

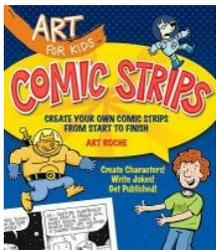
# READ READ READ

## January 2016

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

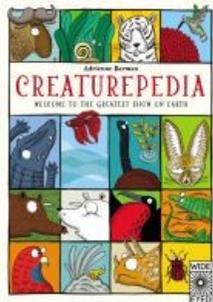
### **Art for Kids: Comic Strips by Art Roche. J 741.5 Roche**

Do you love reading comic books? Maybe you have also wanted to learn how to make comic strips yourself. This is an amazing new book that tells exactly how to do that. It shows you step by step how to create characters and make up the stories for them. It even gives ideas for thinking up jokes for the comic strip. Throughout the book there are really good examples of cartoons and comic strips which might also give you some ideas. At the end of the book there are ideas for getting your comic strips published in paper format or on the web. It also talks about other ways to display your comic book art – like in greeting cards for friends and family or on t-shirts that could give everyone who sees them a good laugh. This would be a great book for artistic kids in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up.



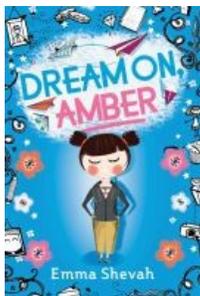
### **Creaturepedia: Welcome to the Greatest Show on Earth by Adrienne Barman. J 423 Barman**

This is a really fun book about animals which puts them together into different types of groups. Some of the groups are more traditional and serious while other groups are really unusual and funny. Examples of the more traditional groups are: the Architects, the Endangered, or the Masters of Camouflage. Then it gets interesting with the Blue Beauties, the Lilliputians, or the Solitary. After that, it gets downright silly – the Brainboxes, the Champion Breath-holders, or the Munch-it-uppers. Can you guess which animals fit into the different categories?! All of the pictures in the book are like cartoons, so it's lots of fun to look at. Overall this is quite an entertaining journey through the animal kingdom in a new and fresh way. This would be a great book for preschool age up through adults.



### **Dream On Amber by Emma Sheveh. J Fiction**

Amber is starting middle school and is self conscious about being half Japanese - and about not fitting in in general. She loves to draw, but is squeamish about sharing her work with anyone else. She is the only one of her friends who doesn't have a cool phone that has photo capability. It doesn't help that at home she is missing her father terribly. He left when Amber was little and he's never contacted them again. It hurts that her father doesn't want to be a part of her life - and it hurts even more to see that her mother and little sister miss him as



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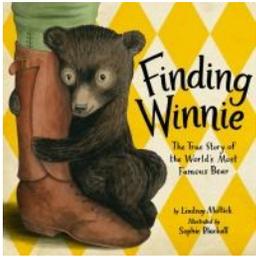
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well. Amber's struggle to find her place in the world makes a quick, fun - and moving - read, perfect for girls in grades 4 and 5.

**Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick.**

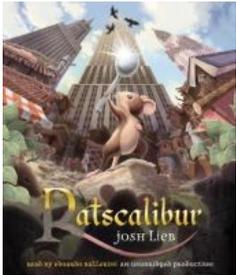
E Fiction Mattick

"Before Winnie-the-Pooh there was a real bear named Winnie." This is the second book about the real Winnie to be published in 2015! A Canadian veterinarian on his way to the front in WWI bought a baby bear at a train station. He named her Winnipeg (Winnie for short) and took her with his regiment, and the two became fast friends. This man's real-life great-granddaughter grew up hearing the stories about her relative and the bear, and has since shared Winnie's story all over the world. This charming illustrated picture book will be a hit with readers of all ages. Make sure not to miss the photos of the real Winnie on the end pages.



**Ratscalibur by Josh Lieb** J Fiction, JCD

If you like animal fantasy stories like *Narnia* or *Redwall*, you will surely like this new book. It contains lots of action, but also has lots of humor. A lot of the situations in the book will most likely remind you of King Arthur stories or the *Lord of the Rings* books and/or movies. Usually they turn out to be funny interpretations of events in those stories. You may even have a clue about one in the title of the book! *Ratscalibur* tells the story of Joey, a boy going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade, who is transformed into a rodent and given a quest to save the rodent world. He truly becomes a rodent and you find out more about what life might be like for that type of animal, especially how tantalizing the different types of food that they would like – cockroach leg stuck to old dumpster cheese, anyone?! All in all this is an engaging and fun adventure story that will appeal to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and up.



**The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin.** J Fiction, JCD

After her best friend dies suddenly over the summer in a drowning accident, Suzy is consumed by guilt. She and Franny had begun to grow apart during sixth grade. Franny was suddenly eating lunch with the mean, popular girls, and telling Franny she was too weird. At the very end of the school year Suzy did something terrible to her friend. Her intentions were good, but her last memory of Franny is of her oldest friend being led away in tears because of Suzy's actions. As a new school year begins, Suzy keeps to herself. She misses the old Franny terribly - and anyway, there isn't anyone else in her school that she wants to be friends with. Things have gotten so bad that Suzy doesn't have anything to say to anyone, so she has stopped talking. Franny was a very good swimmer, and Suzy just can't understand how she could have drowned. Her mother says that sometimes "things just happen" - but Suzy is convinced that there has to be more of an explanation than that. Suzy is fascinated by jellyfish, and chooses to do her big science report on them. As she researches and finds out more and more about jellyfish, she decides that there was more to Franny's death than just a simple drowning. Could a jellyfish perhaps have incapacitated her? Determined to find a cause for her pain, Franny reaches out to experts in the field to try and prove her theory. A story of growing up, growing apart, loss and recovery too.

