

KNES LIBRARY SUMMER READING LIST 2016



FOLKLORE AND MYTHOLOGY

Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts. A Literary Cookbook, by Paul Yee, illus. by Shaoli Wang. Recipes by Judy Chan. A treasury of delectable tales, each followed by related recipes. Quirky, delightful illustrations. 160 p.

Fairy Tale Comics, edited by Chris Duffy. 17 fairy tales are presented in graphic novel format. Each tale is illustrated by a different artist, including such favorites as Brett Helquist, Charise Mericle Harper, and Raina Telgemeier. 125 p.

I am Pan!, written and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein. Pan, the goat-haunched and cloven hooved Greek god of noise and confusion, narrates an animated retelling of the highlights of his madcap, endearing, and at times provocative existence. Award winning author/illustrator Gerstein brings panache to the graphic novel stylization. Pages not numbered.

The Iliad, retold by Gillian Cross, illus. by Neil Packer. The larger than life characters and legendary battles of Troy are retold here in a very approachable style, accompanied by strikingly powerful illustrations. *The Odyssey* is also available in a version retold by this author with the same illustrator. (Move on to another excellent version of both stories by Barbara Leonie Picard for more detail--and a much more challenging read.) 151 p.

Tatterhood and Other Tales, by Ethel Johnston Phelps, illus. by Pamela Baldwin Ford. This collection of 25 tales from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas features brave, resourceful, female lead characters. A classic collection of great stories. 165 p. (For more of this sort, see *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls*, by Jane Yolen.)

Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories. Retold by Tran Thi Ninh Phuoc, illus. by Nguyen Thi Hop & Nguyen Dong. 15 traditional Vietnamese tales, including some with pleasantly familiar folkloric elements. The author notes that the stories "paint a picture of a world

that values the five great virtues: Nhan (Compassion), Le (Rituals), Nghia (Righteousness), Tri (Wisdom) and Tin (Trust).” 95 p.

When the Chenoo Howls, by Joseph Bruchac, illus. by William Sauts Netamuxwe Bock. For those who love scary stories, this collection of 12 Native American stories should hit the mark. Filled with swamplands, strangers, and monsters you may not have ever dreamed were possible. 136 p.

POETRY

The Popcorn Astronauts and Other Biteable Rhymes, by Deborah Ruddell, illus. by Joan Rankin. With poems arranged by season from spring to winter and accompanied by whimsical illustrations, “...the topic is food, with subjects ranging from the wonders of guacamole (‘Only Guacamole!’) to the possibilities of toast (‘Your Choices at the Totally Toast Cafe’) to the celebration of an eternal favorite (‘Stand and Cheer for MAC and CHEESE!’). The verses ...range from the cheerful to the genuinely inventive (the titular ‘Arrival of the Popcorn Astronauts,’ featuring kernels that ‘scramble into puffy suits/ and hurtle through the air’) or slyly witty ...” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books) 32 p. Another good summer read by this author and illustrator is their earlier collection of poetry, *A Whiff of Pine, A Hint of Skunk*.

When Green Becomes Tomatoes. Poems for All Seasons, by Julie Fogliano, illus. by Julie Morstad. This poetry distills moments in time, creating lovely mental images through its remarkably well-chosen language while also offering quiet but richly patterned and colored illustrations. Read alone or share aloud. Really wonderful. Pages not numbered.

NON-FICTION

28 Days, Moments in Black History That Changed the World, by Charles R. Smith, Jr., illus. by Shane W. Evans. “I have always had a love-hate relationship with Black History Month,” states the author’s note. Here, he provides some familiar personages frequently covered in the short month of February along with important individuals who receive far less attention. Three pivotal Supreme Court cases and one constitutional amendment are also presented. The bright colors and strong graphic impact of the digitally manipulated collage-and-oil artwork combine with poetry and prose descriptions of people and events to create significant artistic impact. This serves as an excellent jumping-off point for further exploration at any time of the year. Pages not numbered.

Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History, written and illustrated by Don Brown. This nonfiction picture book is a great introduction to the lives of Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton: "Aaron and Alexander could have been friends. They were alike in many ways. But the ways in which they were different made them the worst of enemies..." Pages not numbered.

Brain Benders (series). 1. *Not So Ordinary* 2. *Think Outside the Box* 3. *It's Only Logical*, by Dr. Gareth Moore. Memory games, perception challenges, optical illusions, magic tricks and more to pique your curiosity and employ your math and logic skills, often using everyday items such as cards, coins, pencils, dice, paper, or your own hands! 32 p.

Get the Scoop on Animal Puke! From Zombie Ants to Vampire Bats, 251 Cool Facts About Vomit, Regurgitation, & More, by Dawn Cusick. It's cool, it's gross, it's science--in a very fun to read format. 80 p.

Lincoln's Spymaster. Allan Pinkerton, America's First Private Eye, by Samantha Seiple. "A Scottish immigrant who came to America on the run from the law established the agency that stopped an early plot against Abraham Lincoln and became the best known detective of his era." (Kirkus Reviews) This biography reads like a novel, following Pinkerton through his work for Lincoln during the Civil War and later, chasing down villains and outlaws. 211 p. Pair this with *The Detective's Assistant*, by Lab parent Kate Hannigan.

