

Youth Services Staff Picks

Volume 1: Issue 4

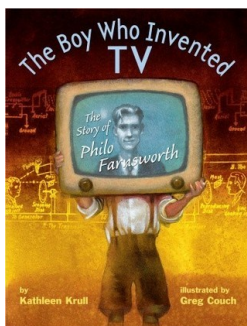
Winter 2011

Cari

The Amazing Life of Birds: (the Twenty-day Puberty Journal of Duane Homer Leech) by Gary Paulsen **J PAU**— In this journal Duane Homer Leech describes his observations of a newly hatched bird, nesting in his windowsill while interweaving his own story and challenges he faces while confronting puberty.

The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth by Kathleen Krull **J B FAR**—A

young genius sets out to invent something that will change the world. Philo Farnsworth was born in a time before refrigerators, cars, phones, or even indoor bathrooms, but his curiosity about



how things worked, leads him to invent something we could not live without, the TV.

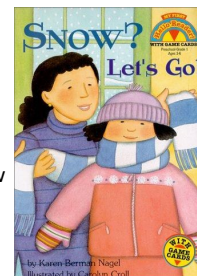
Go Dog Go! By P.D. Eastman **ER EAS**—This classic book filled with lots of sight words never goes out of style. You will find big dogs, little dogs, red, blue, green dogs. Dogs of every size, shape and color are on the go!

It's Christmas David! By David Shannon **E SHA**— My favorite character, David, is back, this time for Christmas! Follow his adventures as he learns what not to do during the holidays.

Ivy & Bean and the Ghost that Had to Go by Annie Barrows **J BAR**— This is the second book in the Ivy & Bean series. When Ivy & Bean discover a ghost in the girls bathroom at school every second grader in school now watches the bathroom intently. But then Ms. Aruba-Tate talks to the class about using imaginations responsibly and Ivy & Bean get an idea. It is time to expel the ghost.

Snow? Let's Go! By Karen Berman

Nagel **ER NAG**— This cute easy reader is perfect for winter time. It is packed with simple sight words for the new reader.



Steve Jobs: The Brilliant Mind Behind Apple by Anthony Imbimbo **J B JOB**—Written before Steve Jobs passed away, this biography gives good information about Jobs early career, the co-creation of Apple computers with Steve Wozniak, a "little" project with Disney Pixar and the driving force that led Steve Jobs to invent, create and persevere his dreams with stubbornness and tenacity.

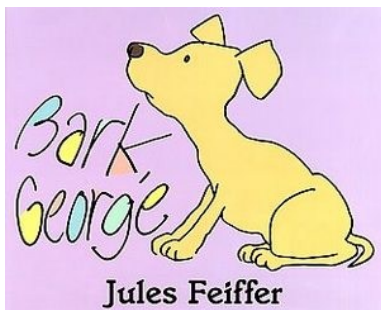
What Will Fat Cat Sit On? by Jan Thomas **E THO**— What will fat cat sit on, the dog, the cow, the chair? There are lots of silly choices in this cute picture book. Kids will enjoy making the animal sounds as they read along.

Dana

Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock retold by Eric A. Kimmel **E 398.2 KIM**—Anansi the Spider uses a strange moss-covered rock to trick all the other forest animals into giving him whatever he wants until the day Bush Deer decides to teach him a lesson.

Bark, George by Jules Feiffer **E FEI**—A mother dog tries to teach her pup how to bark, and when he's unable to produce the right sounds, a visit to the vet is made ending with a surprising result.

Binky the Space Cat by Ashley Spires **J GN SPI**— Binky's blast-off into outer space (actually, outside) to fight the aliens (actually, bugs) is delayed when he realizes he's left something behind. And it's not



his anti-gravity litter. A perfect story for children moving from easy readers to beginning chapter books.

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin—**E CRO**

Read about the secret life of worms, told from the point of view of a young worm - in diary format.

Gossie by Olivier Dunrea **E DUN**—Gossie loves her red boots. She wears them everywhere, every day. And then one day, they disappear.

