Summer’s nearly here, and along with all the other fun it brings, there will be more time for books, too! This week, The Mini Page shares suggestions for your summer reading.

• Author Jonathan Todd is a former second-grade teacher, so he knows something about the stress of arriving at a new school. In “Timid: A Graphic Novel,” he explores the special relationship between Morgan and his older sister, Claire. They’ve always been close — until they’re not and Morgan must adjust to their new normal.

• Asian Americans come from widely varied backgrounds and origins, and some of their stories of coming to the United States reflect bravery and difficulty. “Made in Asian America” by Erika Lee and Christina Soontornvat describes how ordinary people contributed to the American story in an extraordinary way.

• During the Great Depression, the Pack Horse Library Project delivered books to remote parts of Kentucky, where many people had no other access to books. “Junie, The Book Mule of Troublesome Creek” by Kim Michele Richardson tells the story of the mule who carries her “Book Woman” up and down mountains, through forests — and in spite of rain and snow — to deliver books.

At the School for Unusual Magic, students must pass a test to pass into Middle Magic. “The Equinox Test” by Liz Montague introduces Rosa, Hana, and Lavender, three friends who are depending on the results of the test, in this new book series.

What’s a gift to do when her uncle and aunt are separated, her little sister is on the warpath and her grandmother is testing ghosts? It’s going to be a wild summer for “Ferris” by Kate DeCarrillos, with readers along for the bumpy ride.

In “Great Gusts: Winds of the World and the People Behind Them,” authors Megan Benedict and Melanie Crowder employ poetry to describe winds such as Japan’s oni and Libya’s ghibli. Along with poems, the book includes the science of wind flow forms and what weather systems it brings.

The first live golden jackal ever to be seen in Spain was photographed on film by an automatic camera along the Ebro River. Canis aureus is native to Asia, but it has expanded westward across Europe in recent decades, now finally reaching Spain. A dead jackal was found on a highway in Aragon, January 2023, indicating that the species had only recently arrived in Spain. “For now, we cannot say if it is good or bad news,” said José García of the Spanish Society for the Conservation and Study of Mammals.

The Mini Jokes

Ben: Why was the dinosaur afraid to go to the library?
Bina: His books were 60 million years overdue!

Eco Note

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A mini joke a day keeps the boredom away!

Try ’n’ Find

Words that remind us of summer reading are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. A list of words can be found with the answer key.

Cook’s Corner

Barbecue Baked Potato Chips

You’ll need:
- cooking spray
- 1 medium Yukon gold potatoes, sliced
- 1/4 inch thick
- 2 teaspoons mesquite seasoning

What to do:
1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat a large baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. Arrange the potato slices on the baking sheet. Spray the potatoes with cooking spray and sprinkle with the mesquite seasoning.
3. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until the potatoes are golden brown and crisp. Serves 4.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. cooked in oil (5)
2. dairy products (6)
3. smoke comes out of it (7)
4. part (4)
5. risk of harm (4)
6. blue pants (5)
7. very smart person (6)

Mini Fact:
Your local library probably has a summer reading program. Check it out!

On the Web:
- bit.ly/MPlog
- kids.scholastic.com/kid/homebase/

At the library:
“Great Gusts: Winds of the World and the People Behind Them,” authors Megan Benedict and Melanie Crowder employ poetry to describe winds such as Japan’s oni and Libya’s ghibli. Along with poems, the book includes the science of wind flow forms and what weather systems it brings.

Resources

For later:
Look in your newspaper for reviews of children’s books.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

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