



## January 2018

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

### **Anne of Green Gables: A Graphic Novel.** J Graphic Novel

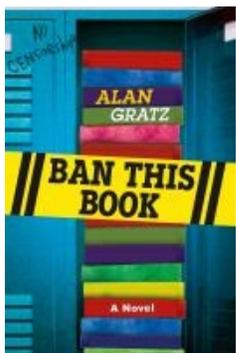
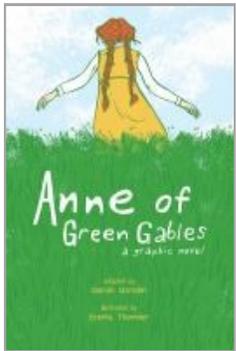
After requesting to adopt an orphan boy to help on their farm, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert unexpectedly receive a red-headed, freckle faced precocious young girl named Anne with an E instead. Adventures soon abound as Anne accidentally insults a neighbor, misplaces Marilla's favorite brooch, becomes stranded in a pond, begs for a new dress with puffy sleeves (the latest style), and apologizes again and again for all of her kerfuffles. As Anne navigates through the life of a young girl growing up in the early 1900s readers will relate as she struggles with friendships, boys and following the rules. Anne is pure of heart and not afraid to tell it like it is which endears her to all those around her, especially the Cuthberts, who in the end not only accept her as a part of their family but learn they can't live without her. As a graphic novel this classic story becomes accessible to a wide audience and has bright, beautiful illustrations to support the heartwarming tale. Recommended for readers in grades 3 and up.

### **Ban This Book by Alan Gratz.** J Fiction

Amy Anne is a quiet fourth grader who loves to read. One day she discovers that her favorite book, *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, is no longer in the school library. The school librarian tells her that a parent thought the book was inappropriate, and the school board agreed, so this book and several others are now banned from the school library. Amy Anne decides that she needs to take action. Her first plan is to read every one of the banned books. As other students find out that she has many of the banned books in her locker they start to borrow them also, and soon Amy Anne is hosting a secret library out of her locker, renamed the Banned Books Locker Library. When the secret library is discovered by the principal, Amy Anne and her friends come up with a plan to convince the school board to put the banned books back in the library. Amy Anne learns the importance of speaking up for something that is right. As she says to both students and adults, "Nobody has the right to tell you what books you can or can't read. Except your parents." This inspiring story addresses the issue of banned books in a way that children can understand, and encourages them to find their voice to stand up for what's right in an appropriate way. The book includes discussion questions and activities at the end. Recommended for grades 4-6.

### **Monster Science: Could Monsters Survive (and Thrive) in the Real World?** J 001.944 Becker

This book takes a look at six different monsters that we know about from old stories, books and

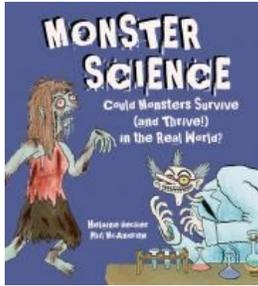


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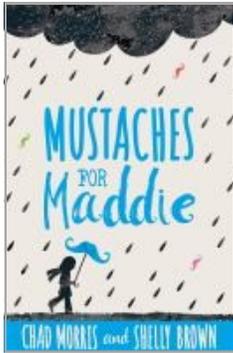
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movies: Frankenstein, Vampire, Bigfoot, Zombie, Werewolf, and Sea Monster. If you are wondering if this book will tell you that any of them are no-doubt-about-it real, it doesn't quite do that! What it does do is present information to help you decide what is fact and what is fiction. The first monster that is looked at in the book is Frankenstein. Did you know that the very first book that introduced us to this monster was written in 1818 - exactly 200 years ago? That time in history has been called "The Age of Enlightenment" because there were so many scientific discoveries being made, including the whole understanding of electricity and how it worked. A lot of the ideas in Frankenstein came from all this new information about electricity. Monster Science describes how people did experiments with electricity to see if a Frankenstein monster could be real, including a Franken-frog! After explaining more about Frankenstein, the Monster Science book takes a look at the other monsters. This book has great cartoon-type illustrations and would be an interesting read for kids in 4th and 5th grades or older.

**Mustaches for Maddie by Chad Morris.** J Fiction, JCD



Maddie, the lone girl in a family of boys, struggles with a mean but popular girl at school. Some days Cassie will let Maddie be in her selected group to hang out at recess, but other days not. Maddie wants to speak up about the unfairness of exclusion, but doesn't have the nerve. Maddie has a reputation as the funny girl in her class - she loves nothing better than to slap on one of her collection of fake mustaches and make everyone laugh. The school play is coming up, and Cassie has decided she wants to be Juliet, so she instructs the other girls to sign up for a variety of other parts. When Maddie is picked instead, Cassie is furious and her occasional indifference turns to real bullying. But at the same time, Maddie's problems become much greater as she is diagnosed with a brain tumor and has to have a very serious surgery. This book is based on the true story of the authors' daughter, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was 9. Lots to learn about courage, bravery and standing up for yourself. Recommended for grades 4 - 6.

**The Perfect Score by Rob Buyea.** J Fiction, JCD



Five sixth-grade students take turns telling their stories about their school's frenzied preparation for upcoming standardized tests. As the test gets closer and closer, the administration, desperate for good scores from all students, forbids reading aloud, extracurricular activities, and eventually even recess. Frustrated and upset that some of their favorite parts of school are being taken away, the group comes up with a plan to ensure that everyone will ace the test. But will a perfect score return things to normal? A pointed yet tongue in cheek commentary on the "value" of standardized testing and the lengths that adults will go through to achieve high ranks. This one will make a great discussion title for elementary and middle grade readers.

**The War I Finally Won by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley.** J Fiction, JCD, eBook, eAudiobook



Finally! The sequel to *The War that Saved My Life* is here! And it lives up to the hype! This book picks up right where the first left off, and all the beloved characters are still there and still dealing with the war. Ada gets surgery on her clubfoot and is finally able to walk and get around again. Ada and Jamie grow even closer to Susan, and they are forced to spend more time with the disagreeable and intimidating Lady Thornton when the big house is taken over and Lady Thornton has to move in with them. Then Lord Thornton arrives at the estate with a refugee girl for Susan to tutor. But Ruth is German - and all of the others, including Ada, are mistrustful and wary of someone with her background. Could she be a spy? As the war drags on and on, with dire consequences for all, Ada wonders when - and if - it will ever end... For readers of all ages who read and loved the first book.