

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2017 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists
For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5

Picture Books

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life, by Ashley Bryan (2016)

Based on a document containing only the names and prices of each person, *Freedom Over Me* tells the fictional stories of eleven slaves on the Fairchild Estate. Written in verse, the pages alternate from each person's life on the estate to their past lives and future dreams. Newbery Honor Award 2017.

Chapter Books

Tru & Nelle, by G. Neri (2016)

Fictionalized adventures of childhood friends, now famous authors, Truman Capote and Harper Lee. They tell stories of their wild adventures while growing up in Alabama and of a great mystery to be solved.

Full of Beans, by Jennifer L. Holm (2016)

Ten-year-old Beans Curry engages in various schemes to earn money in Depression-era Key West, Florida, while "New Dealers" from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn run down Key West into a tourist resort.

Masterminds, by Gordon Korman (2015)

Life in Serenity, New Mexico, is perfect—too perfect. A few of the town's children begin to ask questions and find themselves on the run from everyone, even their parents. The story continues in ***Criminal Destiny*** (2016) and ***Payback*** (2017).

The Nine Lives of Jacob Tibbs, by Cylin Busby (2016)

The runt of the litter, ship's cat Jacob Tibbs strives to honor his mother's memory as renowned ratter and weather forecaster. After Jacob, the captain, and several crew members are wrongly cast out, they struggle to survive and find their way home.

Save Me a Seat, by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan (2016)

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and joins forces with Joe when they are united by a common enemy—the biggest bully in their class.

The Evil Wizard Smallbone, by Delia Sherman (2016)

When twelve-year-old Nick runs away from a dismal life, he finds himself a reluctant apprentice to a supposedly evil wizard. Aided by a magical bookshop with an agenda of its own, Nick begins to discover his own talents, and possibly an odd little place to call home.

Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom, by Booki Vivat (2017)

Middle school for a middle child--lots of relatable drama here.

Chapter Books in a Series

Warren the 13th and the Whispering Woods, by Tania Del Rio (2017)

Fans of *Warren the 13th* won't be disappointed in the second book in this slightly creepy, perfectly illustrated series. Humor, drama, mystery, and adventure combine to make a very satisfying read.

Creature Keepers and the Burgled Blizzard-Bristles, by Peter Nelson and Rohitash Rao (2016)

The third book of the *Creature Keepers* series finds Abbie, Jordan, and Eldon traveling to the snowy Himalayas to find the Yeti and save the world once again.

Nonfiction

Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African-American Women Who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space (Young Readers' Edition), by Margot Lee Shetterly (2016)

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden worked in the early days of the space program as mathematicians, calculating the numbers needed to launch rockets and astronauts into space. These women made amazing contributions and changed the face of NASA.

The Secret Project, by Jonah Winter (2016)

For history buffs interested in World War II. This stark picture book will spark interesting conversations about the atomic bomb.

Radiant Child, by Javaka Steptoe (2016)

This poetic and poignant picture book biography of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat tells of his rise to fame in the 1980s when he took the art world by storm, proving art does not have to be neat, clean, or within the lines to be beautiful.

California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) Nominees

Ms. Rapscott's Girls, by Elise Primavera (2015)

At the Great Rapscott School for Daughters of Busy Parents, headmistress Ms. Rapscott teaches her trepidatious students about adventure, birthday cake, and their own bravery.

Dash, by Kirby Larson (2016)

As World War II rages and people of Japanese descent are forced into internment camps, Mitsi Kashino is separated from her home, her classmates, and her beloved dog. Will Mitsi's life ever return to normal?

Pax, by Sara Pennypacker (2016)

When Peter's father makes him return Pax, a tame fox, to the wild, Peter realizes almost immediately that doing so was a terrible mistake. Peter sets out to find Pax, and Pax is likewise looking for Peter. Their journeys are challenging and transformative.