

# R E A D

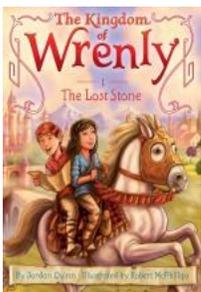
## July 2014

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



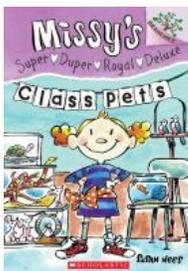
### **Lawn Mower Magic by Lynn Jonell - J Fiction**

The Willow family has recently moved from the city to the country where they have lots of grass to mow in the summer. Their old lawn mower has been struggling, and one day when Dad tries to mow, the mower just quits. A new mower is expensive, so the children find an old rotary mower in a shed and Derek offers to use it to mow the entire lawn in order to earn money for a train ticket to visit his friends in the city. His parents doubt that he can do that, but his siblings agree to help him while their parents are gone for the day. They discover that the mower is magic; it starts mowing every time the blades touch grass. When the magic mower starts mowing everything that's green, including a hedge, the kids must work together to try to control the mower and to get it to stop. The story takes place in just one day, so it is fast paced and entertaining. The magic is never fully explained, leaving a sense of mystery for the reader. The black and white illustrations add to the story. It would make a great summer read for students in grades 2-4 and would also be a fun read-aloud. This is the second book in the *Magical Mix-ups* series.



### **The Lost Stone by Jordan Quinn – J Fiction**

*The Kingdom of Wrenly* is a new fantasy and adventure series. In this first book, eight year old Prince Lucas wants to play with other children in the kingdom and explore the lands of the kingdom, but his father, the king, won't allow it. When his mother, the queen, loses her prized emerald, Lucas sets off with a young girl, Clara, to search for the emerald throughout the kingdom and hopefully win the reward offered by the king. With black and white illustrations throughout, this book is a good choice for beginning chapter book readers.

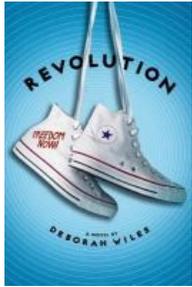


### **Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe Class Pets by Susan Nees – J Fiction**

Missy is excited to bring home a class pet (actually three class pets!) for a few days, if her mother agrees. She plans to have a fashion show, a circus, and a parade with them, but when she gets to school, the new girl, Tiffany wants to take those pets home and she gets to choose first. Missy's friend, Oscar unknowingly helps Missy come up with a plan. This humorous early chapter book has colorful illustrations and will appeal to kids. It is the second book in the Super Duper Royal Deluxe Series and would be enjoyed by students in grades 2-4.

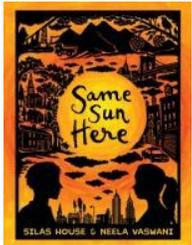


Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library  
3 Community Park Road Broomfield, CO  
[www.broomfieldlibrary.com](http://www.broomfieldlibrary.com)



**Revolution by Deborah Wiles** - J Fiction

This documentary novel combines the best of well researched non-fiction (teaches) and the best of emotionally packed historical fiction (creates empathy). Twelve year old Sunny is adjusting to her new family at the same time as living through 1964's Freedom Summer in Greenwood, Mississippi. The novel expands the story told in Wiles' 2001 picture book, *Freedom Summer*. The short chapters and interspersed documentary material will make the 500 pages fly by. The supplemental acknowledgements, works cited, and photo credits indicate why this second book in the Sixties Trilogy is so compelling. Even those who know the history will be sucked into the story and have a new respect for those who were a part of this time. The book gives a wonderful glimpse into the social, political, and emotional climate of the South in the 60's. *Revolution* may make a great book club for upper elementary kids or a family read. There's plenty to talk about how this knowledge can change reactions in today's America.



**Same Sun Here by Silas House and Neela Vaswani** - J Fiction, JCD

Meena is an Indian girl living illegally in a too small rent-controlled apartment with her family in NYC. River lives in rural Kentucky in a small coal mining town. They are matched up through a pen pal program at their schools, and quickly become fast friends - exchanging handwritten letters about very personal issues in their lives. Meena's parents are studying hard to pass their citizenship exams and River is dealing with mountaintop removal and other scary environmental issues in his community. It's fascinating to watch two such different individuals learn about another way of life. Both are living through hard times, and their letters help them to deal with their problems. The audio book is recommended, as the authors read their own sections, and their accents really make it come alive. Recommended for grades 4 and up. This would make a great book club title.



**Summer at Forsaken Lake by Michael D. Beil** - J Fiction, JCD

12-year-old Nicholas and his younger sisters go to spend the summer with their great uncle at Forsaken Lake - something their father did for many years when he was a boy. During their stay they make new friends, learn how to sail, and most important - discover a mystery surrounding their father, the creepy Seaweed Strangler, and a controversial incident that happened during his last summer at the lake. This slightly old fashioned yet exciting mystery will be a hit with readers in grades 4 -6.



**The Vanishing Coin by Kate Egan with Magician Mike Lane** - J Fiction

Mike, a fourth grader who has trouble sitting still and focusing, was hoping fourth grade would be a new start for him. But the school year has just begun, and he's already in the principal's office again. His parents have told him he can't play soccer, hoping that will help him keep up with his school work. He wonders if he will ever be good at anything. His next door neighbor, Nora, is also a fourth grader. Together they discover a magic shop called the White Rabbit. The mysterious owner, Mr. Zerlin, teaches Mike a magic trick which Mike performs successfully for his friends. He becomes fascinated with learning and practicing new magic tricks. But he wonders if everything that seems to be magic is just an illusion, or if sometimes it really is magic. This is the first book in the new series, *The Magic Shop*, and maybe future books will answer that question. It includes instructions for performing the magic tricks that Mike does, so readers can try the tricks themselves. The book is a great start to a series for kids that love magic and magic tricks. For Grades 3-5.