

Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian, Kirkland Town Library

I usually use this space to share books that I think are wonderful, but this week I thought I would turn it over to some of the young people who use the Kirkland Town Library. I asked them what book, series, or author they would recommend to other kids, and why. They gave me a wide range of recommendations and some really interesting reasons. If the kids in your family are searching for fun books this summer, look no further! You may notice that some of these books have really stood the test of time.

Reese, age 3, likes “Moldylocks and the Three Beards” by Noah Z. Jones, even though the beards are a little scary. This beginner chapter book is the first in the “Princess Pink and the Land of Fake-Believe” series, which features twists on traditional fairy tales and humorous illustrations.

Winifred, also age 3, likes “Richard Scarry’s What Do People Do All Day?” and its explanations of how things work. The animal residents of Busytown do things like build houses, create fabric, and bake bread, and sometimes get into disastrous situations in the process.

Mira, age 5, has been enjoying the “Princess in Black” series by Shannon and Dean Hale and illustrated by LeUyen Pham, because Princess Magnolia has to be sneaky to solve problems disguised as the Princess in Black. This easy chapter book series also has funny illustrations.

Eliza, age 5, recommends “Roxy, the Last Unisaurus Rex” by Eva Chen because “the pictures are really beautiful and the story is really great.” She read the Wonderbook version of the book, which has a small audio player built into the cover that allows children to listen to the story. Some Wonderbooks also have music, which Eliza really enjoys.

Jaida, age 7, is a fan of the Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park because it’s funny. The first Junie B. Jones chapter book about the sassy kindergartener was published in 1992 and is still entertaining young readers!

Jaiden, age 7, likes the exciting and adventurous “I Survived” chapter book series by Lauren Tarshis. The books in this series use a fictional character to teach readers about real life events like the American Revolution and the sinking of the Titanic. The series is also available in a new graphic novel format.

Elisa, age 8.5, likes the Baby-sitter’s Club graphic novels based on Ann M. Martin’s original chapter book series. The graphic novels are illustrated by some of the most popular graphic novel authors today, like Raina Telgemeier.

Ben, age 8, is really into the Boxcar Children chapter book series by Gertrude Chandler Warner because the characters “solve the mysteries on their own without help from adults.” The original Boxcar Children book was first published in 1924, and then revised in 1942 to the version we know today.

Nora, age 9, loved “The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy” by Jeanne Birdsall because it’s funny, especially the dog. This is the first of four books about the Penderwick family, who are based loosely on the March family from “Little Women.”

Willard, age 9, recommends the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan because it doesn’t seem old-fashioned, despite having been first published in 2005, and because it is told with first-person narration. He also recommends the Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard series by the same author.

Claire, age 11, thinks other kids would like "Fablehaven" by Brandon Mull because she knows lots of readers like fantasy and this book is magical and mythical. It's about a sanctuary for mystical creatures like trolls, fairies, and imps, and is the first in the five book series.