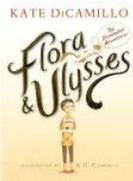


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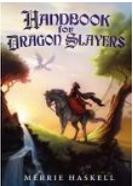
## December 2013

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



**Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo. J Fiction, JCD**

Kate DiCamillo has done it again - written another great book with quirky characters and laugh-out-loud humor. This time there is a squirrel with amazing, but unusual powers. He is befriended by Flora, a self-proclaimed cynic who finds out that there is more to life and family and friends than she ever imagined. Whether you read the book or listen to the audio version, you will be amazed and astounded at the "unanticipated occurrences" that happen in the story. If you listen to the audio which is really well done, be sure to also take a look at the book sometime to see the fun drawings that accompany the writing.



**Handbook for Dragon Slayers by Merrie Haskell. J Fiction**

When her mother is lured away from the castle and she is alone, Princess Tilda's evil cousin kidnaps her in an attempt to take over her kingdom. She escapes into a series of adventures with her handmaiden and a friend, and is ultimately able to save her kingdom and restore the good will of her people. Truth be told, Tilda doesn't mind giving up her kingdom, but she doesn't want to get killed by a dragon!



**The Hidden Summer by Gin Phillips. J Fiction**

Nell and Lydia have been best friends and next door neighbors for years. Nell's unstable mother doesn't pay much attention to her daughter, so Nell spends much of her time at Lydia's house. But when the mothers have a falling out at the end of the school year, Lydia's mother forbids her to see Nell any longer. The two girls can't bear to be apart for the whole summer, so they cook up a scheme to spend every day together at the abandoned golf course behind their homes. But they aren't the only ones trespassing on the golf course!....



**Ivy Takes Care by Rosemary Wells. J Fiction, JCD**

Ivy's family doesn't have a lot of money, but she still dreams of going to college one day. In 1950's Nevada she lives on a guest ranch where her dad is the ranch hand and her mom is the cook. Ivy loves animals, and her goal is to be a vet. To help save for college, she hires herself out as a pet sitter to the neighboring ranchers. The town vet also takes Ivy under his wing, and lets her assist him with various procedures. Ivy's various jobs, and her dealings with the trouble-making Billy Joe (whose parents own the ranch) are fascinating and entertaining. This would be a great recommendation for kids who like animals, or who love sweet old fashioned stories.

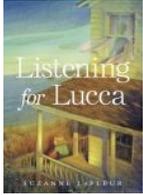


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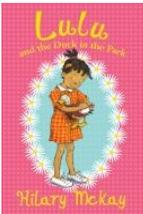
**Like Pickle Juice on A Cookie** by Julie Sternberg. J Fiction

Eleanor is having a terrible summer - her babysitter, Bibi is moving away. She has to go take care of her own father, who lives far away and who is sick. Eleanor feels badly for Bibi's father, but she NEEDS Bibi. Both of her parents work, and Bibi is the only babysitter she has ever known. Bibi knows everything about Eleanor - her favorite foods and which of her teeth are loose and that she doesn't like to be tickled. How can Eleanor go on without her? This funny yet totally relatable story is perfect for early elementary readers.



**Listening for Lucca** by Suzanne LaFleur. J Fiction, JCD

Siena's little brother Lucca stopped speaking for no apparent reason - medical or psychological. The family has moved from Brooklyn to a rambling old house on the Maine coast in hopes that a slower paced way of life may make a difference for Lucca. But Siena starts having visions, and when she tries to write in her diary with a pen she finds in her new bedroom, the pen begins to write on its own - a story about another brother and sister who lived in their house years ago... Can Siena help them - and Lucca too?



**Lulu and the Duck in the Park** by Hilary McKay. J Fiction

Lulu can't understand people who don't like animals - people like her teacher, Mrs. Holiday. Lulu herself is famous for her animals. She has a dog and a hamster at home, and she takes home the class guinea pig on holidays. Even the spiders at her house have a little rope ladder to help them out of the bathtub. Luckily for Lulu her mom has only one rule about pets: "The more the merrier, as long as Lulu cleans up after them". Unfortunately however, her teacher does not feel the same way. When Lulu finds an abandoned duck egg in the park she has to take it with her or it might die. And an egg doesn't count as an animal, does it? Not so fast, Lulu! Funny and sweet, this first book in a series is perfect for beginning readers.



**One Came Home** by Amy Timberlake. J Fiction

Georgie Burkhardt is a 13 year-old girl who is good at math, a sharp shooter and loves working in her family's general store. After a body fitting the description of Georgie's beloved older sister Agatha is brought back to the Burkhardt family, Georgie refuses to believe she is dead and leaves home in search of Agatha and the truth of why she disappeared. The story of Georgie and her search for the truth is treacherous, dangerous and thrilling. The story is told using first-person narrative and the nuances of Georgie's voice takes the reader back to life in 1871. Those who have enjoyed other historical fiction books, such as *Little House on the Prairie*, *Hattie Big Sky*, and *Out of the Dust* will also love reading *One Came Home*. Although the violence and romance is not graphic in this coming of age novel, this read is meant for an audience of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older.



**Zero Tolerance** by Claudia Mills. J Fiction

When seventh grade honor student and all around good girl Sierra unpacks her lunch at school one day she realizes that she accidentally took her mom's identical lunch bag instead. Inside is a sandwich and an apple with a small paring knife to cut it. Sierra knows that any sort of weapons aren't allowed at school, so she immediately turns in the knife to the cafeteria monitor. Unfortunately however, school rules say that any sort of weapon will not be tolerated - even an accidental incident like this is supposed to result in mandatory expulsion. Sierra spends the next few weeks in suspension while her lawyer father and the school administration battle it out. Is zero tolerance always the best policy? This one makes a great discussion book.