

# The Four's Summer Reading List

June 2011

## **Amazing Pop-up Geography Book, by Kate Petty**

This is a great introduction to geography. We all know that the earth is round - thus a pop-up book with a round earth is essential. This interactive book gives the children a whimsical but factual overview. It also gives some age appropriate lessons in how to take care of our earth.

## **Bagels for Benny, by Aubrey Davis**

Benny loves helping his Grandpa in his bakery where he sells the best bagels in town. One day a woman thanks Grandpa for his bagels and he replies - "Don't thank me - thank God!" He explains to Benny that the wheat for the bagels comes from the soil and God made the soil. Benny decides that he would like to give God some bagels since he never has a chance to eat them. He tiptoes to the Holy Ark and places a bag of hot bagels in it week after week. He is so excited that the bagels are gone each week. Read this wonderful story and find out who is really eating those bagels and how our Benny reacts to the situation.

## **Beautiful Oops, by Barney Saltzberg**

Everyone makes mistakes and it is no big deal! However sometimes these mistakes turn into something quite beautiful. This interactive book is filled with such unimaginable creativity! It is hard to imagine how the book was created!!! The children line up to check out this favorite book!!

## **Cookies: Bite-Sized Life Lessons, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal**

Baking cookies provides the background for teaching life lessons that are easy for children to grasp. For example - COOPERATE - "You add the chocolate chips and I will stir the batter." FAIR - "You get one bite and I get one bite." The illustrations and simple text lead to wonderful discussions about many of life's important lessons.

### **Duck! Rabbit!, by Amy Rosenthal**

Two unseen characters discuss the animals in this story. Is it a duck? Is it a rabbit? The optical illusions in the book are creative but very realistic. This story helps children understand that each person can see things very differently. Each time you read this story - you may come to a different conclusion!

### **It's a Book, by Lane Smith**

The main characters in this hilarious book are a monkey, a mouse and a donkey. Phrases like "Do I need a password?" and "How do you scroll down?" are found throughout the story. Are they talking about an iPad, a computer or a smart phone??? The illustrations will quickly help you depict what device has them so enthralled! This is a must have for your children but mostly for their parents who may be challenged by anything that is not technical!!!

### **Joseph Had a Little Overcoat, by Sims Taback**

Joseph had a little overcoat but it got old and frayed. He proceeds to turn the overcoat into a jacket and so on and so on. Each beautifully illustrated page has a dye cut that shows each new piece of clothing that gets smaller and smaller. The last object is lost but our author teaches us that you can always make something from nothing! Sims Taback's illustrations are truly amazing and always an eye-catcher for the children.

### **Mama Miti, by Donna Napoli**

This is the true story of a Kenyan woman who helped bring trees back to her homeland of Kenya. Her efforts had an everlasting affect on people all over the world. The text is easy to follow and the illustrations are outstanding. This is a wonderful environmental book for young and old alike

### **Moonshot, by Brian Floca**

This nonfiction book takes children along for the ride on Apollo 11. We watch the men put on their spacesuits and take the ride of their lives. The book's large format enables the children to see dramatic scenes from beginning to end. This is a great book for any want-to-be astronaut!

**Mrs. Katz and Tush, by Patricia Polacco**

The story is about a little African American boy and a lonely Jewish bubbe. The two learn about each other's religions and backgrounds and form a loving relationship. Here is a wonderful story about friendship, mitzvot and tolerance. This is a Patricia Polacco classic at its very best!

**Press Here, by Herve Tullet**

Here we take a magical journey without using an iPad or a computer. Simply press the yellow dot on the cover and follow the instructions on each page. We get to press, shake and tilt the pages to see what will happen next. The dots grow, change color and bring about many giggles. This book is brilliant and is loved by the children!!!

**A Sick Day for Amos McGee, by Philip Stead**

Amos is a zookeeper who lovingly takes care of the animals at the zoo. One day Amos doesn't appear and his animals become concerned. So they all hop on the same bus that Amos takes to work. When they arrive at Amos's house - they lovingly take care of him!!! This year's Caldecott Award Book is a beautiful story about caring and friendship.

**The Sneetches, by Dr. Seuss**

There are two types of Sneetches - some who have stars on their bellies and some who do not. The star-bellied Sneetches think that they are so much better than the plain little Sneetches. So wanting to be like the others - the plain-bellied Sneetches find the Fix-It Up Chappie with a machine that can put stars on their bellies. Both sets of Sneetches spend the day and all of their money trying to outdo one another. In the end they all decide that they are both the same - with or without those stars!!! Children learn about how to be fair and kind to all of their peers no matter how different they may be from one another.

**The Teddy Bear, by David McPhail**

Left behind at a diner, a small boy's beloved teddy bear is accidentally thrown out! Rescued from the trash by a homeless man, the bear, like the boy is lonely at first but eventually both adjust ("The bear still felt loved"). One day the boy and his family see the bear on a park bench!!! Will the boy give his "Lovey" to the man or take him back home with him? The children are captivated by this story. The true meaning of mitzvot shines through!!

**Where's Walrus?, by Stephen Savage**

A walrus has escaped from the zoo. Follow the zookeeper as he goes hunting for walrus. Children love following visual clues in the story. Some are quite whimsical and others are very realistic. Have fun hunting for walrus on each and every page!

**Yummy - Eight Favorite Fairy Tales, by Lucy Cousins**

The vibrant illustrations will immediately catch your eyes!! Lucy Cousins has taken some favorite fairy tales and made them thrilling, scary and totally enthralling. This is a must for your fairy tale collection!!

Dear Girls and Boys,

I hope that each of you get a card at the public library and check out books all summer long!!! READ, READ, READ!!!

Have a great summer - I will miss you!!!

Love,  
Mrs. Recht