

# READ

## February 2018

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



**The Adventurers Guild by Zack Loran Clark and Nick Eliopoulos.** J Fiction

This book is full of adventure and action set in a post-apocalyptic fantasy world. Zed is half elf and is shunned by much of his town (one of the last remaining) because it was another half-elf who released the monstrous Dangers and destroyed the world. On the day of the Guildculling, where children are chosen for the different town guilds, Zed's dreams at first come true but then are horribly crushed when he finds himself drafted into the Adventurers Guild - the guild that is tasked with fighting the Dangers and protecting the town, and whose members are often left scarred or dead. Zed, his cocky friend Brock, well-trained noble Liza, and dwarf Jett find more than their share of adventure both outside and inside the town walls. Kids who like fantasy such as *Harry Potter* or *Lord of the Rings* will devour this. Recommended for grades 5 - 8.



**Astronaut, Aquanaut: How Space Science and Sea Science Interact by Jennifer Swanson.** J 627 Swans

Deep space and the deep sea: it may not seem like these really go together, but they have more in common than you might think. They both can be dark and mysterious with tall mountains, deep trenches, volcanoes, earthquakes, swirling vortexes and many unknown factors. The people who explore these worlds -- astronauts and aquanauts -- have to understand and know how to manage pressure, temperature, buoyancy and mostly how to survive in a hostile environment. Would you want to become an explorer up in space or under the sea? Either way you will want to learn as much as you can about each place. This book would be a good way to start! Along with great information, photos and diagrams, there is an explorer's notebook with facts and activities that would be fun and interesting to try. Lastly there are quotes from real astronauts and aquanauts about their experiences in deep space or deep ocean. This would be a great book for 4th or 5th graders or older.



**Baker's Magic by Diane Zahler** - Live Oak Media Audiobook with a Full Cast of Characters

This recent audiobook of *Baker's Magic* is a full cast presentation with 8 actors doing the voices for the characters in the book. The audio got a great review in *AudioFile Magazine* and was even given an award by them. The story opens with an orphan girl who is trying to escape a bad situation. She finds herself in a new town where she begins badly, but then starts to find out who she really is -- even learning there is something magical in her life. The tale goes on with her discovering friendship and then courage and strength in working to resolve an extremely difficult situation in the town. There are wonderful characters and even pirates in the story. All the voices of these characters are expertly presented in this audiobook offering. It would be a great listening experience for ages 5 and up.



**BROOMFIELD**  
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**La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust Series, book 1 by Philip Pullman.** J Fiction, JCD, eBook, eAudiobook

Pullman returns to the world of *The Golden Compass*, where all humans have a shape shifting animal daemon companion - an opposite sex animal familiar tied to oneself both geographically (if the familiar moves away from her master, the master must follow) and psychically. In this book, Lyra is just a baby, and Pullman expands upon her story. Young Malcom lives with his parents at The Trout, an inn on the banks of the Thames just outside of Oxford. In his work waiting on tables at the inn Malcolm hears all kinds of gossip and observes many a strange character. Across the river from the trout is a nunnery, and rumor has it that the nuns have recently given shelter to a baby girl - daughter of Lord Asriel and the creepy Mrs. Coulter. Malcolm regularly goes to help out the mostly elderly nuns, and soon gets to meet the child. It turns out that many different people - most of them not so nice - want that baby. As the weather takes a turn for the worse and the town is flooded, Malcolm ends up in charge of Lyra - and desperately tries to get her to safety without either of them coming to harm. Adventure, excitement and a bit of fantasy combine to make this a thrilling read for readers in grades 6 and up. And make sure you go back and read *The His Dark Materials* series once you're finished with this one.



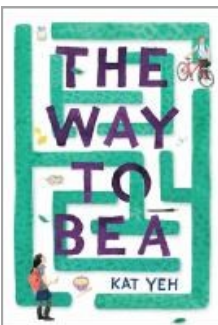
**The Road to Ever After by Moira Young.** J Fiction, eBook

Davy David, a thirteen year old homeless orphan, lives in the small town of Brownvale. He supports himself by doing odd jobs, and sleeps in a cluster of trees at the back of the cemetery. In the early morning hours before the townspeople wake up, he draws angels in the dirt lots around town, using sticks and brooms. Some of the townspeople strongly dislike the drawings. One day, a stray dog called George Bailey starts following Davy wherever he goes. George makes it much harder for Davy to secretly do his drawings, and soon Davy realizes that he needs to leave town immediately. When a magical wind blows Davy and George toward an old, boarded up museum on the edge of town, they meet the elderly Miss Flint who lives there alone. Miss Flint tells Davy that he will need to drive her back to her childhood home where she will die. The fact that he is only thirteen and doesn't know how to drive doesn't matter to Miss Flint. Their journey leads them through humorous and dangerous adventures, but also provides the chance for them to develop a very special friendship in which they have an unspoken trust and deep understanding of each other. This unusual book is magical and heartwarming, even though it deals with a heavy subject. The ending is very touching. There are many stories and themes underlying the main narrative, and much detail is left unsaid, leaving the reader to wonder and imagine. This book is recommended for Grades 5 and up.



**Sit: Stories by Deborah Ellis.** J Fiction

A moving collection of short stories revolving around children overcoming adversity in a variety of situations all over the world. The author takes the reader into the lives and intimate thoughts of 10 children at a particular, poignant moment in their lives. The children's experiences range from the hardship of child labor, where a young Jafar must build chairs to be sent far away but is never allowed to sit on one. Then there is Barry who sits in a food court chair at the mall while his parents tell him of their separation and all the while he is observing other patrons of the food court and their secret interactions with one another. The story of Gretchen on a field trip who is told to try to experience what life was like inside of a concentration camp as she questions who she would have been during that horrible time. Each child's resilience, courage and determination are celebrated by the author in both large and small ways. Recommended for readers 5th grade and up.



**The Way To Bea by Kat Yeh.** J Fiction, JCD, eBook

This is an awesome book for kids ages 12-15. Bea has a best friend and great parents but all of that seems to change when her parents get even busier and a baby sister is on the way. No one in middle school seems to like a girl with a very unique personality. She loves poetry and writes a lot herself. Even through hard times Bea writes to her new friend using The Wall to deliver the poems. After all of the changes she decides that finding new friends and hobbies isn't always a bad thing. This book is a great read for kids who like adventures.

*Reviewed by Laura, age 12*

