

Name That Book Library Purchase Review

Galveston ISD | 2026-2027 school year

Prepared for Dr. Matthew Neighbors and the Board of Trustees | October 8, 2026

Overall assessment

The proposed list contains **28 distinct titles**. It combines engaging classics and contemporary books with opportunities to explore science, history, art, friendship, and resilience.

Prospective grade level uses

Each title appears once below under its suggested primary use. Grade bands overlap and are planning guidance, not official competition divisions. Some selections may also serve older students or younger students through guided reading.

Grade band	Suggested titles	Prospective uses
Grades K-2	Brave Irene; Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs; Crane and the Keeper: How an Endangered Crane Chose a Human As Her Mate; Memory Jars; Saved by the Smell; Stone Soup; Tomas and the Library Lady; What Do You Do With a Problem?.	Read alouds and developing readers Picture books and an early chapter book support vocabulary, sequencing, imagination, sharing, and perseverance. Teacher-led use is appropriate where independent reading is still developing.
Grades 1-3	Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay; Dragonflies of Glass: The Story of Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Girls; Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers; The Invisible Parade; Wanda Hears the Stars: A Blind Astronomer Listens to the Universe; Ways to Make Sunshine.	Illustrated stories and accessible nonfiction Use for biography, music and art, friendship, digital citizenship, and introductory science. Guided discussion can support themes of grief, disability, and family change.
Grades 3-5	Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit; The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester; Gracie Under the Waves; Introducing Sandwina: The Strongest Woman in the World!; The Report Card; Safe Crossing; Stella; Stuart Little; Tomatoes on Trial: The Fruit V. Vegetable Showdown.	Independent reading and deeper discussion Use for longer fiction, conservation, civic participation, legal reasoning, and biography. Match texts to reading readiness and provide context for animal harm, health concerns, and challenging experiences.
Grades 4-8	Bridge to Terabithia; Hatchet; Number the Stars; The Pecan Sheller; The Witches.	Content Considerations These five titles address more intense themes. Prospective upper elementary or middle school use should account for student maturity and the content considerations summarized on page 2.

Content Considerations

Content Considerations by Title

Bridge to Terabithia | Proposed grades 4-8

Description: Jesse and Leslie form a close friendship and create an imaginary kingdom, Terabithia. A tragic accident changes Jesse's life and challenges him to cope with loss.

Content considerations: Child death, grief, cremation, and reported strong language. Consider emotional readiness and the language in context.

Hatchet | Proposed grades 5-8

Description: After a plane crash, 13-year-old Brian is stranded in the Canadian wilderness. With a hatchet and growing resourcefulness, he learns to survive on his own.

Content considerations: Plane crash, survival danger, attempted suicide, and a reference to a parent's affair. Student maturity and grade placement are key considerations.

Number the Stars | Proposed grades 4-8

Description: During World War II, 10-year-old Annemarie helps her family protect Jewish friends in Nazi-occupied Denmark and assist their escape to Sweden.

Content considerations: Nazi persecution, wartime threats and violence, deaths, and escape. Provide historical context.

The Pecan Sheller | Proposed grades 5-8

Description: In 1930s San Antonio, Petra leaves school to support her family as a pecan sheller. She joins workers seeking better wages and conditions while holding onto her educational dreams.

Content considerations: Parental death, child labor, poverty, illness, police violence, tear gas, and arrests. Provide Texas history context.

The Witches | Proposed grades 4-7

Description: A boy and his grandmother discover a group of witches plotting against children. Together, they use courage and ingenuity to confront the danger in this darkly humorous fantasy.

Content considerations: Threats against children, frightening transformations, injury to mice, cigar smoking, and scatological humor. Some imagery may be unsettling for sensitive readers.

Guidance for other selections

Grief and change: The Invisible Parade and Memory Jars may benefit from sensitive discussion.

Science and conservation: The Crane and the Keeper and Safe Crossing include animal reproduction concepts; Black Mambas addresses poaching; Gracie Under the Waves explores coral conservation and climate change.

Health and safety: Stella addresses trauma and seizures; Wanda Hears the Stars addresses vision loss. Gabby Torres offers opportunities to discuss online privacy and trusted adults.

Reference links

Title-specific editorial reviews: [Bridge to Terabithia](#) | [Hatchet](#) | [Number the Stars](#) | [The Pecan Sheller](#) | [The Witches](#).

Age guidance in these reviews is advisory; final determinations remain with the district.

Name That Book 2026-2027 Proposed Book List

ISBN	Title	Author
9781481430951	Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay	Susan Hood
9798765627259	Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit	Kelly Crull
9780312564223	Brave Irene	William Steig
9780374309473	Brave Irene	William Steig
9780061227288	Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson
9780690013597	Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson
9780689707490	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs	Judi Barrett
9780689306471	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs	Judi Barrett
9781536232363	Crane and the Keeper: How an Endangered Crane Chose a Human As Her Mate	Meeg Pincus
9781419754364	Dragonflies of Glass: The Story of Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Girls	Susan Goldman Rubin
9781536425703	Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester	Barbara O'Connor
9780312674304	Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester	Barbara O'Connor
9781250901361	Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers	Angela Dominguez
9781250901378	Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers	Angela Dominguez
9781536490367	Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers	Angela Dominguez
9780063346291	Gracie Under the Waves	Linda Sue Park
9780063346307	Gracie Under the Waves	Linda Sue Park
9798295200472	Gracie Under the Waves	Linda Sue Park
9781410499196	Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
9781432850395	Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
9781484427583	Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
9781416936473	Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
9780689840920	Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
9781662680151	Introducing Sandwina: The Strongest Woman in the World!	Vicki Conrad
9780316295703	Invisible Parade	John Picacio, Leigh Bardugo
9781250314871	Memory Jars (Consumable)	Vera Brosgol
9781432863937	Number the Stars	Lois Lowry
9781432860844	Number the Stars	Lois Lowry
9780547577098	Number the Stars	Lois Lowry
9780395510605	Number the Stars	Lois Lowry
9798765610527	Pecan Sheller	Lupe Ruiz-Flores
9780689845246	Report Card	Andrew Clements
9780689845154	Report Card	Andrew Clements
9781797214566	Safe Crossing	Kari Percival
9781665942980	Saved by the Smell	Jarrett Lerner
9781665942973	Saved by the Smell	Jarrett Lerner
9798295200731	Saved by the Smell	Jarrett Lerner
9781639930555	Stella	McCall Hoyle
9781629729015	Stella	McCall Hoyle
9781534457126	Stone Soup	Marcia Brown
9780689711039	Stone Soup	Marcia Brown
9780684922966	Stone Soup	Marcia Brown
9780064400565	Stuart Little	E. B. White
9780060263959	Stuart Little	E.B. White
9780375803499	Tomas and the Library Lady	Pat Mora
9781662680533	Tomatoes on Trial: The Fruit V. Vegetable Showdown	Lindsay H. Metcalf
9781623544874	Wanda Hears the Stars: A Blind Astronomer Listens to the Universe	Wanda Diaz Merced, Amy S. Hansen
9781432889487	Ways to Make Sunshine	Renee Watson
9781536467437	Ways to Make Sunshine	Renee Watson
9781547606658	Ways to Make Sunshine	Renee Watson
9781547600564	Ways to Make Sunshine	Renee Watson
9781943200009	What Do You Do With a Problem?	Kobi Yamada
9781984837165	Witches	Roald Dahl
9781101996997	Witches	Roald Dahl