



READ

November 2013

Recent books for kids that the Children's Library staff have read & loved & that we think you will too!

Beholding Bee by Kimberly Newton Fusco. J Fiction, JCD

Orphaned Bee has known no other home than the traveling show in which she was raised. After her parents were killed, Bee was taken in by Pauline, the girl who runs the hot dog cart. Together, the two sleep in the back of a hauling truck, and at age eleven, Bee has never been to school. Every day she endures taunts for the birthmark on her face - though Pauline tells her it is a precious diamond. When the show owner sends Pauline off to another venue and expects Bee to start running the hot dog cart by herself, Bee runs away. She finds her way to a beautiful house inhabited by two mysterious women dressed in old fashioned clothes who no one can see but Bee. It turns out they have the power to change her life for the better - if only Bee will believe in her own self worth first. Magical realism, adventure and a sweet family story too!

The Saturday Boy by David Fleming. J Fiction

11-year-old Derek's dad has been off fighting in Afghanistan for most of Derek's life. He misses his dad a lot - the two write letters back and forth regularly. Derek's aren't always 100% truthful about how things are going at school however. In reality he has some behavior issues, and keeps on getting in trouble for losing his temper. And his former best friend has turned on him and now leads the class in picking on Derek. Derek struggles to be good, but it's hard. Especially when his dad is so far away... True to life, sad yet uplifting. Derek is a kid you won't soon forget.

A Tangle of Knots by Lisa Graff. J Fiction

In a world where most people have a special talent, Cady's skill is baking. Upon meeting someone she instantly knows what kind of cake is their favorite. As a result, she is the reigning champion of the Sunshine Bakers of America Annual Cake Bakeoff. Cady is an orphan, and has spent her life at Miss Mallory's Home for Lost Girls. As the story opens, she is on the verge of being adopted. But first she encounters others who also have talents, and all of their stories come together to find Cady the place she was always meant to be. Especially fun because each chapter begins with a cake recipe. Yum!

Waiting for the Magic by Patricia MacLachlan. J Fiction

When Will and Elinor's father leaves, their mother impulsively takes them to the pound for a dog. Their father doesn't like dogs, so they've never had one. But now that he's gone, they can do what they want. So Elinor asks for a cat too. The problem is, there are four needy dogs at the pound, and the family can't choose. So they take them all (plus the cat)! Elinor is only 4, so when she first begins to talk to the dogs, Will thinks she's just pretending. But remember the title of the book: is there magic afoot? And can it help their family to reunite?



Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library
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www.broomfieldlibrary.com

The Water Castle by Megan Frazier Blakemore. J Fiction

After his father has a stroke, Ephraim and his family move to an old creaky house in Maine called the Water Castle. The home has been in their family for years and it's near a specialist for their father. The small town surrounding the Water Castle is full of rumors about it and its inhabitants. Some believe that the water has magical powers. Others are convinced that the water isn't just magical but that it is the Fountain of Youth. Ephraim doesn't really believe the stories, but if they were true, perhaps the magical water would help his father to heal... Determined to find the truth - and the magical spring (if it does exist), Ephraim joins forces with two local kids his own age. This blend of science and fantasy will keep readers glued to its pages.

The Whizz Pop Chocolate Shop by Kate Saunders. J Fiction, JCD

Magic, adventure, kidnapping, talking animals and chocolate too! Twins Oz and Lily are thrilled when their parents inherit a house and long-closed chocolate shop on Skittle Street. It originally belonged to their great-great uncles, who made incredible chocolates, which, it turns out, were infused with magic. There are still some bits of magic floating around the old house, which the adults never realize, but which Oz and particularly Lily notice immediately. The twins soon find themselves in the midst of a quest to find a missing artifact that is of great importance to not only their family but to the safety of the world as we know it. Both the bad and the good guys need the twins' help to find the item, & Oz & Lily are soon thrown into a series of wild adventures as they try out, outwit the villains & save the day.

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes. J Fiction

Award-winning author Kevin Henkes introduces second-grader Billy Miller in this fast-paced and funny story about friendship, sibling rivalry, and elementary school. When Billy has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade, with a lump on your head! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, how to appreciate his little sister, and how to be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad. Henkes delivers a short, satisfying, laugh-out-loud-funny school and family story that features a diorama homework assignment, a school poetry slam, cancelled sleepovers, and epic sibling temper tantrums. Illustrated throughout with black-and-white art by the author, this is a perfect short novel for the early elementary grades and fans of the Ramona books, *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements, and the Clementine series.

Sugar by Jewell Parker Rhodes. J Fiction, JCD

Ten-year-old Sugar lives on the River Road sugar plantation along the banks of the Mississippi. Slavery is over, but laboring in the fields all day doesn't make her feel very free. Thankfully, Sugar has a knack for finding her own fun, especially when she joins forces with forbidden friend Billy, the white plantation owner's son. Sugar has always yearned to learn more about the world, and she sees her chance when Chinese workers are brought in to help harvest the cane. The older River Road folks feel threatened, but Sugar is fascinated. As she befriends young Beau and elder Master Liu, they introduce her to the traditions of their culture, and she, in turn, shares the ways of plantation life. Sugar soon realizes that she must be the one to bridge the cultural gap and bring the community together. Here is a story of unlikely friendships and how they can change our lives forever.

The Truth of Me by Patricia MacLachlan

Robbie loves spending time with his grandmother Maddy. He enjoys the stories she tells, and also how wild animals trust her enough to come right up to her. But Robbie has always felt as if something is missing in his life - his parents don't always act like they love him. Maddy helps him understand that an experience his mother had long ago is at the heart of the problem in his family. With this knowledge, Robbie finds the courage to try to make things right and realizes that he is stronger than he'd ever imagined. This poignant story celebrates how our unique "small truths" make each of us magical and brave in our own ways.