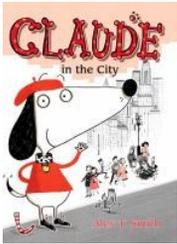


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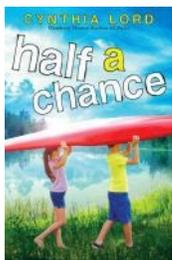
June 2014

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



Claude in the City by Alex T. Smith - J Fiction

This is a fun and witty book for those who are just beginning to read chapter books. Each morning, Claude (a pet dog) puts on his beret and decides what adventure he and his best friend, Sir Bobblysock, will go on that day. Claude's amusing exploits are broken up into two different chapters, which could almost be two picture books put together into a single chapter book. In the first chapter, Claude and Sir Bobblysock enjoy all the sights, sounds and tastes a city has to offer. Claude even stops an art thief mid-heist while visiting the art museum! Chapter two is the fall-out from the adventure in the city. Sir Bobblysock has overextended himself. Claude decides to rush Sir Bobblysock to the hospital after taking his temperature with a banana. The chapters of the book are self-contained and full of cheerful illustrations, which make this a perfect read-aloud for young elementary students and preschoolers. If you like this book, be sure to check out more Claude books by Alex T. Smith.



Half a Chance by Cynthia Lord - J Fiction

It's summer and twelve year old Lucy and her parents have just moved to an old cottage on a lake. Lucy is concerned about her new school, making friends, and fitting in. She misses her father, a famous photographer, who has taken off for another photo shoot right after the family moves. She becomes friends with Nate, a boy her age, who is spending the summer with his family and his Grandmother Lilah in the cottage next door. When Lucy learns that her father is going to judge a photo contest for kids, she decides to enter the contest without telling him because she wants his approval of her photography. She works with Nate on creating photos for various categories in the contest, planning to enter the photos using his name. If she wins, they plan to use the prize money to rent a boat to take Grandma Lilah, who is struggling with dementia, out on the lake to see the loons, something she has done for many summers. One of Lucy's photos of Grandma Lilah shows her confusion and Lucy wants to use it in the contest. Nate, who is struggling with Grandmother Lilah's situation, doesn't want her to use that photo. The author addresses difficult issues like ethics, loneliness, friendship, absent parents, and dementia with sensitivity and understanding. In the end both Lucy and Nate learn about friendship and the importance of art in expressing beauty, emotions, and truth. This would be a great book for readers in Grades 4-6.

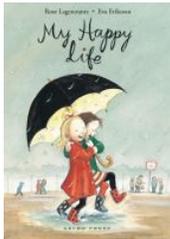


Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library
3 Community Park Road Broomfield, CO
www.broomfieldlibrary.com



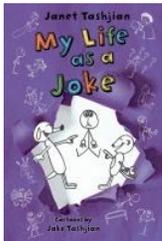
Janitors by Tyler Whitesides. J Fiction

This is the first book in the series about a secret society of Janitors at 6th-grader Spencer Zumbro's elementary school. After someone draws all over Spencer's face with a marker and Spencer tries to wash it off with a weird pink soap in the boys' restroom, he begins to see little slimy creatures all over the school. The trouble is none else sees them! Somehow the janitors are involved. Are they trying to control the creatures or are they letting them multiply which will then allow the little monsters to suck the brainwaves out of all the kids at school and drain all their smarts out of them? Spencer and his friend Daisy try to work together to help solve this problem. Do they trust the janitors or do they trust the secret agents of the BEM (Bureau of Educational Maintenance)? Who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? There are many twists and turns which will keep you turning the pages until the end!



My Happy Life by Rose Lagercrantz - J Fiction

In this sweet short chapter book translated from the Swedish, a little girl named Dani is starting school. She is excited because she's been waiting a long time for this momentous day, but also nervous because she doesn't have a friend. On the second day of school as she is standing alone on the playground watching the other children play, Dani notices another girl doing the same thing. The two go play on the swings until the bell rings and thus their friendship is cemented. They enjoy many happy activities together over the next few months, until the sad day that Ella and her family move away. Dani is devastated - she and Ella did everything together. Without her friend, will there be any more happy days? Dani isn't sure - but a letter from her friend starts a new kind of friendship. This book appears to be fairly substantial, but the beautiful pen and ink illustrations and short chapters make it a perfect choice for beginning readers.



My Life As A Joke by Janet Tashjian - J Fiction

One review describes this one as "A kinder, gentler Wimpy Kid with all the fun and more plot". The 12-year-old hero of this book might appeal to boys who have a hard time reading. Derek himself keeps telling us he has a very hard time reading while one of his best friends cannot keep her nose out of a book. Readers will understand and sympathize with many of Derek's experiences (embarrassment in school, being forced to babysit a 2 year old, having to read aloud in class when his reading skills are poor) but he learns many lessons after he sells a donated doll on eBay (!), spends the money and then has the doll returned. There are two other books in this series.



Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy by Karen Foxlee. J Fiction, JCD

After her mother's death, Ophelia's father takes a job at a museum in a city where it never stops snowing. While exploring the museum on her own that first day, Ophelia discovers a boy locked in a distant room. He has no name, and he claims to have been imprisoned there for years. He tells Olivia that he needs her help to save the world before the Snow Queen destroys it all. Olivia has never been one to have faith in anything that can't be proven by science, but this mysterious boy challenges everything she has ever believed. And if he is telling the truth, there isn't much time left... This retelling of The Snow Queen will be a big hit with upper elementary aged readers



Welcome to Dog Beach by Lisa Greenwald. J Fiction, JCD

Remy and her parents have been going to Seagate every summer for Remy's whole life. But the year that she is eleven, things are starting to change - and Remy doesn't like change. First of all her dog Danish recently died, and it seems strange and sad to be at dog-friendly Seagate without her constant companion. Her best girl friend is suddenly distant, and Remy finds herself with a crush on her best guy friend. The three kids start a popular dog watching business, but misunderstandings and interlopers threaten to ruin everything. This is a great portrayal of that awkwardness of young adolescence, and of not wanting familiar childhood traditions to vary. Give it to fans of Lauren Myracle's *Eleven*.