2005)

This picture book, adapted from a story in Beryl Markham's wonderful memoir *West with the Night*, will get readers thinking about what makes a good lion.

Ideas Are All Around, by Philip C. Stead (2016)

In search of writing ideas, an author takes a walk with his dog around the neighborhood.

The Tree in the Courtyard: Looking Through Anne Frank's Window, by Jeff Gottesfeld (2016)

Anne Frank's heartbreaking holocaust story is told with tenderness and sensitivity from the perspective of the tree that grew outside her father's factory and stretched up to the attic where her family was hidden.

NONFICTION

Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine, by Heather Lang (2016)

Exposed to the elements in her small bi-plane, Ruth Law took off November 19, 1916, on a flight from Chicago to New York. Experts thought the flight was doomed, but she ended up making aviation history.

Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France, by Mara Rockliff (2015)

Dr. Mesmer enchanted the people of France for a time—until Ben Franklin used the scientific method to discredit Mesmer's practices. With extensive back matter and detailed illustrations, this sophisticated book is ideal for young scientists or historians.

CHAPTER BOOKS

The War that Saved My Life, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (2015)

Nine-year-old Ada has been kept in her cramped apartment her whole life by her mother, who is ashamed of Ada's twisted foot. When children are evacuated from London during World War II, Ada and her younger brother are taken in by childless Susan Smith. All three are transformed by the experience.

Pax, by Sara Penneypacker (2016)

Pax and Peter—a fox and a boy—have been inseparable since Peter rescued Pax as a kit. When Peter's dad enlists in the military, he makes Peter return the fox to the wild. Peter realizes this was a mistake and sets off on a 300-mile journey to reunite with Pax.

The Door by the Staircase, by Katherine Marsh (2016)

Happy to be adopted at last, twelve-year-old orphan Mary Hayes soon learns a terrifying secret about her new mother, the mysterious Madame Z. With the help of a new friend, Jacob, Mary learns that the nearby village harbors secrets of its own.

Paper Wishes, by Lois Sepahban (2016)

After the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, ten-year-old Manami is forced to leave her beloved dog behind when her family is sent to Manzanar, an internment camp in the California desert.

Fuzzy Mud, by Louis Sachar (2015)

Taking a shortcut through the off-limits woods to avoid a bully, Tamaya and Marshall encounter fuzzy-looking mud that unleashes a medical and environmental disaster.

The League of Unexceptional Children, by Gitty Daneshvari (2015)

Two unexceptional children are selected for a covert network of spies. The League of Unexceptional Children uses the nation's most average, forgettable, and unexceptional children as spies, because unlike jocks, brainiacs, and prom queens, no one notices them.

Echo, by Pam Muñoz Ryan (2015)

This original fairytale intertwines with three historical fiction plotlines to explore music and its power to save, heal, and liberate.

BOOKS IN A SERIES

Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye, by Tania Del Rio (2015)

A new, heavily illustrated fantasy series follows Warren and the mysteries that surround his family's dilapidated hotel.

Project Alpha, by D.J. MacHale (2015)

Eight young people compete in tests of skill and ingenuity for a place on the Project Alpha team, which will travel the universe in search of a new power source for Earth. The first book in the six-volume *Voyagers* series.

The Forbidden Library, by Django Wexler (2014)

Alice's father is lost at sea, so Alice must go live with an "uncle" whose rural estate includes a mysterious library. It seems her "uncle" is more than he says he is, but then, so is Alice. Followed by ***The Mad Apprentice*** (2015) and ***The Palace of Glass*** (2016).

CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL (CYRM) NOMINEES, 2016-2017

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library, by Chris Grabenstein (2013)

After an overnight party in the spectacular new library created by gamer Luigi Lemoncello, twelve boys and girls are challenged to find a way out. Being good at puzzles helps, as does being a reader.

The Real Boy, by Anne Ursu (2013)

Something sinister has come to the forest of Barrow, and children of the nearby town are mysteriously falling ill. To confront this evil, Oscar, shop boy to a powerful magician, must discover his own power.

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin, by Liesl Shurtliff (2013)

In this clever retelling, Rump is delighted to find he has a knack for spinning straw into gold, but this practice snares him ever deeper in a curse. Rump sets off, accompanied by Red Riding Hood, through a fairy-tale world of pixies and trolls to find out his real name and change his destiny.