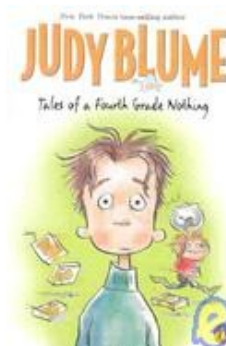
Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! by Candace Fleming **E FLE**—Some very persistent bunnies go after Mr. McGreely's garden with Mr. McGreely persistently building bigger and better ways to keep them out.

Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People by Albert Marrin **J 599.352 MAR**—Revolting! Revealing! Riveting! as the back of the book says. Marrin looks at the science, history, culture and folklore of rats giving us a fascinating account of these creatures of survival.

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin **J B BEN**—A biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations. An amazing story of one man's passion for studying and understanding the science behind the beauty

of nature.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume **J P BLU**—If you've ever had a younger brother or sister, you will enjoy this story of Peter and his demanding two-year-old brother, Fudge, and the ever increasing trouble he makes and becomes for his brother.



The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis **J CUR**—The lives of the Watson family are drastically changed when they go to Birmingham, Alabama in the summer of 1963 to visit Grandma. There are moments of laugh-out-loud humor and moments of heartbreak in this look at life in the south in a time of great turmoil.

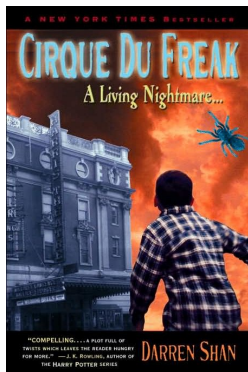
Denise

Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan **J**

SHA—Darren Shan has always been fascinated by spiders so when he and his friend Steve “Leopard” win tickets to the Cirque du Freak and see the very deadly spider Madame Octa performing, he decides he must have her. After a great catastrophe, Darren makes a deal with Madame Octa’s owner in order to save someone’s life. The only problem is he made a deal to become a vampire’s assistant!

Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late by Mo Willems **E WIL**—The Pigeon wants to stay up late and it is our job to tell it no. The Pigeon comes up with many different reasons why we should let it stay up late. This very funny book makes for an excellent bedtime read, even if you are not tired!

Dreamquest: Tales of Slumberia by Brent Hartinger **J HAR**—Julie’s life is a nightmare; her parents fight all the time and constantly put her in the middle. Then Julie’s dreams become nightmares as well where her parents are pulling her into different directions. In the middle of one of her nightmares, Julie falls into a world called Slumberia where all of her dreams are filmed. Julie goes on an adventure in order to get the dream producers to stop making nightmares. Faced with a deadline to get back to her

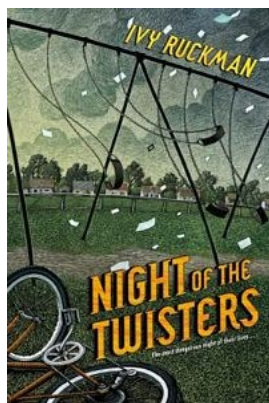


world, being chased by security, and obstacles with every step she takes, it seems that Julie will never make it to the dream producers.

The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch by Joseph Delaney **J DEL**—Tom is the seventh son of a seventh son and he is at the age where he needs to go out into the world and become an apprentice. His mam convinces Mr. Gregory, the spook, to take him on as an apprentice. Now Tom must learn all that he can about witches, boggarts, and ghosts before he makes a big mistake that can cost him his life.

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank You Notes by Peggy Gifford **J GIF**—This is a hysterical book about how much Moxy procrastinates in order to not write her thank you notes. With many comedic antics and several pictures showing the outcome, this book keeps you wanting more. It reminds me of myself when it comes to cleaning my room (my mom agreed)!

Night of the Twisters by Ivy Ruckman **JP RUC**—You never know when your day can turn into the worst day of your life. For Dan and his best friend Arthur, it happens all too quickly. The day started out like any other and the boys didn’t think too much of the tornado warning that was issued. However, when the winds start howling, the sirens start blaring, and an awful sucking begins in all the drains, Dan and Arthur know



that this isn’t an average warning.

