

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2020 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Resource Specialists
For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5

Picture Books

Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse, by Marcy Campbell (2018)

A wonderful story that encourages empathy and imagination. Does Adrian Simcox have a horse?

Hello Lighthouse, by Sophie Blackall (2018)

Awarded the 2019 Caldecott Medal for its outstanding illustrations, the book shows the dedication and daily life of a lighthouse keeper.

You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks, by Evan Turk (2019)

This gorgeously illustrated book is perfect for sharing before your next trip to one of our National Parks or for anyone who loves nature in all its forms.

Old Rock (Is Not Boring), by Deb Pilutti (2020)

When a large grey rock explains to its friends how it came to be situated in its current location, we learn it started out by being erupted out of a volcano, experienced the age of the dinosaurs, rode a glacier, and eventually--thanks to an earthquake--tumbled into its current resting place. An engaging exploration of deep time.

Chapter Books

The Secret of Nightingale Wood, by Lucy Strange (2016)

A mystical read that will hook you from the first page. The story revolves around a girl named Henrietta and how she learns to see the beauty around her despite enduring many tragic events.

Stand Up, Yumi Chung! by Jessica Kim (2020)

Eleven-year-old Yumi hates her prestigious L.A. prep school and feels she can never measure up to her parents' expectations. Her passion is comedy, and her dream is to be a stand-up comic. In ways that are both heartbreaking and hilarious, Yumi juggles test prep camp, comedy camp, and helping out at her parents' struggling restaurant during one eventful summer.

One-Third Nerd, by Gennifer Choldenko (2019)

Fifth grade is not for amateurs. With his mom and dad divorced, it's Liam's job to rein in his two younger sisters, one who rattles the neighbors with her science experiments and one who has Down syndrome. But what is really rocking Liam's world is that his beloved dog Cupcake is having little accidents, and the landlord says the dog has to go.

We're Not from Here, by Geoff Rodkey (2019)

Earth is uninhabitable, and Mars isn't working out either, so Lan and much of the human race head to planet Choom, home of the Zhuri. The Zhuri invited the humans, but that was before the twenty-year journey it took to get there. Unfortunately, in the meantime, the Zhuri have changed their mind. If humanity is to survive, it is up to Lan's family to win them over.

To Night Owl from Dogfish, by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer (2019)

When their dads start dating, two dissimilar girls are sent to the same summer camp in the hope that they will become friends. Instead, as they conspire to break up the budding romance, they set in motion a variety of relationships and revelations. A clever epistolary update of *The Parent Trap*.

Chapter Books in a Series

Zeus The Mighty, by Crispin Boyer

The Quest For the Golden Fleas (2019)

Greek mythology meets cute talking animals. Get ready to laugh, cheer, and learn with this adorable and quirky cast of characters in their unforgettable first adventure--a reimagining of the tale of the Golden Fleece.

Nonfiction

Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (2017)

This picture book biography will have you admiring Chef Choi and the excitement he brings to food and neighborhoods.

Nonsense! The Curious Story of Edward Gorey, by Lori Mortensen (2020)

Edward Gorey worked quietly in a publisher's art department until he began to write and illustrate small, odd books himself. A peculiar blend of preciousness and menace, his creations appalled some and enchanted others. Gorey was an unusual, imaginative man, and this story provides an affirmation of being different.

A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights, by Kathleen Krull (1999)

Have you ever wanted to learn about your Constitutional freedoms and what exactly are your rights? Dive into this informational book to get to know who the American forefathers were and why they fought for liberty.

Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet, by Curtis Manley (2019)

Planet Earth is not too big, not too small, not too hot, and not too cold--it's just right. Are there other habitable planets besides Earth? If there are, are they home to other beings like us?

Noisemakers: 25 Women Who Raised Their Voices and Changed the World, a graphic collection from Kazoo (2020)

A selection of leading women comic artists profile the lives of twenty-five remarkable women role models who changed history, from Raye Montague, who revolutionized ship design, to Kate Warne, a detective who saved Abraham Lincoln's life.

Graphic Novels

This Was Our Pact, by Ryan Andrews (2019)

Two boys go on a fantastical quest to find out if the paper lanterns that float down the river as part of the autumn festival really turn into stars, as the old folk song says. Including a talking "fisherbear" and other magical beings, the journey leads to wonder and unexpected friendship.

Cardboard Kingdom, by Chad Sell (2018)

Meet sixteen neighborhood kids who transform ordinary cardboard into fantastical homemade costumes as they explore conflicts involving friends, family, and their own identity.

Evil Emperor Penguin, by Laura Ellen Anderson (2017)

Follow the adventures of an evil emperor penguin, his sidekick Number 8, and an incredibly cuddly abominable snowman as they try to destroy the world.

California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) Nominees, 2020-2021

Restart, by Gordon Korman (2017)

Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof--or anything else. When he wakes up in a hospital room, he has no memory of his past or his identity. What starts as a question of who he was becomes a question of who he wants to be.

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

Fifth-graders Joe and Ravi do not seem to have much in common until they realize they share the same big problem and the same goal: they both want to defeat the school bully and regain control of their own lives.

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street, by Karina Yan Glaser (2017)

When their curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew the lease on their treasured brownstone home, the five Vanderbeeker children have eleven days to convince the landlord to change his mind.