Mission: Wolf Rescue: All About Wolves and How to Save Them, by Kitson Jazyuka and Daniel Raven-Ellison. (*Mission: Animal Rescue* series.) With its amazing photographs, this is a wonderful source to browse for general information about wolves, stories of particularly interesting wolves and packs, as well as current information about the status of wolves in the wild. 128 p.

The Octopus Scientists. Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk, by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Keith Ellenbogen. (Series: *Scientists in the Field*). Dense with information and filled with gorgeous photos, this book features an international team of scientists determined to answer questions about these fascinating creatures. There are plenty of fun facts: Did you know that the largest octopus is longer than a limo, and the tiniest, Octopus Wolfi, is only a half inch long? There are octopuses "who sport 'ears' like Dumbo (they're really fins), octos who glow in the dark...and others who are completely see-through." 71 p.

U.S. Women's Team Soccer Champions! By Illugi Jokulsson. Stars, stats and great photos of the champs. 62 p.

What's the Buzz? Keeping Bees in Flight, by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox. Whether you think you know everything about bees or have never had the slightest interest, this book will draw you in. Engagingly written, it is chock full of fascinating facts about all kinds of bees and includes information about recent evidence that these important pollinators may be endangered. Don't write this off as "just another bee book." Take a look. 48 p.

FICTION

As Brave As You, by Jason Reynolds. When city boy Genie and his older brother Ernie are forced to spend their summer in the country with their grandparents, they learn a secret about their grandfather and what it means to be brave. With no Internet and being forced to do chores, the two brothers are introduced to this rural African-American community and its different way of living. The brothers have many questions that will be answered, even if the answers are not what is expected. Did I mention that the boys were from New York City? 410 p.

A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans, by Lawrence Yep. Crusty dragon Miss Drake's new pet human, precocious ten-year-old Winnie, not only thinks Miss Drake is her pet, she accidentally brings to life her "sketchlings" of mysterious and fantastic creatures hidden in San Francisco, causing mayhem among its residents. 152 p.

Echo, by Pam Munoz Ryan. Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact and tied together by the music of the same harmonica. 592 p.

Fish in a Tree, by Linda Mullaly Hunt. Ally has been able to hide the fact that she can't read by disrupting class and distracting both the students and the teachers. She doesn't want to be called slow or loser anymore but she doesn't know how to ask for help. Luckily her new teacher and new friends help her to see the good in herself and in other people. 288 p.

The Five Lives of Our Cat Zook, by Joanne Rocklin. Ten-year-old Oona and younger brother Fred are planning to break their sick cat Zook (short for Zucchini) out of the veterinary clinic, Oona tells the story of Zook's previous lives. 240 p.

The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan. It's one thing to make your father mad, but it goes to another level when your father is Zeus. Apollo has angered his father Zeus and is cast from Olympus down to the "real" world. He must find a way to get back into his Dad's good graces and also learn to survive in this new world as a mere mortal at the same time. 384 p.

The Incredible Space Raiders From Space, by Wesley King. Jonah awakens to find himself torn from his home and family and thrown in with a band of misfit kids on a spaceship named the "Fantastic Flying Squirrel." Informed that they are all being trained to be "Incredible Space Raiders," with a military mission to destroy the Entirely Evil Things of the Dark Zone, he begins to suspect that is not the entire truth. Can a kid with an uneventful past take on adventure, danger and betrayal? 293 p.

Kimchi and Calamari, by Rose Kent. Drummer Joseph Calderaro is one mixed-up kid. He doesn't really know his heritage and he doesn't want anyone else to know it either. After getting caught lying on a school project about who his grandfather was, Joseph is forced to redo the assignment and learns more about his adopted Italian-American family and Korean heritage than he ever thought possible. 240 p.

Liar and Spy, by Rebecca Stead. Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building. 208 p.

Loot: How to Steal a Fortune, by Jude Watson. As notorious cat burglar, Alfie McQuinn, lays dying after falling from a rooftop, his last dying words to his son March are "find jewels." March soon finds out that his father was talking about Jules, his twin sister he didn't know existed. After he meets his sister, they are both taken by the police to the worst orphanage ever. There they plot "the one good heist" that will get them out of the orphanage and into riches. 272 p.

Mars Evacuees, by Sophie McDougall. Hostile aliens from space are freezing the Earth. Alice Dare, daughter of one of the most heroic of earth's fighter spaceship pilots, is evacuated to Mars with other kids who are brilliant, politically connected, or have won a lottery. Mars is being terra-formed for human habitation, but the air is only "kind of" breathable, and the atmosphere will only "sort of" protect people from getting cancer from exposure to the sun's rays. Shortly after the kids arrive at the domed Martian settlement and are introduced to their quirky caretaker teaching robots, something goes terribly wrong. Alice and her friends are caught up in an action-packed adventure, with death stalking them at every move. 404 p.