The Secret Order of the Gumm Street Girls by Elise Primavera **J PRI**—Although this book is massive, it is a fast read with many illustrations. This book depicts the truth about Oz, Dorothy, and the wizard. The girls are thrown in the middle of a great puzzle that must be solved. This book has it all; girls struggling with friends, a hurricane, and witches. This is a good fantasy book especially for a Wizard of Oz fan.

Tangled **J DVD TAN**—This movie is a new spin on the classic fairy tale, Rapunzel. This story is told by Flynn Rider, a rascally bandit. While escaping from stealing a crown from the castle, Flynn comes across the tower that Rapunzel is locked away in. Rapunzel convinces Flynn to take her away from the castle to see the floating lights on her birthday. The only catch, they cannot be caught by Rapunzel’s mother, Mother Gothel. Rapunzel and Flynn get into all sorts of fun adventures and trouble during their journey and must overcome many obstacles in order for Rapunzel to find out the truth about herself.

The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan **J M THI**—In *The Maze of Bones*, Amy and Dan Cahill, find out that their grandmother selected them as candidates to participate in a contest consisting of 39 clues to become the most powerful Cahill. Seven teams are formed and they set out across the country to search for the next clue. During their search, Amy and Dan find out that the Cahill family was a bigger influence on the world than they could have ever imagined. This story of mystery and adventure along with a bit of family rivalry leaves you desperate for the second book!

Erin

After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick **J PLAYAWAY F SON**—(The follow-up to *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*.) Eight years after his diagnosis, Jeff Alper is now cancer-free, and he and his best friend Tad, a fellow eighth-grader and cancer survivor, push each other to be better people. Despite dealing with memory issues and a limp, and not having his older brother Steven around for support, Jeff shows his incredible strength as he faces difficult new challenges and loss head-on.

Chickens to the Rescue by John Himmelman **E HIM**—Farmer Greenstalk and his family are having a rough week. Thankfully, their chickens are there to help them! But when Sunday rolls around and Emily spills her cereal all over the floor, the chickens are nowhere to be found. Where can they be?

The Composer is Dead by Lemony Snicket **E SNI**—A murder has occurred in the orchestra hall! Follow the Inspector as he questions each of the instruments, and then be prepared for a punny, surprise ending. Listen to the CD that’s included for an awesome musical rendition of

the story.

The Day-Glo Brothers by Chris Barton **J 535.352 BAR**—Do you love highlighters and other bright, fluorescent things? Read this book to learn about one bright idea – the Switzer brothers’ creation of fluorescent colors in the 1930s.

Dizzy by Lunch Money **J CD LUNC DIZ**—Tunes so catchy, Mom & Dad will be singing along with you!

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick **AUDIO CD JF SON**—He’s a good student, an all-city drummer, obsessed with music and girls, and constantly bothered by his five-year-old brother Jeffrey. Steven Alper leads the life of a typical eighth-grade boy, until the day Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, and Steven’s world turns upside down.

The Emperor’s Silent Army by Jane O’Connor **J 931 OCO**—Imagine thousands of ancient, life-sized statues of soldiers and horses. Now imagine finding them buried underground! Who would put them there? What were they for? Discover the significance and mysteries of the stunning terra cotta soldier army of China’s first

emperor over 2000 years ago.

Finally by Wendy Mass **J MAS**—Rory is finally turning twelve, and she’s eager to start doing things that other twelve-year olds can do, like have a cell phone, wear make-up, babysit, and stay home alone. She’s even lucky enough to land a part in a movie starring her favorite teen actor! But things don’t often go as planned – you’ll root for Rory as you follow her hilarious mishaps in this funny and entertaining book.



Oh No, Gotta Go #2 by Susan Middleton Elya **E ELY**—A little niña doesn’t want to have an accident during her family picnic at the park, so she uses el baño before leaving home and cleverly goes without juice, water or limonada during the day. But suddenly there’s one bathroom trip she hadn’t planned for! The race is on – will she, Mamá and Papá make it home in time?

