

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2021 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Resource Specialists
For Students Entering Grades 1 and 2

Picture Books

Follow That Frog! by Philip C. Stead (2021)

When the admiral's son is swallowed by a giant frog, Aunt Josephine (a considerably younger version of herself) gives chase, taking her on adventures around the world.

Mel Fell, by Corey R. Tabor (2021)

Follow little bird Mel on her journey from downward fall to triumphant flight in this tale of self-confidence. New and emerging readers will delight in the accessible text with an engaging format that has readers holding the book by the sides and flipping it half-way through the story to enhance the action.

Our Favorite Day of the Year, by A. E. Ali (2020)

From around the world to right here, there are so many different special days to celebrate. Focusing on Eid al-Fitr, Rosh Hashanah, Christmas, and Pi Day, this book may inspire readers to find out more about world cultures and celebrations.

Swashby and the Sea, by Beth Ferry (2020)

Mr. Swashby, a sailor, has retired "to a small house on a small beach as close to the sea as he could be." He's determined to live a quiet life on his own, but the sea has other ideas--involving a lively girl and her grandmother, who move in next door.

Find Fergus, by Mike Boldt (2020)

A bear wants to play hide and seek with the reader, but will need help and practice to hide well. The final pages provide a genuine seek-and-find challenge.

Sharko and Hippo, by Elliott Kalan (2020)

A shark's plan to go fishing unravels when his friend provides the wrong equipment. Emerging readers will chuckle while practicing word recognition, and laugh at the surprise ending.

Chapter Books

Too Small Tola, by Atinuke (2021)

Tola lives in Lagos, Nigeria, with her brother and sister who call her “Too Small Tola.” The three short chapters tell of Tola's adventures proving that though she may be small in size, she is mighty in heart and determination.

Our Friend Hedgehog, by Lauren Castillo (2021)

Told in the style of the Winne-the-Pooh stories, this gentle adventure begins with a storm that separates Hedgehog from her lifelong friend, Mutt. Hedgehog bravely sets out to find him and makes some very good friends in the process.

A Long Road on a Short Day, by Gary D. Schmidt and Elizabeth Stickney (2020)

Samuel and his father enter into a series of trades with neighbors and strangers to see if they can come home with a brown-eyed milk cow for Mama. Set in the late 1800s, this winter story about what makes a fair trade is perfect to read on a hot summer day.

Chapter Books in a Series

A is for Elizabeth, by Rachel Vail

Doodlebug Elizabeth (2020)

Elizabeth gives her teacher a great idea with her doodles in the fourth book in the series. Soon every student in room 2B gets to choose an animal to learn about, and Elizabeth learns all about handling big feelings and big surprises.

Poetry

Pug and Other Animal Poems, by Valerie Worth (2013)

These short illustrated animal poems offer a small glimpse into the behavior of a wide variety of animals.

Nonfiction

Crossings, by Katy S. Duffield (2020)

As people encroach on animal habitats, wildlife lose their ability to move about in search of food, shelter, and others of their species. Recognizing this, people are now building wildlife crossings to ensure animals' survival. Perfect for young readers interested in conservation or engineering, as well as families going on a summer road trip.

The Lights and Types of Ships at Night, by Dave Eggers (2020)

Ships and boats at night, with their lights reflecting off the water, are as beautiful as they are useful. This is a factual book about specific types of vessels (such as trawlers, container ships, and icebreakers) that encourages readers to form opinions and appreciate beauty wherever it may be found.

The Polio Pioneer: Dr. Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine, by Linda Elovitz Marshall (2021)

A timely picture book biography that describes the life and scientific contributions of Jonas Salk (1914-1995). Born in New York City to poor Eastern European Jewish refugee parents, Jonas was a thinker and a dreamer as a child: he saw soldiers returning home from WWI with injuries; he witnessed the devastation of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918. Such experiences inspired him to want to help make the world a better place when he grew up. Through research, experimentation, and hard work, he helped to create the first flu vaccine and later, famously, the polio vaccine.