

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

**2011 Summer Pleasure Reading  
Recommended by MBUSD Library Media Specialists**

**For Students Entering Grades 1 and 2**

**Picture Books**

***13 Words*** by Lemony Snicket (2010)

Starting with “bird” and finishing with “mezzo-soprano,” Lemony Snicket constructs a tale likely to intrigue not just young readers but also anyone who loves words.

***A Bedtime for Bear*** by Bonnie Becker (2010)

Bear and Mouse, the pair from the very popular *A Visitor for Bear*, are back in this sleepover story. Bear wants absolute quiet as he falls asleep, but Mouse keeps disturbing him. When a few nighttime noises trouble Bear, though, he is glad to have his friend Mouse right there.

***Bink and Gollie*** by Kate DiCamillo (2010)

Meet two precocious little girls — one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter and pancakes, they share three comical adventures.

***Chicken Big*** by Keith Graves (2010)

This big twist on the classic *Chicken Little* story lends a whole new perspective to what it means to be a chicken.

***How Rocket Learned to Read*** by Tad Hills (2010)

Rocket the dog learns to read thanks to his teacher, a little yellow bird, and dedication to the craft of reading.

***Once Upon a Baby Brother*** by Sarah Sullivan (2010)

Lizzie loves to make up stories and tell them to anyone who will listen. But when baby brother Marvin joins the family no one has time to listen. She’s full of stories until the day her brother goes away on a trip and Lizzie runs out of ideas!

***Rain School*** by James Rumford (2010)

In this story, set in Chad, the first thing the students must do as the school year begins is build the mud structure that will serve as their classroom for the next nine months. Older and younger brothers and sisters work together and learn together. At the end of the school year, the rains wash away the school they have built, but not the knowledge they have gained.

***Rhyming Dust Bunnies*** and ***Here comes the Big, Mean Dust Bunny!*** by Jan Thomas (2009)

Silly rhyming books that will keep you laughing until the end of the book.

***Shrek*** by William Steig (1990)

Most children are unaware of the book version. It will spark a conversation about the differences in the movie.

***Those Darn Squirrels*** Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri (2008)

These squirrels go to great lengths to steal bird seed. But in the end, go to even greater lengths to make friends with a frustrated, lonely man. The sequel *Those Darn Squirrels and the Cat Next Door* should be available this summer, too.

### Books in a Series

***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things*** by Lenore Look (2008-ongoing)

Alvin is a second grader who is afraid of *everything*—elevators, tunnels, girls, and, most of all, school. But at home he's a very loud superhero named Firecracker Man and a gentleman-in-training, so he can be just like his dad.

2011-2012 California Young Reader Medal nominee

***Appleville Elementary*** by Nancy Krulik (2009-ongoing)

Easy to read beginning chapter book about the first grade.

***The Cat on the Mat is Flat*** (2009) and ***The Big Fat Cow That Goes Kapow*** (2010) by Andy Griffiths

Each collection is full of short, rhyming, tongue-twisting, and hilarious stories that are sure to please all readers, regardless of reading level.

### Classics

From fairy tales to fables to nursery rhymes, familiarize your children with these stories that help children improve reading skills, understand the world better, and make better decisions.