

# Southborough UNScheduled Family Book Club Reading Suggestions

## *Amelia Bedelia*, by Peggy Parish (all different levels)

A literal-minded housekeeper causes a ruckus in the household when she attempts to make sense of some instructions

## *All for Me and None for All*, by Helen Lester (K-2)

Gruntly is a real hog, and the other animals are tired of his greediness, but when he gets mixed up on a treasure hunt and is the last to reach the prize, Gruntly begins to realize the value of kindness and sharing.

## *Because of Thursday*, by Patricia Polacco (K-3)

"Annie Fetlock--born on Thursday, met the love of her life on Thursday, and when a special cat comes into her life on Thursday, she knows he has found the right home"--

## *Big Red Lollipop*, by Rukhsana Khan (K-2)

Having to take her younger sister along the first time she is invited to a birthday party spoils Rubina's fun, and later when that sister is asked to a party and baby sister wants to come, Rubina must decide whether to help.

## *Blue Penguin*, by Petr Horacek (K-1)

Rejected by his fellow penguins because of his unusual color, minimal diving, and jumping skills, Blue Penguin begins to sing in his loneliness and wonders if he will be able to convince the others that he is one of them.

## *Owen and Mzee*, by Craig Hatkoff (K-3)

Details through text and photographs the special bond shared by Owen, an orphaned hippo, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise.

## *Gooney Bird Greene* (series), by Lois Lowry (2-4)

A most unusual new student who loves to be the center of attention entertains her teacher and fellow second graders by telling absolutely true stories about herself, including how she got her name.

## *Third Grade Angels*, by Jerry Spinelli (2-4)

"George 'Suds' Morton competes with his third-grade classmates to earn the first 'halo' of the year for good behavior, but being good turns out to be more stressful than he anticipated"--

## *Pie*, by Sarah Weeks (3-5)

After the death of Polly Portman, whose award-winning pies put the town of Ipswich, Pennsylvania, on the map in the 1950s, her devoted niece Alice and Alice's friend Charlie investigate who is going to extremes to find Aunt Polly's secret pie crust recipe. Includes fourteen pie recipes.

## *El Deafo* (graphic novel), by Cece Bell (4-7)

A poignant graphic tale based on the creator's own experiences with hearing loss follows the adventures of young Cece, who develops "superpowers" to manage the challenges of making friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid that sometimes lets her hear things she shouldn't.

## *Flora and Ulysses*, by Kate DiCamillo (4-6)

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

### *Space Case*, by Stuart Gibbs (4-6)

"Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors"--

### *The War That Saved My Life*, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (4-6)

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

### *Sisters*, (graphic novel) by Raina Telgemeier (4 and up)

Three weeks. Two sisters. One car. A true story. Raina can't wait to be a big sister. But once Amara is born, things aren't quite how she expected them to be. Amara is cute, but she's also a cranky, grouchy baby, and mostly prefers to play by herself. Their relationship doesn't improve much over the years. But when a baby brother enters the picture, and later, when something doesn't seem right between their parents, they realize they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all.

### *Counting by 7s*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan (5 and up)

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

### *I Funny* (series) by James Patterson (5 and up)

Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest standup comedian, even if he doesn't have a lot to laugh about these days. He's new in town and stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie, a bully who doesn't let Jamie's wheelchair stop him from giving Jamie a good pounding every once in awhile.

### *The Crossover*, by Kwame Alexander (6 and up)

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

### *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, by Gennifer Choldenko (7 and up)

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

### *Angry Young Man*, by Chris Lynch (9 and up)

Eighteen-year-old Robert tries to help his half-brother Xan, a seventeen-year-old misfit, to make better choices as he becomes increasingly attracted to a variety of protesters, anarchists, and the like.