

**Dear Parents and Students,**

These reading lists have been prepared by the librarians in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in collaboration with the Santa Monica Public Library. The lists provide a selection of good books that children enjoy. Reading levels are suggestions only as every child learns to read at his or her own speed. Children can read many of the books, especially books in a series, by themselves, while others are perfect to read aloud to others. Most authors included on these lists have written more than one good book, and many, such as Christopher Paul Curtis, Ursula LeGuin, and Jack Gantos write for all ages. Some titles are also available as audio books so families can enjoy a good book together.

For extra summer fun, visit your local public library Santa Monica Public Library for reading programs, many of which offer activities and prizes. Santa Monica Public Library's theme for 2010 is "Make a Splash: Read!" Have a wonderful summer vacation, and read, read, read!

**Realistic**

- Blume, Judy. **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing** - Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem.
- Cameron, Ann. **Julian's Glorious Summer** - Julian tries to keep his best friend from discovering that he is too scared to ride a bike.
- Clements, Andrew. **Lunch Money** - Greg wants to sell his self-written comic books at school.
- Creech, Sharon. **Granny Torrelli Makes Soup** - With the help of her wise old grandmother, Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend.
- Davies, Jacqueline. **The Lemonade War** - Evan and his younger sister Jesse battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.
- McGhee, Alison. **Julia Gillian (and the Art of Knowing)** - Julia walks around her Minneapolis neighborhood with her dog Bigfoot and searches for strength to finish a book with a possible sad ending.
- Weeks, Sarah. **Oggie Cooder** - Oggie, a 4th grade "cheese sculptor," is shunned by all the other kids because he's different, that is until he comes to the attention of a popular T.V. talent show that spotlights the weird.

**Humor**

- David, Lawrence. **Horace Splattly** (series) - When fourth grader Horace Splattly eats his sister's special cupcakes, he becomes the Cupcaked Crusader, Blootenville Elementary's superhero.
- Gantos, Jack. **Jack Adrift: Fourth Grade Without a Clue** (series) - Ten-year-old Jack becomes confused by a crush on his teacher, contradictory advice from his parents, and a very strange neighbor.
- Look, Lenore. **Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters** - Alvin Ho, an Asian-American, must face his biggest fear: The Great Outdoors.
- Morris, Gerald. **The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great** - A humorous version of Sir Lancelot from the Arthurian legend who is equally at home fighting knights with his sword as with his wits.
- Lowry, Lois. **The Willoughbys** - The four Willoughby children try to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on an adventure.
- Rockwell, Thomas. **How To Eat Fried Worms** - A boy sets out to eat fifteen worms in fifteen days in order to win a bet.
- Sachar, Louis. **Wayside School** (series) - Unusual things happen in Wayside School, which was built sideways with one classroom on each story.
- Smith, Robert K. **Chocolate Fever** - Henry breaks out in brown bumps from eating too much chocolate.

**Nonfiction & Poetry**

- Claybourne, Anna. **The Science of a Glass of Water** - Learn what water is, how we use it, and why our world may be running dry.
- Rosen, Michael J. **Balls!** - All about basketball, soccer, football, tennis, handball, golf, volleyball, and ping pong balls.
- Silverstein, Shel. **Where the Sidewalk Ends** - A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are two of the characters in a collection of humorous poetry.

**Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District  
Summer Reading 2010: Incoming Fourth Grade**

**Animal Stories**

Avi. **Poppy** (series) - Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a big field of corn, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

Cleary, Beverly. **The Mouse and the Motorcycle** (series) - Ralph, an adventure-loving mouse, and his adventures on a toy motorcycle.

Dahl, Roald. **Fantastic Mr. Fox** - Mr. Fox is surrounded--and he's going to have to come up with a truly fantastic plan to dig himself out of trouble this time!

Selden, George. **The Cricket in Times Square** - The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

**Mystery & Adventure**

Eager, Edward. **Half Magic** - Four good friends find a magic coin.

Fleischman, Sid. **The Ghost in the Noonday Sun** - Twelve-year-old Oliver tries to escape from pirates who take him to an island to find the ghost and treasure of Gentleman Jack.

Gutman, Dan. **Baseball Card Adventures** (series) – When they touch a baseball card, boys are transported back in time to meet that player such as Mickey Mantle or Shoeless Joe Jackson.

Hale, Bruce. **Chet Gecko** (series) - Detectives Chet Gecko and his partner Natalie Attired try to solve mysteries.

Howe, James and Deborah. **Bunnica** (series) - The madcap tales of the beloved vampire bunny, Bunnica, and his animal pals, Harold, Chester, and Howie.

LeFevers, R.L. **Flight of the Phoenix** - In 1928, when timid ten-year-old Nate learns that his parents have been lost at sea, he joins his father's cousin on a flight to Arabia to oversee the death and rebirth of the phoenix.

**Science Fiction & Fantasy**

Amato, Mary. **The Word Eater** - Lerner Chanse, a new student at Cleveland Park Middle School, finds a worm that magically makes things disappear.

Dahl, Roald. **The BFG** - Kidnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Sophie concocts a plan with him to save the world.

Dahl, Roald. **Matilda** – Matilda uses her mental powers to get rid of her school's evil headmistress and restore financial security to her nice teacher, Miss Honey.

DiTerlizzi, Tony. **The Spiderwick Chronicles** (series) - When the Grace children go to stay at their great aunt's victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.

Lubar, David. **Punished!** – Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth for playing tag in the library, and the Professor puts a spell on him that can only be broken by finding anagrams, palindromes and oxymorons.

Juster, Norton. **The Phantom Tollbooth** – Through the Phantom Tollbooth lies a strange land and stranger adventures for Milo in his quest for Rhyme and Reason.

**Historical Fiction**

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **All the Way Home** - When fire destroys the apple crop on his family's upstate New York farm in 1941, Brick's parents must find work elsewhere and send their son to live temporarily in Brooklyn.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Riding Freedom** - Charlotte Parkhurst knows the world of the 1860s holds more opportunities for boys than girls, so she cuts off her hair, dons boys' clothing, and begins a new life as a boy.

Taylor, Mildred. **The Friendship** - Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. **Little House on the Prairie** (series) Join Laura and her family on their adventures on America's frontier.

Yep, Laurence. **When the Circus Came to Town** - An Asian cook and a Chinese New Year celebration help a girl at a stage coach station to regain her confidence after smallpox scars her face.