Masterminds, by Gordon Korman. Serenity, New Mexico appears to be a great town. According to the local newspaper it was voted #1 in the USA for standard of living. The 185 people that live in Serenity don't tell lies, everyone is employed, everyone has a home and the kids are all well-behaved. For Eli life is grand until his friend Randy is sent away. Nothing is as it seems in Serenity. If it seems like Serenity is too good to be true, maybe it is. 352 p.

Nightmares!, by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller. The hilariously frightening first book in a trilogy about a boy named Charlie and a group of kids who must face their fears to save their town. 400 p.

The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate. Ivan thinks life isn't so bad. He has his art, endless bananas and friends. He doesn't realize that he has lived for years in a down-and-out mall or how deplorable the conditions are. Everything changes when he loses a friend to neglect and a baby elephant named Ruby arrives. After this happens he vows to find a better life for Ruby. With the help of friends, both animal and human, his dreams might just come true. Told in first person by Ivan himself, his personality and emotions shine through. 336 p.

Pay it Forward, by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Twelve-year-old Trevor is a caring young man who, through a school assignment, begins a movement of kindness through the act of paying it forward. Encouraged by his mother and physically scarred school teacher, Trevor endeavors to make the world a better place in the midst of perceived failure and exciting social notoriety. As with the original adult version, Hyde brings readers into the Clinton administrative years and the home and life of the protagonist. The characters are believable and likable and children are taken along on their journey as willing participants. An ambiguous ending allows kids to make their own decisions about Trevor and his future. A thoroughly convincing narrative that will have children questioning the label of fiction. (As reviewed in School Library Journal) 288 p.

Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood, by Liesl Shurtliff. Red is off to find a cure for her ailing grandma... eternal life. She is accompanied by a wolf, a huntsman, and Goldie ????. All is not what it seems and there is advice to be had from many people. In this book the saying "all that glitters isn't gold" holds true for Red. She makes some mistakes but she does find her inner power. 256 p.

Save Me A Seat, by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan. The phrase "save me a seat " is a life preserver. Four words that can make a kid feel safe in a sea of strangers. The story is told from two different points of view: Ravi, who just moved from India, is adjusting to his new American life, and Joe, who has long been a student at Albert Einstein Elementary and is acclimating to a new grade without his best friends. Popular and cunning Dillon Samreen does not miss their vulnerabilities. Since he and Dillon are the only Indian students in the class, Ravi assumes they will be best friends, but Joe knows better. Like Joe, readers watch the slow, drawn-out torture in silence. That feeling of helplessness will be a powerful one for students to discuss (review by School Library Journal 3/1/16). 240 p.

Snowize and Snitch, by Karen Briner. Ever Indigo Nikita Stein (or EIN-stein, as her classmates at the School for Children of Gifted Parents call her) thinks bad luck follows her around. She is still dealing with her parents' disappearance when a black crow tells her that they are alive and well. She thinks her classmates are trying to show off some of their magic powers and doesn't believe the crow at all. What really happened to her parents? Who is draining the knowledge from the scientists? There are so many questions to be answered as this story unfolds. 224 p.

Stick Cat: A Tale of Two Kitties, by Tom Watson. Enjoy the adventure of Stick Cat, a cat that lives in an apartment and spends most of his days with the neighbor cat, Edith. They like to listen to music played by the piano tuner from the piano factory across the street. Stick Cat and Edith are the only ones that realize that the piano tuner is stuck inside the piano. They must save him, but how? Come along for this adventure and you will truly be amused. See also the Stick Dog books by the same author. 208 p.

A Time to Dance, by Padma Venkatraman. Veda is skilled in the traditional Indian dance, bharatanatyam. When tragedy strikes and she loses her right leg, Veda is told that she will never dance again. Through sheer determination and passion Veda defies all the odds and never abandons her dream to dance. Told through verse, this novel captivates and moves you. 320 p.

Trouble the Water, by Frances O'Roark Dowell. An old yellow dog has walked through town three days in a row. Callie is determined to find its owner, which leads her to Wendell. The two of them are on a mission. The year is 1953 and Callie is a black girl and Wendell is a white boy in the segregated south of Kentucky. Needless to say, the town doesn't take too kindly to their friendship. A great mystery is in the air which involves ghosts. What's really happening with the yellow dog who is clearly seeking someone or something? 288 p.

The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin. What if you had been handpicked by the victim of a murder to solve the mystery behind his murder? This is what has happened to a group of strangers/tenants from a new apartment building across the street from where the murder occurred. The strangers are paired up and whichever pair can solve the mystery will inherit the Westing fortune. Has a murder really been committed, or is this just a “game” being watched by the eccentric millionaire, Mr. Westing? 192 p.

The Wild Robot, by Peter Brown. A shipwreck strews 500 neatly packaged, shiny new robots into the sea; only one washes up unharmed on the shore of an island inhabited by wild animals. Rozzum unit 7134 is accidentally activated, and her programming, which allows her to learn and adapt, begins to help her survive and find a place among the creatures of this unintended home. The very approachable storytelling should appeal to a wide audience. 279 p.