

ANIMAL STORIES

Birney, Betty G. **Humphrey** (series) - Humphrey, the pet hamster of Longfellow School's Room twenty-six, has exciting adventures.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Wild Girl** – A Brazilian girl and a new horse have trouble adjusting to their new lives on a horse ranch in New York.

King-Smith, Dick. **Lady Lollipop** - A quick-witted swineherd and a pig named Lollipop are royally rewarded after they reform a spoiled princess.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh** (series) - Marty finds a lost beagle and tries to hide it from the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **The Mighty Miss Malone** – Deza and her family endure tough times in Indiana and Michigan during the Great Depression. (Also **Elijah of Buxton**)

Cushman, Karen. **Alchemy and Meggy Swann** – In 1573, crippled Meggy Swann discovers she has other strengths when she goes to London to live with her father, an impoverished alchemist. (Also others by the author)

Fleischman, Sid. **Bandit's Moon** - Annyrose, left behind when her brother joins the Gold Rush, escapes and sets out on a grand adventure with a band of outlaws.

Naidoo, Beverley. **Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story** - Separated from their mother by the difficult conditions for blacks in South Africa, Naledi and her younger brother travel over 300 kilometers to find her in Johannesburg.

Various authors. **Dear America, My Name Is America** or **Royal Diaries** (series) – Each book in these series is written in the form of a diary of a young person's life during an important event or time period in history.

Yep, Laurence. **The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906** - Henry and Chin love to read about heroes in popular "penny dreadful" novels, until they both witness real courage in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

HUMOR

Angleberger, Tom. **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda** (series) – Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends try to figure out if weird Dwight's paper finger puppet Yoda really can predict the future.

Gliori, Debi. **Pure Dead...** (series) – The Strega-Borgia family lives in a Scottish castle with unusual pets and visits from the Mafia and witches.

REALISTIC

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks** - While vacationing with their father in the mountains, four sisters share adventures with a local boy.

Clements, Andrew. **No Talking** – The loud fifth grade boys challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Lin, Grace **The Year of the Dog** - Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese-American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Shredderman** (series) - Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

Byng, Georgia. **Molly Moon** (series) - Molly Moon discovers a hidden talent for hypnotism and hypnotizes her way out of her dreary orphanage from one adventure to another.

Funke, Cornelia. **Inkheart** (series) - One night, Meggie's father reads aloud from a book called "Inkheart," and an evil ruler escapes the boundaries of fiction and lands in their living room.

Hulme, John. **The Glitch in Sleep** – When Becker Drane is recruited by the Seems, a parallel universe that runs everything in the World, he must fix a glitch in the Department of Sleep that threatens everyone's ability to ever sleep again.

Jacques, Brian. **Redwall** (series)- When the evil rat Cluny shatters the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey, Matthias, a young mouse, sets out to find a legendary sword.

McMann, Lisa. **The Unwanteds** – A society that purges creative 13-year-olds separates identical twins Aaron and Alex, sending one to University, while the other, supposedly eliminated, finds a place where youths hone their abilities and learn magic.

Oliver, Lauren. **The Spindlers** – Liza goes into an underground realm with a human-sized rat to rescue her brother from the spider-like Spindlers.

Schlitz, Laura. **Splendors and Glooms** – A Victorian London fantasy about a kidnapping, Grisini the evil puppeteer, and two orphans caught by a witch.

Williams, Maya. **The Golden Hour** - Rowan and sister Nina experience an unusual adventure through time when they come to stay with their two eccentric great-aunts in a small town on the Maine coast.

MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

Abbott, Tony. **The Postcard** -Thirteen-year-old Jason finds an old postcard at his recently-deceased grandmother's house that leads him on an adventure from an old, unfinished detective story with his family's past.

Buckley, Michael. **The Fairy-tale Detectives** (Sisters Grimm series) – Orphans Sabrina and Daphne are sent to live with their grandmother and unravel a mystery leading to their ancestors' magical beginnings.

Korman, Gordon. **Swindle** - After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to steal the card back.

Lawrence, Caroline. **The Case of the Deadly Desperados** (series) – In 1862 Nevada Territory, orphaned Pinky Pinkerton inherits a valuable deed and must hide from a dangerous outlaw gang.

SPORTS

Christopher, Matt. **Hot Shot** – Julian is star center on a basketball team until he moves to a new town and gets on the wrong side of its starting center.

Lupica, Mike. **Safe at Home** – Nick's foster parents know nothing about sports, and his new teammates feel he is too young to play varsity baseball; but Nick is out to prove that he belongs to this team.

NONFICTION & POETRY

Prelutsky, Jack. **Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem** (X808.1 Prelutsky) - Explains to kids about how to write poems about everyday subjects, such as experiences with family, friends, and pets.

Scieszka, Jon (Ed.). **Funny Business** (X808.3 Funny) (Guys Read series) – A collection of funny stories written by various authors including Jack Gantos, Jeff Kinney, Mac Barnett and others.

Sierra, Judy. **The Gruesome Guide to World Monsters** (X001.94 Sierra) - Provides illustrations and brief descriptions of monsters found in different parts of the world.

Rompella, Natalie. **Famous Firsts: The Trendsetters, Groundbreakers & Risk-Takers Who Got America Moving** (X796 Rompella) - Profiles sport innovators who imagined such activities as snowboarding, BMX, water skiing, and cheerleading.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC
LIBRARY
YOUTH SERVICES



Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District
Summer Reading 2014

Incoming Fifth Grade

Dear Parents and Students,

These reading lists have been prepared by the librarians of the Santa Monica Public Library in collaboration with the Elementary Library Coordinators and Librarians of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The lists provide a selection of good books that kids enjoy. Reading levels are suggestions only as every student learns to read at his or her own speed. While some books are perfect to read aloud, kids can read many of the books, especially books in a series, by themselves. Most authors included on these lists have written more than one good book, and many, such as Lois Lowry, Walter Dean Myers, Cornelia Funke, and Kate DiCamillo, 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 for reading programs, many of which offer activities and prizes. Santa Monica Public Library's theme for 2014 is "Fizz, Boom, Read!" Have a wonderful summer vacation, and read, read, read!

March 2014

<http://smpl.org>

<http://smilenet.smmusd.org>

