

**Manhattan Beach Unified School District**  
**2022 Summer Pleasure Reading**  
**Pleasure reading recommended by MBUSD Library Resource Specialists**  
**For Students Entering Grades K and 1**

**Picture Books**

***I am Golden, by Eva Chen (2022)***

Everyone should see beauty when they look in the mirror. This book will speak especially to those of Chinese-American descent.

***Dozens of Dachshunds, by Stephanie Calmenson (2021)***

A thoroughly enjoyable story to read aloud and take time pouring over whimsical, detailed illustrations of a parade of costumed pups. Each page features an increasing number of dachshunds, reinforcing counting skills.

***Negative Cat, by Sophie Blackall (2021)***

A little boy's family finally says yes to getting a cat, but only if the child promises to read every day, something the boy does not enjoy. When the cat arrives, he is hardly the perfect pet –he is gloomy, leaves hairballs on the carpet, and stares at the wall. But it turns out that what this cat likes best is being read to. Based on a true event, explained in an author's note.

***A New Day, by Brad Meltzer (2021)***

Sunday feels underappreciated and overworked, so she decides to quit being a day of the week in this amusing picture book. The remaining days of the week host a competition to find a day to replace Sunday. Chaos and hilarity ensues, until a young child's kind act finally convinces Sunday to change her mind.

***Mel Fel, by Corey R. Tabor (2022)- Caldecott Honor Book***

Readers will delight in turning their book sideways and upside down to follow Mel on her journey from downward fall to triumphant flight in this tale of confidence and taking a leap of faith.

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## **Nonfiction Books**

**Steve Jenkins (1952-2021)** wrote and illustrated more than 50 books (often with his wife Robin Page) about science for young children. In plain language and with luminous paper collage he explained how to catch a fly, what animals do the day they are born, the relative size of prehistoric animals, and much more. Take time to explore the animal world of Steve Jenkins this summer.

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## **Chapter Books**

***Mercy Watson to the Rescue*, by Kate DiCamillo (2005)** - Chapter book in a series.

The first book in an exceptionally funny series following a pig named Mercy who loves buttered toast. When Mercy joins her owners in bed one morning, the bed starts to fall through the floor. Mercy rushes downstairs and out the front door. Her owners assume she is going out to find help, but could she have something else on her mind?

***Captain Awesome to the Rescue*, by Stan Kirby (2012)**- Chapter book in a series.

Bad guys beware! Eugene McGillicuddy just happens to be the most awesome superhero of all time...Captain Awesome.

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**For Students Entering Grades 2 and 3**

**Picture Books**

***Thao*, by Thao Lam (2021)**

How would you pronounce the title of this book? Author and illustrator Thao Lam immigrated to Canada from Vietnam when she was very young and her single-syllable name caused such a rumpus at school that one day she decided to try out the name “Jennifer.” Will spark family discussions around identity and self-acceptance.

***The Turtle Ship*, by Helena Ku Rhee (2018)**

Determined to win a battleship design contest, Sun-sin attempts to build an indestructible battleship with a few found items. Each attempt fails miserably and then turns to his pet turtle for inspiration. Loosely based on the true story of Admiral Yi Sun-sin and his Turtle Ship, this delightful tale introduces young readers to a fascinating episode in Korean history and naval engineering.

**Nonfiction Books**

***Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* by Candace Fleming (2020)**

Follow one honeybee through her entire life-cycle. Birth, life within the hive, and life outside among the flowers are all covered. Beautifully illustrated and carefully researched, this book will appeal to nature lovers and insect lovers alike!

***The Girl Who Could Fix Anything* by Mara Rockliff (2021)**

For fans of *Rose Revere, Engineer* comes a story about a real-life girl who wants to be an engineer. Born in 1909, Beatrice Shilling was not like most of the other children who liked to fix things. As she grew up, she continued to find herself out of place in college and at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. But her persistence and determination pay off when Britain enters World War II and Beatrice finally gets to do the work she loves most.

