

Bedford Falls Book Flyer Summaries Spring 2018

PICTURE BOOKS

Help Me, Mr. Mutt by Janet Stevens

Mr. Mutt is a canine counselor ready to help any and all dogs with their problems, many of which involve the cats that live with them. Told in a format of letters and replies, this delightful story is told from a dog's perspective, with commentary from their feline counterparts. Perfect for readers of all ages.

Breaking News: Bear Alert by David Biedrzycki

Presented in a TV news format, this whimsically illustrated book features two brown bears awakened from hibernation who venture into the local town, completely unaware of the havoc they create. They enjoy a meal at the diner, take pictures in a photo booth, try on outfits at a department store and even help nab two robbers in this tale full of humor and puns certain to entertain every young reader.

Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? by Tanya Lee Stone

An inspiring nonfiction story of the first female doctor in America, Elizabeth Blackwell, this book highlights the many obstacles that this determined woman of the 1800's encountered in her quest to realize her dream. Perfect for the younger student, this story will encourage every reader to pursue his or her passion.

Just A Second by Steve Jenkins

This nonfiction selection connects facts about animals, the earth, space, people, and everyday objects to measures of time, helping students better understand the concepts of seconds, minutes, hours and more. An essential reference for classroom libraries.

Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina

When Mia's Spanish-speaking grandmother comes to live with the family, the little girl is determined to help her share the stories of her homeland. As Mia learns Spanish and Abuela learns English, the two form a bond that even includes a colorful parrot named Mango. A delightful story that celebrates diversity for all ages.

Batman is Kind by Cala Spinner

Batman and Robin take a break from fighting crime to help the people of Gotham in times of need. A simple story that reminds young readers of the many ways to be kind.

We're All Wonders by R.J. Palacio

A companion to the chapter book Wonder, this picture book for younger readers is an acknowledgement by young Auggie Pullman that he's really just an ordinary boy, even though his face doesn't look like other kids. It hurts his feelings when people laugh at him or say mean things. His hope that every person will be seen as a wonder, regardless of how he or she looks on the outside, will inspire young and old to "choose kind".

EARLY READERS

I Wish I Was an Orca by Sandra Markle

This nonfiction Level 1 selection includes a wealth of information about orca whales and real pictures of these amazing mammals. A must-have for every curious young reader and their classroom!

I Wish I Was a Gorilla by Jennifer Bove

Real-life pictures and facts about all aspects of a gorilla's life invite readers to imagine life in the African rainforest. A great choice for curious animal lovers 6+.

National Geographic Kids Real Dragons by Jennifer Szymanski

Dragons may be magical but there are many real creatures that look and act like them. The photographs and information about these many "dragon-like" animals will captivate readers 7+.

DK Star Wars: Heroes of the Galaxy

Young Star Wars fans will read about the leaders and members of both the powerful First Force and the determined Resistance in this fact-filled guide for readers 6+. A must-have for readers who don't want to miss a moment of the action in this epic struggle!

Pete the Cat and the Cool Caterpillar by James Dean

Pete finds a plump, green caterpillar while on a spring nature hunt with his friends. He brings it home and puts it in a jar, surprised when it changes overnight into a pupa. Can Pete be patient long enough for his discovery to change even more? A wonderful spring story for readers 5+.

Wild Kratts: Wild Fliers! by Martin and Chris Kratt

This ever-popular science series presents basic information about fliers of all types – birds, mammals, insects and ocean creatures, including key terms and facts for young readers. As an added bonus, two paper fliers that students can cut, fold, and fly are at the end of the book!

Pinkalicious at the Fair by Victoria Kann

Pinkalicious and her friend Molly love the rides, foods, games, and shows at the local county fair but she wishes that her unicorn, Goldie, could be a part of the fun as well. A sweet tale of friendship and fun for readers 6+.

Barbie: You Can Be a Soccer Player

This action-filled story that highlights soccer skills and the importance of teamwork is sure to appeal to young athletes and readers 6+.

Shimmer and Shine: Happy Birthday to You

Join popular characters Shimmer and Shine as they prepare for a very special celebration. Simple text for readers 5+.

BEGINNING CHAPTER

Jada Jones Rock Star by Kelly Starling Lyons

Fourth grader Jada Jones is missing her best friend and rock-hunting classmate Mari whose family has moved across country to Phoenix. Even her excitement over a class assignment on rocks is dampened by group member Simone's insistence that she, Jada, and Lena decorate rocks as their project, certainly not the scientific endeavor Jada prefers. Will Jada find a way to make new friends and be willing to explore their interests now that Mari is gone? A well-written new beginning chapter series for students 7+.

