

Library Lines by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Librarian, KTL

The summer must be coming to an end because we recently held our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Read-Around-the-Clock event. This year we hosted the event on the Village Green in Clinton and our theme was short stories. Our readers read from authors like Neil Gaiman, Joyce Carol Oats, and Stephen King, among many others.

But short stories aren't just for adults! You can experience the magic of short stories with your children.

New collections of short stories for kids are a little out of vogue these days, but there are some wonderful stories, both classic and contemporary, to be discovered. Short stories are great for a variety of ages, too. Independent readers who are ready for longer texts but are feeling reluctant about reading a "long" book can build their confidence by reading short stories. And children who are not reading on their own but ready for more complex stories will enjoy hearing their grownups read short stories aloud. Here are some wonderful volumes of short stories for young readers and listeners.

"The House at Pooh Corner" by A. A. Milne. These classic stories of the Hundred Acre Wood can be read as stand-alone stories. These make wonderful bedtime read alouds for preschool children with longer attention spans.

"Sideways Stories from Wayside School" by Louis Sachar. This slim volume is a contemporary classic, full of quirky stories about the students of Wayside School, the school that was accidentally built 30 stories high instead of 30 classrooms wide. And when you've finished the book and want more, you can keep reading about Wayside School with "Wayside School is Falling Down," "Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger," and "Wayside School Beneath the Cloud of Doom."

"The Ice Cream Machine" by Daniel Rubin. This recent book contains six short stories by Daniel Rubin (author of the popular picture book "Dragons Love Tacos") all titled "The Ice Cream Machine." Each story is set in a different world with different characters, but all have something to do with an ice cream machine. Each story is also illustrated by a different illustrator.

"Black Boy Joy," edited by Kwame Mbalia. The 17 stories in this book may all have Black boys as the main characters, but their stories of adventure, fun, magic, and everyday occurrences will resonate with all children. Comics and poems are included, too. Contributing authors include the fantastic Jason Reynolds and Jerry Craft.

"Flying Lessons & Other Stories," edited by Ellen Oh. This is a book of short stories by ten of today's standout children's authors, including Kwame Alexander, Grace Lin, and Jacqueline Woodson.

"9 from the Nine Worlds" by Rick Riordan. Fans of Riordan's Magnus Chase series can spend a little more time with their favorite characters in these short stories that take place in the Nine Worlds of Norse Mythology.

And don't forget about collections of mythology, Aesop's fables, and folk and fairy tales from around the world, all of which can be found at your local library.