



2010-11 Bluebonnet Reading Program

What is the Bluebonnet Reading Club?

The Texas Bluebonnet Award (TBA) was established in 1979 and is a list of 20 new-release books selected annually by a team of Texas librarians to encourage Texas children to read more books, explore a variety of current books, develop powers of discrimination, and then to identify their favorite book. In a nutshell it helps kids become well-rounded readers. This is a strictly voluntary reading program that we have offered our students at Scofield for many years. Students LOVE this program. The variety of books is challenging and fun. Each year SCS has an outstanding percentage of students complete the books in 3rd-6th grades.

When does the program begin?

Our program will run from April 2010 to early March 2011. All Texas schools that participate in the program will vote in January 2010 on their favorite Bluebonnet book. SCS students who have read 5 or more by next January will be eligible to enter their vote. The kids REALLY get excited about voting and finding out which book won at the party in March.

Who can participate?

Students who will be in 3rd-6th grade during 2010-2011 are eligible to participate.

What is required to attend the Bluebonnet bash next March?

3rd-6th grade students must read 15 out of 20 books from the list. Students may turn in their reading logs as soon as they are complete. The final deadline will be the first week in March 2011. The party is a BLAST with prizes, candy, pizza, cake, FUN and a commemorative certificate.

Where can we find Bluebonnet books?

The SCS library and your neighborhood library have them ready. Students can check-out the books from our SCS library **beginning the week of April 7**. We will have them available on a cart in front of the library **THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER for a two-week check-out only**. The books are already available at your public library as well on a special Bluebonnet shelf.

Students that have 10 of the books read by the beginning of school, will receive a special prize.

Tell me about the books:

This year's list includes: poetry, nonfiction, biographies, humorous fiction, historical fiction, outrageous fantasy and adventure! And the books count for AR (4th – 6th graders)! We will not be giving any substitutions this year, but will give “warnings and recommendations” for a few of the books. REMEMBER: Students need to read 5 to vote in January and 15 to attend the party in March. They need to have you initial their reading log.

Recommended for 5th and 6th grade due to content:

Umbrella Summer (recommended for 5th & 6th graders only) This book deals with a young girl's way of coping with grief, after her brother dies. She has become obsessed with being safe. After she *borrow*s *without permission* her neighbor's book, *The Everyday Guide to Preventing Illness*, she has even more fears on her plate. Annie's quirkiness brings laughs amid this story of dealing with grief. With the help of family, friends, and the classic book, *Charlotte's Web*, Annie learns life is meant to be lived to its fullest.

Dying to Meet You (recommended for 5th & 6th graders only): **This is a ghost story** – told in a humorous way. However, at the heart of the book are parents that abandon their child to be raised by a stranger and a ghost! The story is told through letters, emails, and newspaper articles. I.M. Grumpy is suffering from writer's block and he thinks moving to this quiet old Victorian mansion will solve his problem. Seymour Hope the boy in residence and Olive C. Spence have other things in mind.

Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Ransom: (Recommended for 5th/6th graders only) Jake and Kady's archeologist parents have been missing for three years. All they have from them are a sketch book, a field log and two halves of a gold Mayan coin which each wears around their neck. Jake and Kady are invited to attend a special Mayan artifact collection in London. Jake places his half of the coin in a hole found in a golden pyramid at the exhibition. The next thing he knows, he and his sister are flying through time to a world inhabited by dinosaurs, mythical monsters, and even more amazing, people from ancient civilizations all over the world. The evil shadowy figure of the Skull King, after being banished from this land, is determined to take over once again, and unwavering in his goal of destroying Jake and Kady in the process.

The Cabinet of Wonders: (Recommend for 5th/6th graders only) Petra's father, an expert in metal (he can actually move it with his mind); has been in Prague for too long, as far as Petra is concerned. However she is very proud of him since he has been commissioned by the Prince of Bohemia to make the world's first astrological clock. The day he finally returns home, he is missing his eyes. The Prince has stolen them to wear. (There is limited description of this) Petra and her pet robotic spider Astrophil go to the castle determined to bring back his eyes. This fantasy is full of adventure and excitement.

May I read the books aloud with my child?

Absolutely! You are welcome to read these books with your child! They will benefit from hearing you read aloud, and you will both enjoy the shared experience. Your child may also read the books alone and have you sign their reading log as each book is completed. Please monitor your child's reading closely for accountability (Ex: Did they understand the book?).

I welcome your questions and comments! Feel free to contact me at school or by e-mail, ejrader@scofieldchristian.org. Let's help make our students into “True Blue Readers” with the Texas Bluebonnet Reading Program!