Jen

The Dream Jar by Lindan Lee Johnson

E JOH—This is the perfect book to get your littlest friend to dream

some wonderful dreams. Who doesn't want to dream a "dreamy dream" every night? Sometimes you need a dream jar to fill up with happy thoughts to help you have magical dreams and not worry about sea monsters. This book offers beautiful, wistful illustrations that put you on a sweet path to dreamland. You may even want to make your own dream jar, just like the book.



Frog Went A Courtin' by John Langstaff

E LAN—You can't help but smile when you read this book and think of Uncle Pecos from *Tom and Jerry* singing his version of this folk song turned book. Amazingly enough, this classic story came straight out of Scotland more than 400 years ago and tells the unlikely love story between a frog and a mouse. Read this to your kids to show them what books looked like when their grandparents were younger, and then show them the Tom and Jerry Uncle Pecos clip on YouTube to get a laugh & show them how cartoons were when you were a kid. This book won a Caldecott Medal in 1956 for

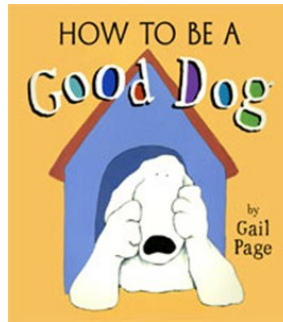
best illustration.

Hibernation Station by Michelle Meadows

E MEA—It's that time of year where all of our forest friends have to snuggle down for a cold winter's nap and hibernate. Going to sleep for these chipmunks, frogs, bears, hedgehogs and raccoons is not as easy as it should be aboard the Hibernation Express, but their troubles will have you giggling along the way. So climb aboard this cuddly train and get ready for a long cozy ride into spring!

How To Be A Good Dog by Gail Page

E PAG—Dogs don't want to be bad, but sometimes being good is really hard. Homework is delicious, barking is amusing and muddy paw prints just happen. Sometimes in the dog house is where you land when you're being bad. What dog needs to teach him how to be good is cat. Sometimes you just need a cat to teach an old dog new tricks and show a dog how to be good.



How Loud Can You Burp? by Glenn Murphy

J 502 MUR—Do cow farts cause climate change? Will we ever ride in floating trains and buses? In this even wackier follow-up to *Why is Snot Green?* life's most important, hilarious science questions are answered.

Hugless Douglas by David Melling

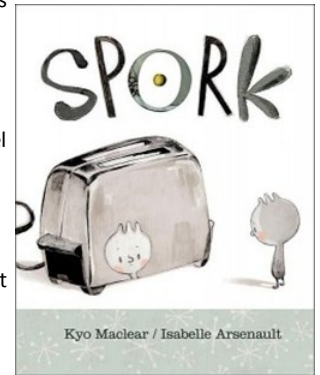
E MEL—Everyone needs hugs, but Douglas really, really needs a hug. He tries hugging a rock, a tree, a bush and some furry woodland creatures that really have no desire to be hugged by a giant bear. Poor Hugless Douglas! Will rabbit help him end his comical search for the perfect hug?

Kringle by Tony Abbott

J ABB—No one ever thinks of Santa being a boy, but long, long ago there was a young orphan boy named Kringle who fought for good at a time when things seemed to be at their darkest. Fantasy lovers and Narnia fans will eat this up as Kringle encounters elves, pirates, goblins and flying reindeer.

Spork by Kyo Maclear

E MAC—What do you get when your mom is a spoon and your dad is a fork? Spork. Where do you fit in when you feel like you just stick out? Spork seems destined to spend his life in the drawer until the magical day when someone new comes to the table and helps him find his place in the world. Perfect for those that sometimes feel like they'll never find their place in the world. It'll make you want to run home and hug your own sporks.



