

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

## 2009 Summer Pleasure Reading

Pleasure reading recommended by MBOUSD Library Media Specialists

### For Students Entering Grades 1 and 2

#### Picture Books

**Q is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game**, Mary Elting (2005)

A fun alternative to traditional alphabet books will have kids guessing the next riddle.

**Woolbur**, Leslie Helakoski (2008)

A sheep is supposed to follow the herd, but Woolbur is one free-spirited individual who just can't help being different. Though Maa and Paa worry about their little non-conformist, Grandpaa knows everything will be fine.

**A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever**, Marla Frazee (2008)

James and Eamon spend a week at Eamon's grandparents' beach house and succeed in having the "best week ever" in spite of the best intentions of the well-meaning adults. A celebration of best friends that will have children laughing out loud and their parents wistful for their own long-grown best friend. (A 2009 Caldecott Honor Book)

**Scaredy Squirrel**, Melanie Watt (2006)

Scaredy Squirrel thinks he lives in a scary, dangerous world. But an accidental leap into the unknown leads to self-discovery and broadens his world view.

**One Boy**, Laura Vaccaro Seeger (2008)

Not just a simple one-to-ten counting book, Seeger incorporates clever diecut windows and word play for an added dimension of fun (and learning) in this 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book.

**A Penguin Story**, Antoinette Portis (2009)

A story of discovery in Antarctica, where the penguins' world is white, blue, and black. Edna, sure that there is more to see in the world, sets off to discover something new.

**Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed**, Mo Willems (2009)

Wilbur, a naked mole rat who likes to wear clothes, is misunderstood by the rest of his colony. The other naked mole rats take Wilbur before wise, old Grandpah to make him change his ways. But Grandpah makes a surprising proclamation.

## Books in a Series

### **Elephant & Piggie**, Mo Willems (2007 thru 2009)

These simple balloon text stories are great to read aloud, together, or solo. Kids will relate to this enduring friendship that definitely has its ups and downs. Titles include **Are You Ready to Play Outside?** (the 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Winner), **Elephants Cannot Dance!**, **I am Invited to a Party!**, **I love My New Toy!**, **I Will Surprise My Friend!**, **My Friend is Sad**, **Pigs Make Me Sneeze**, **There is a Bird on Your Head!**, **Today I Will Fly!**, and **Watch Me Throw the Ball!** Sweet and whimsical and perfect for the emerging reader.

### **Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One**, Judy Blume (2007)

First-grader Jake is the Pain, the annoying thorn in the side of the Great One (third-grader Abigail). The short, funny chapters point up the push-pull relationship between the siblings. **Going, Going, Gone!** (2008) and **Friend or Fiend?** (May, 2009) round out **The Pain and the Great One** series.

### **Hi! Fly Guy**, Tedd Arnold (2005)

Buzz captures and befriends a fly who he names Fly Guy, a pest with personality plus! The series continues with **Shoo, Fly Guy!** (2006), **Super Fly Guy** (2006), **There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy** (2007), **Fly High, Fly Guy!** (2008), and **Hooray for Fly Guy!** (2008).

## Non Fiction

### **How Many Ways Can you Catch a Fly?**, Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (2008)

Everybody has to eat, avoid predators, or hatch eggs and this book cleverly presents all kinds of options. Wonderfully illustrated, it provides plenty of animal facts.