Jada Jones Class Act by Kelly Starling Lyons

When Jada and her friend Miles are both nominated to be the class representative, their classmates' loyalties threaten to turn the campaign into a war of taunts and rumors. Pressured to promise changes she doesn't believe she can deliver, Jada's anxiety about having to give a speech to the entire fourth grade may cause her to drop out of the race even before the votes are counted. A must-read title that explores what happens when friendship meets competition. Age 7+.

Bad Kitty Takes the Test by Nick Bruel

Based on her recent bad behavior, the Society of Cat Aptitude has decided that Bad Kitty must prove she is worthy of continuing to be a cat. Our feline heroine will have to take and pass a test or she'll no longer be considered a kitty at all. An illustrated series that's "purr-fect" for readers 6+.

Bad Kitty Camp Daze by Nick Bruel

When Bad Kitty gets knocked on the head and believes she is a dog, her new-found energy wears Puppy out. Believing Puppy will benefit from a weekend at a camp just for dogs, his owners send him off for a couple of days of rest and relaxation, unaware that Bad Kitty has stowed away in Puppy's duffle bag. Will Bad Kitty's true identity be uncovered by camp director Uncle Murray and her fellow campers or will her "camp daze" change her forever?

Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet: Skunked by Jacqueline Kelly

When Calpurnia's brother finds a baby skunk and its sickly runt sibling in the woods, he is determined to care for both and keep them as pets. With Calpurnia's somewhat reluctant help, he hides them in a dark corner of the barn, knowing his parents will never agree to let him keep them. When Travis secretly brings the animals to school, however, even Calpurnia can't keep a catastrophe from happening! This series is a perfect stepping stone to classics like the Little House books and Charlotte's Web. Age 7+

Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet: Counting Sheep by Jacqueline Kelly

As Calpurnia continues to learn from her grandfather and Dr. Pritzker, the local veterinarian, she gets an opportunity to put her knowledge into action. Can she save a Painted Lady butterfly with a torn wing and, even more challenging, her mother's favorite sheep and twin lambs? A story sure to appeal to readers who can't get enough real-life animal tales.

Bad Guys in Intergalactic Gas by Aaron Blabey

The Bad Guys – Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha – must journey to the moon to save the world from evil Dr. Marmalade’s powerful and deadly Cute-Zilla Ray. This fifth book in a laugh-out-loud series for young readers 6+ will keep even reluctant readers in stitches!

Desmond Cole, Ghost Patrol: The Haunted House Next Door by Andres Miedoso

When Andres and his parents move into the house next door to Desmond Cole, he has no idea how lucky that will turn out to be. Andres soon discovers that unusual things are happening in his house – sounds, floating furniture, and flashing lights he can’t explain. Is Desmond the one person who can solve the mystery of the house, and become a great friend to Andres in the process? A perfect series for young readers who like just a little scary in their stories! Age 6+

TRANSITIONING CHAPTER

The Terrible Two by Mac Barnett and Jory John

Miles Murphy is not happy to move to rural Yawnee Valley where cows seem to be the main item of interest. Determined to attain the reputation of best prankster at his new school, one he relished at his previous one, he quickly becomes aware that classmate Niles Sparks already holds that title. Intent on dethroning Niles while avoiding the clutches of Principal Baskin and his bullying son Josh, Miles schemes to pull off the stunt that will depose Niles for good. Such a feat may be more difficult than the newcomer had anticipated however. An entertaining illustrated tale that will appeal to even the most reluctant of readers 9+.

Alfie Far From Home by Rachel Wells

When Alfie, a lovable gray cat that is a part-time pet for many families on Edgar Road, accidentally stows away on the Clover family’s vacation to a forest campground, he is determined to help shy Viola Clover make a friend while he avoids the strict campground manager, Mr. Green. The escapades of Stanley Clover and the other children at the site add a humorous twist to this story of the friendship of a pet and the person he loves. Age 8+

CHAPTER

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Eleven year-old Julia Marks has always been very short for her age, a fact she would rather not discuss. She, at her mother’s insistence, joins her brother to audition for a community theater production of The Wizard of Oz and is cast as a Munchkin. Julia has never seen herself as a performer, but as she gets to know several of the play’s cast and crew, her confidence begins to grow. Olive, one of three adults with dwarfism also playing a Munchkin, and seventy-six year-old Mrs. Chang, a skilled costumer and fantastic Winged Monkey, befriend her and help her see that people are often much more than they appear at

first glance. Perhaps being short doesn't define Julia after all! A story for readers 9+ that will delight and inspire.

