

Adventure Begins at Your Library

By Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian, KTL

This summer at the Kirkland Town Library has been busy! It's heartening to know that so many families are making the library part of their summer adventures. Maybe you've attended a performance or storytime; maybe you've stopped in to play and browse for books; maybe you haven't set foot in the building but have picked up books from our locker and have been enjoying reading quietly at home. There are so many ways to start your adventure with the library! If you've spent the past month feeling as busy as we have, give yourself permission to slow down while keeping the adventure going with a great book. Here are some wonderful children's books that will send you and your kids on quests, romps, and escapades. Have fun!

"Ahoy!" by Sophie Blackall is a beautiful, playful picture book about the adventures you can have without ever leaving the house. A little boy is so absorbed in his game of playing pirates that his father, who is trying to vacuum the rug, gets pulled in, too. Together they sail the high seas of their imaginations, battling giant squids and extremely rough water until the child's other father comes home and gets drawn into the game, too.

"Sam and Dave Dig A Hole" by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen is a picture book about the adventures that can happen when you have other plans. Just as the title suggests, Sam and Dave want to dig a hole until they find something "spectacular." The pictures show them digging and completely missing some pretty spectacular things in the ground, but they don't give up. Eventually they take a rest in the hole, and while they sleep, their dog keeps on digging and helps them fall into something spectacular.

"Journey" by Aaron Becker is a gorgeous, wordless picture book about a wondrous adventure created by a little girl. The rich illustrations show her feeling bored and ignored by her family, so she picks up a red crayon and draws a door in her bedroom wall. To her amazement, the door opens and she runs through to another world. She uses her red crayon to draw whatever she needs to help herself and others, and it's through helping a captured bird that she manages to find someone else to have adventures with.

"Treasure Island: Runaway Gold" by Jewell Parker Rhodes is a reimagining of the classic "Treasure Island" set in modern-day Manhattan. Zane is bored of his life in his family's boarding house in the Bronx, but everything changes one day when one of the boarders, Captain Maddie, gives him a real treasure map leading to a spot in Manhattan. The treasure hunt leads him to a sailor who helps him navigate the city and teaches him about the Black history all around them.

"One Big Open Sky" by Lesa Cline-Ransome is a novel written in verse for anyone who loves books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Lettie and her family are headed west on a covered wagon in 1879, and these pioneers find adventure everywhere, whether they want to or not. Lettie's father has dreams of his Black family living in freedom in Nebraska, but the road is long and dangerous and he doesn't always make the best choices.

"Roswell Johnson Saves the World!" by Chris Colfer, author of the popular "The Land of Stories" series, mixes adventure with the supernatural. Eleven year old Roswell is abducted by real aliens and discovers that Earth is in danger. He isn't always sure that humanity is worth saving, but he teams up with some quirky extraterrestrials to try to save his home planet anyway.