

Ms. Nichols' Reading Class  
Summer Reading List

**For students starting the 2009-2010 school year in the Barracuda group**

*The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall

This summer the Penderwicks have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner. However, the mean Mrs. Tifton is not as happy with the Penderwicks as Jeffrey is, and warns them to stay out of trouble. The question is, will they?

*From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

When Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run *from* somewhere, she wants to run *to* somewhere--to a place that is comfortable, beautiful and elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money and thus can help her with the serious cash flow problem she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. The statue is possibly an early work of the Renaissance master Michelangelo, and therefore worth millions. Is it, or isn't it? Claudia is determined to find out. This quest leads Claudia to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself. This book is a favorite and an award winner!

*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York, but Shirley doesn't know English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle—baseball happens. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie is proving that a black man can make a difference in America, and for Shirley, America becomes the land of opportunity. But, will Shirley be able to become a baseball hero like Jackie? Ms. Nichols read this book when she was younger; it taught her a lot and made her laugh.

*Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary

*Dear Mr. Henshaw,*

*I wish somebody would stop stealing the good stuff out of my lunch bag. I guess I wish a lot of other things, too. I wish someday Dad and Bandit would pull up in front in*

*the rig ... Dad would yell out of the cab, "Come on, Leigh. Hop in and I'll give you a lift to school."*

Leigh Botts has been author Boyd Henshaw's number one fan ever since he was in second grade. Now in sixth grade, Leigh lives with his mother and is the new kid at school. He's lonely, troubled by the absence of his father, a cross-country trucker, and angry because a mysterious thief steals from his lunch bag. Then Leigh's teacher assigns a letter-writing project. Naturally Leigh chooses to write to Mr. Henshaw, whose surprising answer changes Leigh's life. You will love this, and any book, by Beverly Cleary!

*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets. But when his world suddenly meets with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A strange drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this spellbinding mystery. Fans of Harry Potter will appreciate this one!

*The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trent Lee Stewart (or any of the books in this series)

After Reynie Muldoon responds to a mysterious advertisement recruiting "gifted children looking for special opportunities," he finds himself in a world of mystery and adventure. The 11-year-old orphan is one of four children to complete a series of challenging tasks, and he, Kate, Constance, and Sticky become the Mysterious Benedict Society. After being trained by Mr. Benedict and his assistants, the four travel to a school where children are being trained by a criminal mastermind to participate in his schemes to take over the world. The young investigators need to use their special talents and abilities in order to discover Mr. Curtain's secrets, and their only chance to defeat him is through working together.