Liberty by Kirby Larson

Fish Elliott's father is fighting in Europe while he and his older sister live in New Orleans where she works for a local business that is building boats for the Allies. Hampered by a leg weakened by polio, Fish wants to be an inventor and has a talent for building things out of whatever materials he can get his hands on. When he and an African-American neighbor girl find a stray dog that Fish names Liberty, he is determined to keep his canine friend safe. When a thunderstorm scares Liberty and she runs off, Fish and Olympia search for her with no luck. When they overhear a conversation between two men speculating on the value of hound puppies, however, the two realize it may take all their wits and courage, plus help from a German prisoner of war to get Liberty back. Historical fiction that educates and entertains readers 9+.

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor

Eleven year-old Perry T. Cook has lived his entire life at the Blue River Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska where his mother is incarcerated. When a new district attorney, Tom VanLeer, learns that the compassionate warden has allowed this arrangement, he decides to assume guardianship of Perry, believing that the prison is not a good environment for the boy and that the situation is preferential treatment for Jessica Cook. Perry moves in with VanLeer, his wife, and step-daughter who happens to be a school friend of his. Missing his mother and the other inmates who are part of the only family he has known, Perry is upset that VanLeer seems to be preventing his mother from having the parole hearing that could get her released from Blue River. When a school project on family is announced, Perry is determined to present the real stories of the inmates he has grown to love, and uncover the truth about the crime his mother was convicted of. A heart-warming story of family, friendship, and forgiveness for readers 10+

Ban This Book by Alan Gratz

Amy Anne Ollinger is a book-loving fourth grader whose favorite title is E.L. Konigsburg's The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. When a classmate's mother uses her influence to have it and other popular titles banned from the school library, Amy Anne and two friends decide to start a secret banned books library run out of their lockers. When the principal discovers its existence, Amy Anne is suspended and the school librarian is fired. Amy Anne finds herself in the middle of a controversy over who should decide what books the library should contain, an issue that she and an unlikely ally can't walk away from. A thought provoking choice for readers 9+ that explores the concepts of censorship and free speech in a real-life situation students can relate to.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

When Castle Cranshaw, a seventh-grader who calls himself “Ghost”, happens upon a practice for a local track team and is invited to join the group, he may have found an outlet for his quick temper and violent outbursts. Challenged by a coach who, like Ghost, grew up in the “bad side” of town, Ghost will have to keep his life on track if he’s going to fulfill the promise Coach believes he has. Can he outrun his past or will it catch up to him once and for all? This first title in the Track series celebrates diversity and will appeal to readers 10+ who can see themselves reflected in this unforgettable young man.

Dragon Captives by Lisa McMann

Twelve year-old identical twins Fifer and Thisbe Stowe possess powerful magic. Their ability to control it, however, is often not up to the task with drastic results. When Hux the Ice Dragon arrives in the land of Artime, pleading with the twins’ older brother Alex, the Mage of Artime, to build new wings for him and his brother and sister dragons which are enslaved in the Land of Dragons, Alex refuses. He believes that such a trip to a land ruled by The Reviner would be too dangerous. Under cover of darkness, the twins and their friend Seth set out to help the captive dragons and prove themselves masters of their magic. Have they finally encountered a challenge that they will not survive? An enchanting new fantasy series for fans of The Wings of Fire age 10+.

Bravelands: Broken Pride by Erin Hunter

When a rival lion, Titan, kills the lion pride’s leader, the young cub of the fallen ruler, Fearless, must flee, leaving his mother and sister behind. Taken in and raised by a troop of baboons, young Fearless grows close to two member of the group in particular, Thorn and Mud. When a change in the troop leadership forces the lion out, however, he becomes determined to reunite with his family in spite of Titan’s threat. Thorn, unable to rise in power due to the caste system of the baboons, joins Fearless as they seek the help of the Great Mother of the Bravelands. There they meet Sky, a young elephant whose visions of the future portend great danger and destruction for them all. This new animal adventure series set in the African savanna is a must-read for fans of Erin Hunter’s Warrior series. Age 9+

Moo by Sharon Creech

When twelve year-old Reena, her younger brother, and their parents move from the big city to a small town on the coast of Maine, they expect a slower pace of life, along with lobster rolls and blue skies and seas. Helping an elderly, and somewhat cranky, neighbor care for her farm and animals is something the children didn’t count on. As the two learn to care for Mrs. Falala’s cow, Zora, and to see beneath the woman’s crusty exterior, they realize that more than just their address has changed. A heart-warming story by a master of children’s literature for readers 9+.

