

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
2019 Summer Pleasure Reading
Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Resource Specialists
For Students Entering Grade 3

Picture Books

Charlotte the Scientist Is Squished, by Camille Andros (2017)

Budding scientists will love this fun introduction to the problem-solving technique known as the scientific method.

Stay: A Girl, a Dog, a Bucket List, by Kate Klise (2017)

This book is for everyone who has ever loved and lost a dog. It reminds us of the importance of just being together.

Great Big Guinea Pigs, by Susan L. Roth (2006)

We all know about great big dinosaurs, but did you know there were also great big guinea pigs that roamed the earth about eight million years ago? This fascinating book is a great way to learn more about this interesting fact.

Sleepy, the Goodnight Buddy, by Drew Daywalt (2018)

Roderick hated going to bed. Each night he would think of every possible excuse to try to stay up longer. When his parents get him a stuffed animal designed to help him fall asleep, Roderick just can't with those big eyes staring, staring, staring at him.

Mission Defrostable (Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast #3), by Josh Funk (2018)

Why is there a sudden frost in the fridge? Help Agent Asparagus solve the case along with Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast. Who will save the fridge, or are they doomed to be frozen food forever? Also ***Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast*** (2015) and ***The Case of the Stinky Stench*** (2017).

Chapter Books in a Series

Big Foot and Little Foot, by Ellen Potter (2018)

Hugo is a sasquatch who longs for adventure. He accidentally meets up with Boone, a young boy, and the two team up to search for mythical creatures. Although they are from different worlds, the two unlikely friends actually have a lot in common. Also ***The Monster Detector*** (2019) and ***The Squatchicorns*** (coming October 2019).

Dragon Masters: Rise of the Earth Dragon, by Tracey West (2014)

Eight-year-old Drake is chosen to be a Dragon Master, like Ana, Rori, and Bo. At first his dragon does not seem very special, but Drake discovers his dragon's talent and helps out when another Dragon Master gets into trouble. Thirteen fully illustrated, early chapter books. ***The Land of the Spring Dragon*** is expected in September 2019.

Chapter Books

The Wild Robot, by Peter Brown (2016)

An exciting story that brings together nature and technology. Roz is a robot who is stranded on an island. She learns how to adapt to her environment by studying the survival skills of animals on the island. Followed by ***The Wild Robot Escapes*** (2018).

Knights vs. Dinosaurs, by Matt Phelan (2018)

With the realm at peace and few dragons about, the Knights of the Round Table do not have much to do, so Merlin sends them on an adventure to a world filled with dinosaurs. Epic in plot, not length, and illustrated throughout.

Bob, by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead (2018)

It has been five years since Livy and her family visited Livy's grandmother in drought-stricken Australia, but Bob--a small greenish creature in a chicken suit--has not forgotten Livy, or her promise to help him find his way back to wherever he belongs.

Nonfiction

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles, by Patricia Valdez (2018)

Joan Procter's love of reptiles began in childhood, when she had tea parties with pet lizards and walked a baby crocodile on a leash. As an adult, she attained top positions at the British Museum and the Zoological Society of London at a time when not many women had. This is a great unconventional story for boys and girls who love animals, especially komodo dragons, which were among Procter's favorites.

An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin and Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution, by Beth Anderson (2018)

Once upon a revolutionary time, two great American patriots tried to make life easier. They knew how hard English words were to spell. They knew that sounds didn't match letters. But even for great thinkers, what seems easy can turn out to be hard.

The Reasons for Seasons, by Gail Gibbons (1995)

This book covers the tilt of the earth, the hemispheres, the equator, and the relationship between the sun and the seasons on earth.

The Boo-boos that Changed the World: A True Story About an Accidental Invention (Really!), by Barry Wittenstein (2018)

Summer adventures can lead to skinned knees! Good thing Earle Dickson invented Band-Aids, as described in this amusing nonfiction picture book.

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13, by Helaine Becker (2018)

This is the story of a prominent mathematician at NASA who not only calculated the course of moon missions but saved lives and made enormous contributions to history.

Poetry

Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures, photographs by Joel Sartore, text by Kwame Alexander (2017)

This beautifully illustrated poetry book takes us on a journey through the animal kingdom, highlighting species that are near extinction. The book inspires wonder and invites us to save these incredible animals.

California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) Nominees, 2019-2020

The Detective's Assistant, by Kate Hannigan (2016)

Nell Warne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is taken in by her Aunt Kate, who turns out to be a Pinkerton Agency detective. Set in Chicago just before the Civil War, this historical fiction is based on real-life Kate Warne, America's first female professional sleuth.

The Losers Club, by Andrew Clements (2017)

Sixth-grader Alec creates a club just for himself--a club for reading. He calls it the Losers Club to make sure no one else joins, but others do, including Alec's former friend turned bully and the girl Alec just might be starting to like.

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

As World War II continues, Ada, Jamie, and Susan are living in a cottage with Lady Thornton and her daughter, Maggie. Tensions rise when Ruth, a German Jewish girl, comes to stay, but the life-and-death issues of war ultimately foster understanding.