

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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

For Students Entering Grades 4 and 5

Chapter Books

Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters by Lesley M.M. Blume (2008)

Eleven-year-old Cornelia is the daughter of two world-famous pianists—a legacy that should feel fabulous, but instead feels just plain lonely. She surrounds herself with dictionaries and other books to isolate herself from the outside world. But when a glamorous neighbor named Virginia Somerset moves next door, Cornelia discovers that the world is a much more exciting place than she had originally thought.

The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester by Barbara O'Connor (2010)

When Owen Jester's father loses his job, the family has to move in with Owen's grandfather. Although Owen still sees his friends Travis and Stumpy, he now has to contend with Earlene, his grandfather's feisty caretaker, and Viola, the know-it-all girl who lives next door. Graham Pond, behind Grandpa's house, becomes the scene of Owen's summer adventures: what has fallen with a thump off a freight train passing in the night? and what to do with Tooley Graham, the best bullfrog in Carter, Georgia?

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool (2010)

Abilene Tucker feels abandoned by her father while he works a railroad job. She is disappointed to find that her father's boyhood town, Abilene, Kansas is just a dried-up, worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to excitement when she discovers that Manifest's history is full of colorful and shadowy characters—and long-held secrets.

The Penderwicks at Point Mouette by Jeanne Birdsall (2011)

Even without reading the previous two novels, readers will easily slip into the charming lives of the four Penderwick sisters. With their father and older sister elsewhere for the summer, Skye, Jane, and Batty are off to a cottage on the coast of Maine with their Aunt Claire. Intriguing new friends, unforeseen events, and a hint of romance all call upon Skye's leadership as the OAP (Oldest Available Penderwick).

The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis by Barbara O'Connor (2009)
Popeye thinks nothing ever happens in Fayette, South Carolina. But things start to look up when the Jewells' Holiday Rambler makes a wrong turn and gets stuck in the mud, trapping Elvis and his five rowdy siblings in Fayette. Then things get even better when something curious comes floating down the creek and Popeye and Elvis set out on a small adventure.
2011-2012 California Young Reader Medal nominee

Violet Raines Almost Got Struck by Lightning by Danette Haworth (2008)

Spunky, headstrong Violet Raines is happy with things just the way they are in her sleepy backwoods Florida town. But her world is turned upside down when Melissa moves to town from big city Detroit. It'll take the help of Violet's friends, her Momma, and *maybe* even Melissa, for Violet to realize that growing up doesn't have to mean changing who you are.
2011-2012 California Young Reader Medal nominee

Vordak the Incomprehensible: How to Grow Up and Rule the World by Vordak T. Incomprehensible (2010)

From selecting the most dastardly name, to choosing the ideal henchmen, to engaging in witty repartee with disgustingly chipper superheroes, experienced supervillain Vordak the Incomprehensible guides readers step-by-step toward the ultimate goal of world domination (from his parents' basement in Trenton, New Jersey).

We Are Not Eaten by Yaks: An Accidental Adventure by C. Alexander London (2011)

Eleven-year-old twins Oliver and Celia Navel live with their father, Dr. Navel. Their mother, Dr. Navel, has been missing for years. So when an explorer shows up with a clue as to where his wife could be, Dr. Navel drags Oliver and Celia to Tibet to find her. If their trip doesn't work out as planned, the twins could end up as slaves to Sir Edmund Thitheltorpe III, an evil explorer who has it in for the whole Navel family.

Zombiekins by Kevin Bolver (2010)

Stanley Nudelman buys Zombiekins at the yard sale of his neighbor. It looks cuddly and creepy-cute, but expose Zombiekins to moonlight and strange things happen. When Zombiekins gets loose at his school, Stanley finds himself in grave danger.

Series Chapter Books

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

Brixton Brothers by Mac Barnett (2010-ongoing).

This new detective series combines excitement, danger and humor. Two books, *The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity* and *The Ghostwriter Secret*, have been released so far and we can't wait for the next one.

Goddess Girls by Joan Holub (2010-ongoing)

This new series is about the Greek goddesses when they were young girls attending goddess school. Very popular with the tween set!

Into the Woods (2009) and ***Out of the Woods*** (2010) by Lyn Gardner
Loosely based on fairy tales and myths, the series follows the adventures of three sisters, Storm, Aurora, and Anything Eden. After their mother dies and their father leaves for a mysterious trip, they're left at the mercy of the sinister Dr. DeWilde. In the second book, the Eden sisters are unknowingly being lured into a wicked witch's lair and into the Underworld.

Tales from the Five Kingdoms by Vivian French (2007-ongoing).

Sure to please fans of quirky fairy tales, this series is full of adventure and great characters.

Non-Fiction

I Feel Better with a Frog in My Throat: History's Strangest Cures by Carlyn Beccia (2010)

A colorful and funny medical mystery tour that reveals many of today's most reliable cure-alls as having their roots in some very peculiar practices from the past.