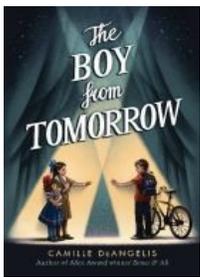


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August 2018

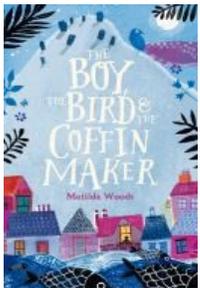
Recent books for kids that the Children's Library staff have read & loved & that we think you will too!



The Boy From Tomorrow by Camille DeAngelis. J Fiction

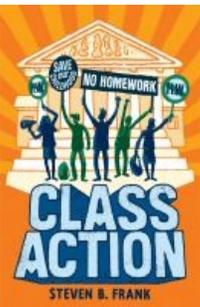
This is a wonderful book for 12-14 year olds that is bound to grab your attention from the first sentence. This eerie and exciting book is about a girl named Josie who lives in a house on 444 Sparrow Street, in 1915 with her mischievous little sister, Cass, and her mother who is very mean to Josie and her sister. Through a talking board she meets a boy named Alec who lives in the same house and the same bedroom as her - but in 2015. Alec must figure out how to save Josie and Cass from their mother, but can he do it when it is already past?

Guest reviewer: Laura, age 12



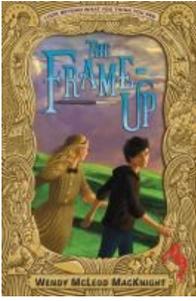
The Boy, The Bird and The Coffin Maker by Matilda Woods. J Fiction

This charming story takes place in the beautiful town of Allora where fish are flying out of the sea and the streets are winding. The story begins by introducing Alberto, the coffin maker, and his ideal family who quickly succumb to a horrible tragedy. Flash forward a lifetime and Alberto is now an old man, living alone and building coffins for the people of Allora. Life changes for the coffin maker when he begins to notice food disappearing from his kitchen. He discovers that a boy, Tito, and his magical bird Fia need a place to call home. Together they embark on quite an adventure that changes all of their lives forever. With its fairytale ending, this story will leave you with a warm and happy feeling. The beautiful illustrations just add to the whimsy of this lovely tale. Recommended for grades 4 and up.



Class Action by Steven B. Frank. J Fiction

Sam Warren is an eleven year old sixth grader who is getting tired of doing homework. He wishes he had more time to play with friends, play the piano, and build a treehouse with his dad. One day in school, he stands on his desk in the classroom and refuses to do homework. Sam gets suspended for his actions, and while he's suspended he decides he needs to do something about too much homework. He talks to his neighbor, Mr. Kalman, a retired lawyer, who informs him that his rights were violated when he was suspended. Sam's sister who is a high school debate champion and several of Sam's friends from his school join him and Mr. Kalman when they decide to sue the school district because of too much homework. They claim that too much homework is depriving them of their childhood. They all work together, researching, preparing arguments, and even fundraising for their case. The irony of all this work is that they do much more than they ever would have done on their homework assignments, but this matters to them more than any homework assignment. Sam and his friends lose their first round in court, but continue to take it to higher courts and ultimately to the United States Supreme Court. Readers learn about actual court processes, actual court cases, and Constitutional rights under the first amendment, but they learn it in a very entertaining way. This fun read is about friendship, working hard, and commitment to a cause. It will be enjoyed by readers in Grades 5 and up.



The Frame-Up by Wendy McLeod MacKnight. J Fiction, JCD

Mona Dunn has lived in the Beaverbrook art gallery for over 100 years as one of their biggest masterpieces and she is getting very tired of the same old schedule. Luckily the director of the gallery has decided to bring his son, Sargent, to the gallery for the summer. At first Sargent has no idea that the gallery is anything other than plain old paintings. But when he is taking his first tour of the gallery he notices two little boys making faces at the painting of Mona Dunn - and when they turn to leave he sees Mona stick her tongue out at the boys! Sargent is in disbelief - are the paintings alive or was that his imagination? Little does he know Sargent has just discovered one of the gallery's biggest secrets and is about to make a new best friend. This is a wonderful book for children ages 9-14. It's my new favorite book that is tied with *The Book Thief*.

Guest reviewer: Laura, age 12



Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen by Debbi Michiko Florence. J Fiction

8-year-old Jasmine is very much looking forward to her family's upcoming New Year celebration. Each year, all the Toguchis get together to make mochi and celebrate. As is tradition, the women cook the rice, then pass it off to the men who use a special hammer to pound it down into mochi. Then the mochi goes back indoors and the women roll it into delicious sweet mochi balls - to be eaten on New Year's eve. Jasmine is tired of being the little sister who never gets to do anything. So she decides that she IS big enough to help this year - but she wants to pound the mochi! Will Jasmine be able to talk the grown ups into giving her a shot? This spunky heroine is a Japanese American Clementine and will be a big hit with readers in grades 1 - 3 who are interested in learning about other cultures or just like a fun story. This is the first in the series.



Max Tilt: Fire the Depths by Peter Lerangis. J Fiction, JCD

Max Tilt has a strange way of experiencing fear - he smells fish. One June morning he has this happen in a big way. He is glad to be done with school and to be able to work on his drone. He is going to surprise his parents by trying out the drone that morning at breakfast. He sends it out from his room, but that turns out to be a bad idea because it is a huge scare for his mom who has been struggling with illness all year. He hears her scream and then his dad quietly says, "Maximilian, please come into the kitchen." His dad never uses his full name unless something is really wrong, so Max walks down the stairs smelling a very strong fish odor. The drone has not been the problem though, as much as more bad news about his mom's illness. She and his dad are going to be leaving him with an older cousin while they drive to another state for medical treatment. Max does not do well in meeting this cousin he hadn't ever known, but he finds out from her that they are both related to the author Jules Verne. After his parents leave, the two find an antique chest in the house that had once belonged to the author. This is the start of some amazing and terrifying adventures as they follow clues that have been left by Verne. This would be a good book for kids in 4th grade and up, especially those who may have read or might be intrigued by *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.

Try This! Extreme: Fifty Fun and Safe Experiments for the Mad Scientist in You by Karen Romano Young J 507.8 Young

This is a great new book from National Geographic Kids with "activities, mysteries and projects that take science to extremes!" These involve extremes of temperatures, environments, abilities and more. The creators of the book met with 36 kids, 1 dog and several adults, including a mail carrier, to test out the ideas. The book is divided into these topics: Snow and Ice, Survival Skills, Feel the Force, Animal Superpowers, Special Fix, Water Way to Act, and Hot Stuff. In the Hot Stuff category there was one project that was really a favorite of the participants. It is called MYO OOHO and it is a chemistry and physics activity that could make a biodegradable, edible water bottle. The ingredients used in the project create really amazing gelatin-type water bubbles that you can hold and even eat! Other fun projects would be making a lava lamp or creating Scaredy Sand (that is afraid of water). The authors recommend that kids and parents or other adults do these activities together. They have also designated some projects as *requiring adult supervision*.

