

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

2008 Summer Pleasure Reading

Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists

For Students Entering Grade 3

Picture Books

Pictures from Our Vacation, by Lynne Rae Perkins (2007)

A heartwarming, humorous story of one family's vacation to an old family farm. The family's camera captures many disappointments along the way such as a cracked pool and unceasing rain. However, in the end a family reunion turns all the bad experiences into the most cherished summer memories.

Chapter Books

The Spiderwick Chronicles, by Tony DiTerlizzi (2003 -2004)

Chronicles the adventures of the Grace children after they go to stay at their Great-Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house and discover a field guide to fairies and other magical creatures. Might be fun to compare with the movie! Titles include: *Book 1, The Field Guide; Book 2, The Seeing Stone; Book 3, Lucinda's Secret; Book 4, The Ironwood Tree; Book 5, The Wrath of Mulgarath.*

Just Grace, by Charise Mericle Harper (2007)

Grace likes a lot of things, especially cats and drawing comics. When her neighbor's cat goes missing, Grace comes up with a plan to help; but despite her good intentions, the plan lands her in some trouble. Maybe Sammy Stringer, a boy from class whom Grace dislikes, will be able to help her out. Try the next volume, too: *Still Just Grace* (2008).

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little, by Peggy Gifford (2007)

Nine-year-old Moxy has not begun her summer reading assignment: to read *Stuart Little*—and she is running out of time! For more of Moxy, there is also *Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-You Notes* (2008).

Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House, by Haven Kimmel (2008)

Already the target of class bullies, Kaline Klattermaster is facing a new, even bigger problem: his extremely orderly father has left, and Kaline is not sure where he is or why he has gone. With the help of a kind neighbor, and supported by the love of his very creative mother, Kaline builds a stronger place for himself in his changing world.

Series Chapter Books

Barnstormers, by Loren Long and Phil Bildner (2007-2008)

The three Payne children travel the country with a “barnstorming” baseball team and a magical memento: a baseball that belonged to their father. With an old-fashioned feel and lots of old-time baseball slang, these books will be a hit with baseball fans and readers who enjoy stories of resourceful young people who find mystery and magic in real-world settings. Look for *Game 1: Porkopolis* (2007), *Game 2: River City* (2007); *Game 3: The Windy City* (2008).

Sideways Stories from Wayside School, by Louis Sachar (c1985)

This offbeat collection has been around for a while but is still as funny as ever. Wayside School was built wrong: it stands thirty stories tall, with each floor being only one classroom wide. The students of Wayside School are a wild and weird bunch, and the thirty very short stories in this book are sure to keep readers laughing. See also *Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger* and *Wayside School Is Falling Down*.

Nonfiction

Nic Bishop Spiders (2007) and **Nic Bishop Frogs** (2008), by Nic Bishop

Both of these books combine spectacular photographs with a manageable amount of interesting textual information. Unlike so many of the highly illustrated nonfiction books to which young readers are drawn, these are books that young readers are likely actually to read.

A Library Story: Building a New Central Library, by Jennifer Vogel (2007)

When visiting your local library this summer, it might be fun to think about how libraries come into being. *A Library Story* describes the construction of a Minneapolis Central Library building, from its design by renowned architect Cesar Pelli through demolition of the old building and then all the practical and aesthetic steps that culminated in the completion of the building in May 2006.

You Wouldn't Want to ... (series), by various authors (2000-2008)

The many “You Wouldn't Want to...” volumes are humorous and educational explorations of the cultural trials and tribulations experienced in the past. With a lighthearted tone and hilarious illustrations, these books will draw in even the most reluctant readers. Some titles: *You Wouldn't Want to Be a Roman Gladiator! Gory Things You'd Rather Not Know*; *You Wouldn't Want to Be an American Colonist! A Settlement You'd Rather Not Start*; and *You Wouldn't Want to Be an Egyptian Mummy! Disgusting Things You'd Rather Not Know*.

Visit the California Reading List Web Site <http://star.cde.ca.gov> referenced by California Reading List Number (1-13+) on your child's STAR (Cat 6) test report (Your child's reading list number is...).