

## Tween Services at Brockville Public Library

The Brockville Public Library (BPL) continues to improve its collections and services for our tweens, children age eight to twelve, and extends a warm welcome to these important customers.

We have a growing collection of graphic novels, a very popular genre with a comic book look and a wide variety of styles of illustration. We will continue to add new titles this year. Here are some suggested titles to get started.

In *Trash crisis on earth* by Alexander Stadler we meet First Officer Julian Rodriguez who, while visiting Earth disguised as an eight –year old boy, fights bullies in the school yard and injustice wherever he finds it.

Jeff Smith, who learned about cartooning from comic strips and TV animation, has written a very popular science fiction series, *Bone*. *Rose* is the prequel to this series. When a terrifying dragon attacks the small towns of the Northern Valley, young Princess Rose (known later as Granma Ben) must defeat it. The beast is actually the ancient evil, the Lord of the Locusts, and while Rose faces danger with honor, her elder sister, Princess Briar, follows a more sinister path. In *Crown of Horns*, the ninth in the series, an army storms the city of Atheia and our heroes, Thorn and Granma Ben must find the Crown of Horns, the one thing that can save them all.

In Jarrett Krosoczka's book *Lunch lady and the cyborg substitute*, Hector, Terrence and Dee wonder what the lunch lady does when she's not serving up sloppy joes to the school crowd. Little do they know that she serves justice!

**Imagine you're trying to find a stolen diamond pencil box for your beautiful butterfly customer, your mosquito witness won't give you any information, and your clumsy scorpion assistant has just tampered with your only bit of evidence. In *Creepy crawly crime* by Aaron Reynolds, detective Joey Fly has those moments a lot.**

The first book in the popular series, *The Boxcar Children* is now available as a graphic novel. Follow the adventures of orphans Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden who live in an old red boxcar.

BPL also has a great selection of fiction. Kids have so many choices now when it comes to reading and many love book series. While you can choose the classic standbys such as *The Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew*, you can also find many other types of books. Here is a list of some very popular book series for kids.

The *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer is hugely popular with boys. These adventure books about the “aboveground” world where humans live and the “underground” world of trolls, fairies and gnomes are packed with suspense and action. Debbie Dadey’s *Bailey School Kids* series follows the adventurous and sometimes mischievous students of Bailey School and includes titles such as *Dragons don't throw snowballs* and *The abominable snowman doesn't roast marshmallows*. If every book in the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling has been devoured, consider reading the spooky mystery adventures by John Bellairs. The first book is called *The house with the clock in its walls*. The unlikely hero of this classic story is the orphaned Lewis Barnavelt who comes to live with his Uncle Jonathan and quickly learns that both his uncle and his next-door neighbor are witches on a quest to discover the terrifying clock ticking within the walls of Jonathan's house. Can the three of them save the world from certain destruction? Judy Blume has created some memorable characters in her series *Fudge* featuring Farley Drexel Hatcher, better known as Fudge, his brother Peter and their friends. Titles in this series include *Superfudge*, *Double Fudge*, and *Fudge-a-mania*. Many tween girls have watched the two movies that launched the *Princess Diaries* book series by Meg Cabot. Girls can see what is going on in Princess Mia’s life both as a princess and as a girl with a boyfriend, girl friends and school activities. Some titles available at the library are *Princess Mia*, and *Forever Princess*. We also have *Party Princess* as a talking-book.

Registration is now open for our Silver Birch Award Reading Club, a program designed by the the Ontario Library Association for children in grades three to six. The purpose is to encourage children to read Canadian books and share their ideas and opinions. Thanks to a grant from the Ross W. McNeil Foundation, the Library has been able to purchase the books for this program. Children are asked to read at least five of these books and then vote for their favourite title. The club will meet in the library meeting room for six Saturday mornings from January 30 to April 10. Children must have a current Brockville library card. For more information please contact Lisa Cirka, Library Assistant for children's services at 613-342-3936 or by email, [lisa@brockvillelibrary.ca](mailto:lisa@brockvillelibrary.ca).

We are looking for adult volunteers who would like to help with an after school program for tweens on Wednesdays. We would like to offer Wii and board games as well as movies. If this volunteer opportunity interests you, please contact Chrissy Barker, Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator at [chrissy@brockvillelibrary.ca](mailto:chrissy@brockvillelibrary.ca) or phone her at 613-342-3936 ext. 27. Visit our website at <http://www.brockvillelibrary.ca/volunteering.htm> to print a volunteer application form and to learn more about volunteering @ Brockville Public Library.

Written by:  
Margaret Williams