

**Manhattan Beach Unified School District**  
**2018 Summer Pleasure Reading**  
**Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists**  
**For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5**

**Picture Books**

***White Water***, by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein (2011)

Share in a young boy's empowering realization that there really is no difference between the water from "white" and "colored" drinking fountains.

***Nothing Rhymes with Orange***, by Adam Rex (2017)

All the fruits gather together to enjoy a rhyming party, but poor Orange feels left out because he does not rhyme with anything...until Apple invents a new word.

***Remembering Vera***, by Patricia Polacco (2017)

A stray dog secretly adopted by the men of a U.S. Coast Guard base in San Francisco Bay proves to be a hero. Inspired by a true story.

***The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle***, by Jude Isabella (2015)

In many parts of the world, bicycles are the best way to bring goods to market or travel on rough roads between remote villages. This is the story of how one child with a desire to make a difference can change lives across the world.

***The Raft***, by Jim LaMarche (2000)

Nicky is not happy about spending his summer with his grandma in the woods of Wisconsin, but when Nicky comes across an old raft, his summer turns into an unexpected adventure.

**Chapter Books**

***The War I Finally Won***, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (2017)

The sequel to *The War that Saved My Life* continues the story of Ada and her brother Jamie as World War II rages on.

***Turtle in Paradise***, by Jennifer L. Holm (2010)

When Turtle's mother takes a job keeping house for a woman who doesn't like children, Turtle is sent to stay with her aunt and several rowdy boy cousins in Key West, Florida.

***The First Rule of Punk***, by Celia C. Pérez (2017)

“Be yourself”—the first rule of punk, according to Maria Luisa O’Neill-Morales and her dad. After a rough start to seventh grade in a new school, Malú (as she prefers to be called) finds self-expression and belonging by creating zines and starting a punk band.

***The Wishtree***, by Katherine Applegate (2017)

An old red oak tells how he and his crow friend help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree’s trunk.

### **Chapter Books in a Series**

***Warriors***, by Erin Hunter. ***Into the Wild*** (2003)

Dive into this action-packed adventure series that follows the lives of cats as they face danger, treachery, suspense, and mystery.

***The Land of Stories***, by Chris Colfer. ***The Wishing Spell*** (2013)

When twins Connor and Alex fall from the real world into a world of fairy tales, they discover there is more to the real world than meets the eye. This five-book fantasy adventure begins with ***The Wishing Spell*** and concludes with ***Worlds Collide*** (2017), in which a portal between worlds opens at a branch of the New York Public Library.

***Girls Who Code***, by Stacia Deutsch. ***The Friendship Code*** (2017)

This series won’t teach anyone to code but does present the social world of girls and women who code and work in tech fields.

### **Nonfiction**

***Itch! Everything You Didn’t Want to Know About What Makes You Scratch***, by Anita Sanchez (2018)

Using cartoon illustrations and humor, ***Itch!*** provides scientific explanations for the reasons why people itch, describes the animals and plants responsible, and discusses how people have dealt with itching and the impact it has had on history.

***The Secret Project***, by Jonah Winter (2017)

A picture book account of the classified scientific project to create the atomic bomb describes how during World War II, the world’s greatest scientists gathered at a remote location in the desert of New Mexico, where their innovations profoundly changed the world. An informative author’s note provides historical context.

***How To Be an Elephant: Growing Up in the African Wild***, by Katherine Roy (2017)  
Beautifully illustrated informational book about elephant life from birth to maturity.

***Tricky Vic***, by Greg Pizzoli (2015)

The amazing true story of how a swindler was able to sell the Eiffel Tower...twice!!

## **Poetry**

***Poetry for Young People: Edgar Allan Poe***, edited by Brod Bagert (1995)

Step into the dark side with a famous poet, Edgar Allan Poe. If you think all poetry is sweet and nice, guess again. ***Poetry for Young People*** collections also exist for Emily Dickinson, William Shakespeare, Robert Frost, and many other poets.

***Seeing into Tomorrow***, by Richard Wright (2018)

A selection of haiku poems by the acclaimed twentieth-century African-American writer is an accessible introduction to his work and to this poetic form. Includes a brief biography.

***National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry***, edited by J. Patrick Lewis (2015)

Breathtaking photos accompany enjoyable poems about the curiosities and splendors of the natural world. Also ***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry*** (2012).

## **California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) Nominees, 2018-2019**

***Crenshaw***, by Katherine Applegate (2015)

About to start fifth grade, Jackson may be a little old to have an imaginary friend. When his family falls on hard times, though, Crenshaw returns. Crenshaw is an enormous, outspoken cat who is imaginary, but whose much-needed friendship feels very real.

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

During World War II, Ada and her brother, Jamie, are taken in by Susan, who offers them a chance to start over. Can they leave behind their mother's harsh treatment and place their trust in a new, better future?

***Fish in a Tree***, by Linda Mullaly Hunt (2015)

Ally has hidden her inability to read from many people, but her new teacher figures out both that Ally has dyslexia and that she's bright and creative—not the trouble maker she often seems to be. With her new friends Keisha and Albert, who also stand out more than they fit in, Ally learns that great minds don't always think alike.