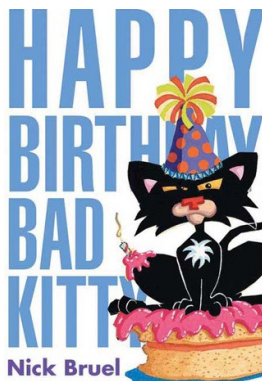
Judy

Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs

JP HOB—Victor Flores is only 15 when falling crop prices threaten his family with starvation. He heads north to attempt to "cross the wire" from Mexico into the United States so he can find work and send money home. In Victor's journey he must face danger, freezing cold, scorching heat, hunger and dead ends.

Happy Birthday, Bad Kitty by Nick Bruel

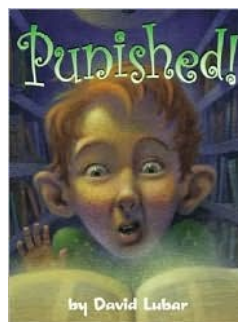
J BRU—Another hysterical adventure of Bad Kitty! Join in the fun as Strange Kitty, Stinky Kitty and all the rest of the neighborhood pals get ready to party!



a very unexpected ending to this cute story and a touching note to Trixie at the end from her father.

Punished! By David Lubar

J LUB—Logan and his friend Benedict are playing in the library when he runs into a mysterious man in the reference section. This man punishes him by causing him to speak in puns. He is getting on everyone's nerves and must find a way to end this craziness!



book for older readers.

Shoe-La-La! by Karen Beaumont

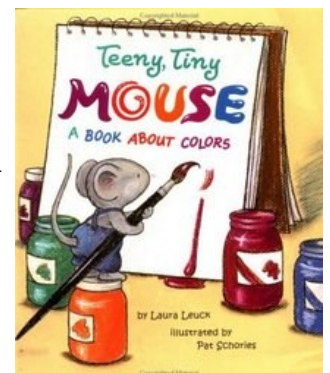
E BEA—A very cute book written in rhyme about four girls who go looking for the perfect pair of party shoes!

Swift by Robert Blake

E BLA—A great dog story set in Alaska for kids 5 and up. Johnnie tells of his first bear-hunting trip with his father and their dog, Swift. This one has lots of adventure and beautiful pictures.

The Teeny Tiny Mouse: A Book About Colors by Laura Leuck

E LEU—A teeny, tiny mouse and his mother point out objects of various colors all around their teeny, tiny house. A great book to learn and reinforce colors. Adorable pictures!



Kate

Anything But Typical

by Nora Raleigh Baskin **J BAS**—Jason Blake has autism and the story is told through a



first person narrative about how he sees the world. It is not a story with tons of adventure, but rather a story of exploration in which we learn how Jason views the world around him. He is brilliant and funny and a wonderful writer.

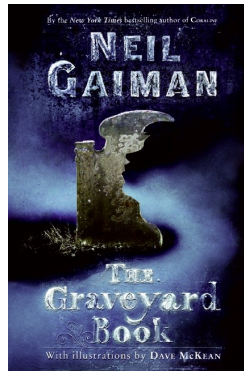
The Candymakers by Wendy Mass **J MAS**—Logan is the candymaker's son and he, along with three others, are entering the candymaker's competition to create a new type of candy. The book is told in alternating points of view between Logan, Daisy, Miles and Phillip, the contestants. It was a fascinating way to tell a story and I quickly grew very fond of the characters. But this book is not only about making candy, but about secrets and

friendship.

Close to Famous by Joan Bauer **J BAU**—As always, Bauer's books are wonderful. *Close to Famous* is no different. She deals with real life with all its joys and sorrows. Foster and her mom have moved to Culpepper, a small, small town, in order to escape from her mom's scuzzy ex-boyfriend. Foster immediately finds her way into the hearts of the town with her scrumptious cupcakes. She is a very talented baker. But she is hiding a terrible secret—she can't read. But with her new friends, perhaps she can overcome her fears and learn how to be happy.

The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman **J GAI**—This book is about a boy named Nobody Owens who is adopted by a very nice ghost couple after



his family has been murdered. He is raised in the graveyard and learns everything from reading to fading.