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## **Chapter Books**

### ***Dog Dog Goose*, by W. Bruce Cameron (2020)**

Once a stray dog, Lily lives with her girl Maggie Rose and has a very important purpose: to rescue other animals in trouble. Now a gaggle of orphaned baby geese have imprinted on Lily as their mother. They must learn to fly. Can Lily find a way to teach them? Another charming installment in the ***Lily to the Rescue*** series.

### ***Ada Lace, On the Case*, by Emily Calandrelli (2017)** - Chapter Books in a Series

Ada Lace is a 3rd grade scientist and inventor. Now, with the help of her neighbor Nina, she becomes a detective! Together, they strive to discover who kidnapped their neighbor's Yorkie. The action is complicated by the fact that Ada is housebound after a bungee jumping accident, so she must use her science and technology skills to solve the case.

### ***Magic on the Map*, by Courtney Sheinmel (2019)**- Chapter Books in a Series.

Travel around the United States of America with twins Finn and Molly in this chapter book series that highlights a different state in each book! Each Magic on the Map book includes a map of the US, a map of the state that Finn and Molly visit, and 10 amazing facts about that state.

### ***The Puffin Keeper*, by Michael Morpurgo (2020)**

It begins on a dark and stormy night. A young boy, his mother and several other passengers are rescued by a curmudgeonly lighthouse keeper. Despite his gruffness the man makes a lasting impression on the boy who vows to return and to him. Courage, friendship and strength of character are depicted in a gentle story that evokes another time. Full of delightful illustrations by an award-winning illustrator.

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**For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5**

**Picture Books**

***Adrian Simcox does Not have a Horse*, by Marcy Campbell (2018)**

This is a wonderful story about the power of imagination but is also a great lead into a discussion about what empathy means.

***Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*, by Amanda Gorman (2021)**

Lyrical text and beautiful illustrations combine to encourage everyone to use their voice for positive change.

***Sarah and the Big Wave: The True Story of the First Woman to Surf Mavericks*, by Bonnie Tsui (2021)**

Full of thrills and scientific facts this book tells the inspiring story of Sarah Gerhardt, one of the first female big wave surfers. The book follows Sarah from her childhood in Hawaii to her eventual mastery of epic waves at the famous Mavericks in Half Moon Bay, California. The illustrations feature double page spreads to give readers the feel of being in the ocean.

**Novels**

***The Beatryce Prophecy*, by Kate DiCamillo (2022)**

In this epic medieval fairy tale, Beatryce is found sleeping next to a foul-tempered goat and remembers nothing except her name. Could this bedraggled child be the one destined to unseat a king?

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***Weird Kid*, by Greg van Eekhout (2021)**

Jake Foster is your average 12-year-old, except for one small detail –he’s actually a glob of goo from another planet in the shape of an Arizona middle schooler. He and his friend Agnes are out to solve mysterious oddities they are noticing around town. Witty and imaginative, this sci-fi adventure is full of quirky scenarios, humor, and heart.

***New From Here*, by Kelly Yang (2022)**

Knox Wei-Evans never expected to have to move to another country, but when the COVID-19 virus hits Hong Kong, his mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings to California where they think it will be safe. Knox struggles with being the new kid at school while also standing up against skyrocketing racism. Based on the author’s own lived experience, this is a heartwarming tale of hope and courage in the face of unprecedented times.

***The Poet’s Dog*, by Patricia Maclachlan**

Two children, lost in a snowstorm, are helped by a remarkable dog named Teddy. Teddy can speak but as the poet explained only children and poets can understand him.

***Out of My Heart*, by Sharon Draper (2021)**

*Out of My Heart* is a sequel to Draper’s beloved *Out of My Mind*, but it is not necessary to have read the first to enjoy this novel. Melody, who has cerebral palsy, has a loving family who watches over her closely. Melody thinks that they watch over her a bit *too* closely, and dreams of having a summer camp experience similar to other kids she knows. When she finds a camp for differently-abled children called Camp Green Glades she is over the moon! Once there, she encounters unexpected obstacles and questions whether or not she can handle these new experiences.

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