In His Service, Jane Rader

2010-2011 Bluebonnet Titles Recommended for all age groups:

1. *11 Birthdays* (Mass). **Humorous fiction.** After having a falling out on their tenth birthday and not speaking to each other for the last year, Amanda and Leo prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately, but peculiar things begin to happen.
2. *14 Cows for America* (Deedy). **Non-fiction.** This book presents an illustrated tale of a gift of fourteen cows given by the Maasai people of Kenya to the U.S. as a gesture of comfort and friendship in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. The coauthor is Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah.
3. *All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912: The Day the Titanic Sank* (Brown) **Non-fiction.** When *Titanic's* builder, Thomas Andrews, pronounced the ship's wound from plowing into an iceberg as fatal, the telegraph keys transmitted, "All Stations! Distress!" Don Brown takes the reader through this tragic event.
4. *Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet* (Salisbury). **Humorous Fiction.** Since Calvin's dad left, his mother tells him he is the Man of the House. The problem is that being responsible is not one of Calvin's best qualities; plus trouble just seems drawn to him like metal to a magnet.
5. *Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea* (Jenkins). **Non-fiction.** This book takes the reader from the surface of the ocean down, down, down to the ocean's floor. The deeper one goes, the stranger the creatures. Once the ocean floor is reached, the reader continues to learn more information.
6. *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau* (Yaccarino). **Biography.** Jacques Cousteau states, "The best way to observe a fish is to become a fish!" This book tells his life journey to learn about the oceans and the life teaming within by inventing equipment to aid man's exploration.
7. *The Hinky Pink: An Old Tale* (McDonald). **Fiction.** This old folktale tells about Anabel, a seamstress with a great desire to sew a dress that will worn by a princess at a ball. Her dream is about to come true, except for the bothersome Hinky Pink that keeps her awake each night.
8. *Home of the Brave* (Applegate). **Fiction.** Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin as well as in his fifth-grade classroom. He longs for his missing mother but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.
9. *Mudshark* (Paulsen). **Fiction.** From the principal's announcements at the beginning of each chapter to the escaped gerbil, disappearing erasers, and a psychic parrot, the reader will find themselves letting laughs escape. The Mudshark Detective Agency must solve mysteries in order to save Mudshark's reputation!
10. *Pirates* (Harrison). **Poetry.** Arrgh! This book about pirates is not about the jolly idea of "it's a pirate's life for me." Through poetry and realistic paintings we see a true version of a pirate's life. The long days at sea, filth and disease, little money and harsh treatment for breaking the pirate rules are portrayed.
11. *Sparrow Girl* (Pennypacker). **Historical Fiction.** Ming-Li vows to save as many sparrows as she can after her country's leader called sparrows the enemy of the farmer and banished them from China.
12. *Squirrel's World* (Moser). **Fiction.** Squirrel's well-meaning attempts to help his forest friends do not always turn out as planned.
13. *Surfer of the Century: The Life of Duke Kahanamoku* (Crowe). **Biography.** This book is a biography of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, five-time Olympic swimming champion, who is considered worldwide as the father of modern surfing.
14. *Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo* (Park). **Poetry.** Sijo, a type of poem that originated in Korea is introduced in this book. The best part about Sijo is that there is always an unexpected twist in the last line!
15. *That Book Woman* (Henson). **Fiction.** A family living in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930s gets books to read during the regular visits of the "Book Woman"--a librarian who rides a pack horse through the mountains, lending books to the isolated residents.
16. *The Uglified Ducky: A Maynard Moose Tale* (Claflin). **Fiction.** This story resets Hans Christian Andersen's tale THE UGLY DUCKLING to the Northern Piney Woods of Alaska, where a baby moose is raised by a family of ducks who try to teach him to waddle, quack, and fly, but cannot see his true beauty.

Titles Recommended for 5th and 6th Graders Only:

17. *Dying to Meet You* (Klise). **Fiction.** A ghost, a grumpy writer, and an abandoned boy come together as a family in this ghost story. This story is told through letters, e-mails and newspaper articles.
18. *The Cabinet of Wonders* (Rutkoski) **Fantasy.** Twelve-year-old Petra, accompanied by her magical tin spider, goes to Prague hoping to retrieve the enchanted eyes the Prince of Bohemia took from her father and is aided in her quest by a Roma boy and his sister.
19. *Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow* (Rollins). **Fantasy.** Connecticut middle-schooler Jake and his sister Kady are transported by a Mayan artifact to a strange world inhabited by tribes from long-lost civilizations who are threatened by prehistoric creatures and an evil alchemist, the Skull King.
20. *Umbrella Summer* (Graff). **Fiction.** After her brother dies, ten-year-old Annie worries about the hidden dangers of everything, from bug bites to bicycle riding, until she is befriended by a new neighbor who is grieving her own loss.