Rain Reign by Ann Martin

Twelve year-old Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms, prime numbers, and following rules. Her obsessions make it difficult for her at school and frustrate her single father on a daily basis. Her solace is her dog Rain, a name she picked because it has two homonyms – a very special trait. When her father lets Rain out of the house in the midst of a hurricane, the dog doesn’t come back, throwing Rose’s world upside down. As the days pass, Rose must deal with her anxiety and devise a plan to find Rain. An

amazing story that provides perspective on living with autism and one girl's courage to face her challenges. Perfect for fans of Wonder age 10+.

Auggie and Me by R.J. Palacio

A collection of three stories that gives readers of Wonder insight into a trio of people who are part of Auggie Pullman's world, this book explores more fully the lives of Auggie's classmates Julian and Charlotte and of Christopher, a childhood best friend who moved away prior to the time of the young hero's year in fifth grade at Beecher Prep. The perfect companion book for readers 9+ who want more of the Wonder story.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Born with a facial deformity, Auggie Pullman has endured numerous plastic surgeries and has always been homeschooled. His parents have decided that he is ready to attend 5th grade at Beecher Prep, a huge step for a boy used to being stared at, whispered about, and teased for his looks. Auggie desperately wants to make friends with his new classmates, but soon learns that even those who seem to accept him may be making fun of him behind his back. Even with the support of loving parents and a supportive sister, facing the world may be more than one boy can manage. A story of compassion and acceptance that is destined to become a classic for readers 9+.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Dog Man and Cat Kid by Dav Pilkey

This fourth installment in the wildly popular Dog Man series finds the evil cat Petey disguising himself as a nanny to convert Cat Kid into a bad guy. Dog Man, distracted by the filming of a movie about himself, must get his sidekick back if the two are to find the film's missing starlet! A graphic novel from the master of the genre for readers 8+.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway by Jeff Kinney

Greg Heffley and his family have decided to flee the cold winter weather and head to a tropical resort for some family fun and relaxation. From the moment they arrive at the airport, however, things begin to go wrong. Will this family getaway be the trip of a lifetime or a nightmare they'll never forget? Wimpy Kid fans 8+ are sure to enjoy this latest story in the series readers can't get enough of!

Babymouse Tales From the Locker: Lights, Camera, Middle School by Jennifer and Matthew Holm

When Babymouse is chosen to direct the school film club's movie, she soon realizes that movie-making isn't as glamorous as she thought. Can she deal with temperamental actors, no money for props and

scenery, and an abundance of technical difficulties to produce a film that won't make her the laughingstock of the school? A fun-filled new series starring the ever popular Babymouse for readers 8+.

Trolls: Brain Freeze

Poppy, Branch and all of their friends share seven new adventures in this newest collection of troll tales sure to please readers 7+.

CatStronauts: Space Station Situation by Drew Brockington

When the CatStronauts must repair the Hubba Bubba telescope while dodging a shower of meteors, Waffles barely avoids being permanently lost in space and decides to quit the team. The repaired telescope reveals, however, that a giant asteroid is on a collision course with Earth. How will these cosmic heroes save civilization without their best space shuttle pilot? An illustrated series that science lovers in particular will cheer as "out of this world"! Age 8+

The Mutts Spring Diaries by Patrick McDonnell

It's been a long, cold winter and Earl and Mooch are ready for spring. Readers 7+ can celebrate all the excitement of the new season with this lovable pair, and explore the bird facts and activities included as an extra bonus!

NON-FICTION

Knock! Knock! Who Was There by Brian Elling

This collection of over 300 hilarious jokes based on the popular "Who Was" series combines humor and facts about a variety of famous folks to keep young readers laughing and learning.

National Geographic Kids Weird But True 9

Where do you find your "purlicue"? Which animal almost always gives birth to identical quadruplets? These and other little-know facts are sure to captivate trivia fans of all ages. A series that both educates and entertains!

Guinness Book of World Records 2018

This ever-popular reference with thousands of facts, statistics, and amazing world records never ceases to amaze, entertain and inform readers of all ages. A must-have for readers who can't get enough nonfiction trivia!

Year in Sports 2018

This up-to-date guide to a vast array of sports from NFL football to women's college basketball contains all the stats, photos, and facts to keep any young sports fan informed and inspired. A must-have for those who love to play the game and those cheering from the sidelines! Age 9+

Legends: The Best Players, Games, and Teams in Basketball by Howard Bryant

Young sports fans won't be able to put down this book full of facts and stories about the players, coaches, teams and games that have made basketball one of America's favorite sports. ESPN sports

writer Howard Bryant examines the NBA from its beginnings through the present day with a style perfect for readers age 8+. A must have for every lover of the game!