But he cannot leave the graveyard because someone is out there waiting for him and he will not be safe until he is grown. His guardian, Silas, is a strong, silent type who answers Bod's questions and helps educate him. There are friends and enemies along the way, and though it is unconventional, this is a story about growing up.

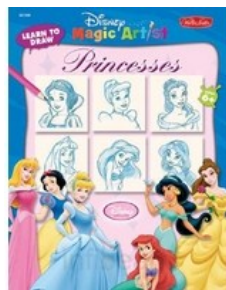
The Trouble with Mark Hopper by Elissa Brent Weissman **J WEI**—This is a funny story reminiscent of Andrew Clements stories. There are two Mark Hoppers and each keeps getting confused with the other one. But soon they are forced together and realize that they each might have something to offer the other one. This book was very funny and a good read about friendship and mistaken identities.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead **J STE**—The book is set in the 1970's and is about a young girl, Miranda, and her life. She is trying to figure out life and why her bff suddenly doesn't want to be friends with her anymore. Meanwhile, she and her mom's boyfriend are getting her mom ready to be on a game show all while she must walk in front of the crazy homeless man on her way home from school every day. While at first this might seem like a very typical coming of age story, it is anything but.

Liz

Atlantis by Troy Michels **J 001.94 MIC**—If you like to read about the unexplained, this non-fiction book explores the story of Atlantis. Was it real or not?

Learn to Draw Princesses by Catherine McCafferty **J 743.44 MCC**—If you like to draw Disney princesses then this step by



step book is for you. It offers tools, tricks and practice techniques from artists in the Disney studios. Drawing fun for all ages.

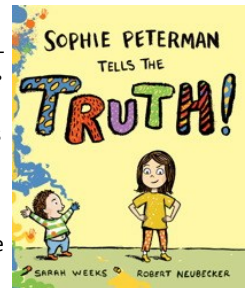
The Nightmays by Dan Poblocki **J POB**—If you like scary books, this one is for you! It has nightmares, curses, mysteries and secret codes! 7th graders, Timothy and Abigail team up on a school project. During a fieldtrip to a museum, they find themselves in the basement and encounter a tall creepy man in an overcoat. Soon their lives spin out of control as a curse causes them and others to be tormented by their greatest fears brought to life.

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan **J RIO**—Carter, 14, and Sadie, 12, are brother and sister who were raised separately after the mysterious death of their mother. Carter has spent his life traveling the world with his father who is an Egyptologist. They lived out of a suitcase and never stayed in one place for very long. Sadie grew up in London with her grandparents. She is loud, wears combat boots and has colored streaks in her hair. They only see each other twice a year so they are more strangers than family. During one of their visits their father takes them to a British museum and unleashes the Egyptian god Set. Now the children embark on a dangerous journey across the globe. They learn the truth about their family and their link to a secret order that has existed since the time of pharaohs.

Saving Zasha by Randi Barrow **J BAR**—13 year old Mikhail and his family are struggling to survive the devastation by Germany's conflict with the Soviet Union at the end of WWII. Mikhail finds a dying man and his German shepherd dog, Zasha. After the man dies Mikhail keeps Zasha, but it has to be a secret because it is still dangerous, some say traitorous, to own a German dog. Find out how they keep

Zasha safe from others in their town and from spies!

Sophie Peterman tells the Truth! By Sarah Weeks **E WEE**—This hilarious book is about Sophie telling the truth about



babies and what to say if your parents ever ask you "would you like to have a little brother or sister someday?" You should definitely say NO!

Tractors and Farm Vehicles by Jean Coppendale **E 631.372 COP**—Are you ever driving down the road and you see farm machines doing their work and you wonder "what is that"? This book contains vivid color photographs of farm machinery along with descriptions of many machines, their parts and what they are used for.

The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps by Jeanette Winter **E B GOO**—I really like this picture book as it follows Jane from her childhood through her time in the African forest of Gome, Tanzania and her mission to save the chimps.

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