

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

2010 Summer Pleasure Reading

Non-required reading recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists

For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5

Big Nate in a Class by Himself by Lincoln Peirce (2010: 214 pages)

In this irreverent look at middle school life, Ned Wright is a sixth grader who can make earning detentions from all of his teachers in one day seem like something to brag about. Fans of Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series will love this one – a mix of prose and cartoons.

Extra Credit by Andrew Clements (2009: 183 pages)

To avoid having to repeat sixth grade Abby is offered an extra-credit pen pal project and corresponds with studious Sadeed who lives in a mountainous village in Afghanistan, though the villagers don't approve of him writing to a girl. The plot twists at the end in this topical story of international relations that could be ripped from today's headlines.

Flawed Dogs by Berkeley Breathed (2009: 208 pages)

After being framed by a jealous poodle, a dachshund is left for dead but returns to disrupt the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show and exact revenge on Cassius the Poodle. Spoiler alert: the dogs are not well-treated in this book, but there is a happy ending.

Greetings from Planet Earth by Barbara Kerly (2007: 256 pages)

2010-2011 California Young Reader Medal Nominee

It's 1977, and Theo and his class are creating a golden record inspired by the one Voyager 2 will carry into space as a greeting from Earth. But as Theo searches for an original answer to his teacher's question, other questions begin to surface: What happened to his father in Vietnam?

Igraine the Brave by Cornelia Funke (2007: 212 pages)

2010-2011 California Young Reader Medal Nominee

The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight; and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.

The Magic Thief by Sarah Prineas (2008: 448 pages).

A rich, magical read that will thrill fantasy fans for hours.

The Name of This Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch (2007: 384 pages)

Readers can't resist the clever title or the warning on the first page. Join the adventure that begins with the discovery of a magician's notebook.

One Beetle Too Many by Kathryn Lasky (2009: 48 pages)

A richly illustrated biography of Charles Darwin and his studies of flora and fauna as a naturalist aboard the *Beagle* and the publication of his controversial book, *The Origin of Species*, in 1859.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff (2002: 176 pages)

Hollis Woods has been in many foster homes, even running away from a family who offers her a home. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist, she wants to stay. But will Social Services take her away if they discover the truth about Josie? 2003 Newbery Honor Book.

A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck (2009: 176 pages)

Mrs. Dowdel, the colorful character from *A Year Down Yonder* and *A Long Way from Chicago*, shows that compassion and kindness don't necessarily come from where we most expect.

The Unfinished Angel by Sharon Creech (2009:164 pages)

A quirky mischievous angel in the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland teams up with a free-spirited American girl to create a series of small miracles in this off-beat, up-beat, tender, comical story.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (2009: 199 pages)

In 1978 New York City, twelve-year-old Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. Winner of the 2010 Newbery Medal.

The Wish Stealers by Tracy Trivas (2010: 288 pages)

When Griffin Penshine is tricked into accepting a box of shiny Indian Head pennies, she soon learns these are no ordinary pennies, but stolen wishes. They come with a curse: Wish Stealers never have their own wishes granted. Will Griffin be able to set things right and reverse the curse?

Zorgamazoo by Robert Paul Weston (2008: 288 pages)

2010-2011 California Young Reader Medal Nominee

Zorgamazoo tells the rhyming tale of a young girl named Katrina and Morty the zorgle. It isn't long before Katrina and Morty uncover an intergalactic conspiracy that threatens the existence of every last mythical creature on the planet!