

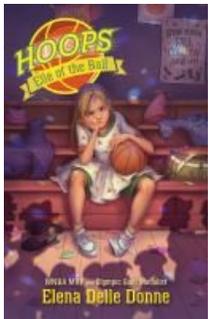
R E A D

December 2018

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

Elle of the Ball by Elena Delle Donne. J Fiction

Elle Deluca is 12-years-old and in seventh grade - and she's recently hit six feet tall! As you can imagine, pretty much everyone she meets asks her if she plays basketball. Luckily, Elle does. But believe it or not, being tall doesn't automatically make her the best player on the court. Her height does make some things easier, but Elle has grown so much so quickly that she feels awkward in her body and spends as much time tripping over her own feet or accidentally fouling someone than she does making 3 pointers. And while Elle is more or less in her element on the basketball court, she's not nearly so comfortable on the dance floor. Unfortunately for her, the seventh graders all have to attend - and perform - at the annual school cotillion. Which means they have to learn how to dance first... Elle is way taller than all the boys in her grade, so if having to learn how to dance isn't torture enough, she has to attempt it while towering over her partner, even though he's the one who's supposed to lead. This somewhat autobiographical first book in the *Elle* series is written by real life basketball star and Olympic gold medalist Elena Delle Donne. Kids who like sports stories or who are just struggling to make their own way in life will appreciate Elle's struggles and triumphs. Recommended for grades 4-7.



Ogre Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine. J Fiction, JCD, eBook, eAudiobook

Evie is a young healer who thrives on helping others. Her friend Wormy is often the willing subject of her medical experiments, but when Wormy decides to propose to her and she declines, the mischievous fairy Lucinda gets involved and turns Evie into an Ogre. She has 62 days to accept an offer of marriage or she'll stay an ogre forever. Evie is determined to stay true to herself and overcome all obstacles no matter what form she takes. Gail Carson Levine crafts tales with strong and likeable heroines, and this is no exception. This is a prequel to the beloved *Ella Enchanted*, but readers do not need to have read Ella to enjoy this. Recommended for grades 4 and up.



Out of Left Field by Ellen Klages. J Fiction, JCD, eAudiobook

10-year-old Katy Gordon lives for the games of baseball. She's a talented pitcher with a wicked slider, and during recess and outside of school she will pretty much always be found at the field, playing ball with the other kids from her neighborhood. The only thing unusual about this scenario is that it's 1957, and girls don't generally play baseball. Katy is always the only girl out there, and it took her a long time to get accepted by the boys, but once she'd worked her way in - and could hold her own - she became just another player. One day after a pickup game Katy is approached by a



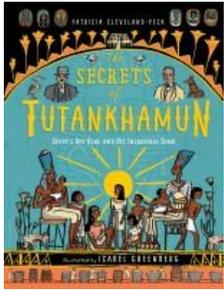
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Little League coach who asks her to try out for the upcoming season. Little League is a big step up from neighborhood pick up games; there are uniforms and coaches and groomed fields to play on. Katy is pretty sure the coach who encourages her to try out doesn't realize she's a girl. So when she attends the tryouts she signs up as "Casey" (her initials) and no one is the wiser. When she makes the team Katy is thrilled - until one of the other kids rats her out. Katy is told that Little League is for boys only. What follows is Katy's determination to get Little League to change their rules. This results in Katy researching the history of women in baseball and finding out that she's far from the first. A combination of sports story, history lesson and shining example of grit and determination, this is a great read for readers from fourth grade to adult.

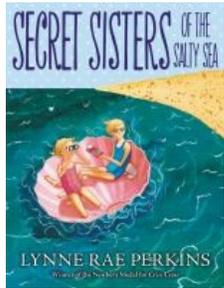
The Secrets of Tutankhamun: Egypt's Boy King and His Incredible Tomb. J 932.014 Cleve

When Tutankhamun was born as a prince, the son of the king of Egypt, life in Egypt was not going so well. By the time he was 9 years old, things had gone from bad to worse and all of the royal family had died. That made Tutankhamun the king at age 9. Next he was expected to marry and then even died at a young age, when he was only 18 or 19 years old. It was assumed that his body was mummified, following the usual practice of that time, but for over 3,000 years from his death, no one knew where his tomb might be. Finally in November of 1922 a man named Howard Carter found the top of a sunken staircase and a blocked doorway covered with oval seals. Beyond this doorway were a second and third doorway into different chambers full of amazing artifacts including the sarcophagus with King Tut's body. This is a really interesting book that explains the history so well, along with drawings about the stages of discovery. It even has a section about the rumors of "The Curse of Tutankhamun's Tomb" that lists some intriguing coincidences surrounding the uncovering of the tomb. This would be a good book for 3rd graders and older to read or use as information for a school project.



Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea by Lynne Rae Perkins. J Fiction, JCD

It is so early in the morning that it's still dark outside when two sisters, Alix and Jools, start their car trip with their parents. They are driving a long way to get to their rental house by the sea. It's very exciting because they are going to be seeing the ocean for the very first time. The all-day drive seems like forever, but they finally see the ocean and the little town where they will be staying. After a quick tour of the house, they zoom out to see the beach and begin the summer adventures they will never forget. Over the course of their stay there, they explore the beach with all the various insects, birds and sea life easily seen. They collect shells and sea glass which Alix learns to fashion into necklaces (directions given). They also get to visit a wildlife refuge and Alix actually helps with a peregrine falcon rescue. All in all it's an amazing vacation and this book draws you right into what the girls are experiencing. It's a good book for 2nd grade and older kids to read on their own or for parents to read to younger kids. It would be especially great for kids who have also never seen the ocean because it gives such a good introduction to what it's like.



Winnie's Great War by Lindsay Mattick and Josh Greenhut. J Fiction

This is an amazing book for 8-10 year olds that love realistic fiction. This book tells the tale of the world's most famous bear and her many adventures through many different countries on many different continents. This small bear went through one of the world's largest wars that is still remembered today leaving a mark on many of the people's hearts that she met along the way. All of this led up to Winnie meeting a very famous boy and making her debut through a writer's eyes.

Reviewed by Laura, age 13

* Fans of this title will also enjoy *Finding Winnie: the True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick.

