

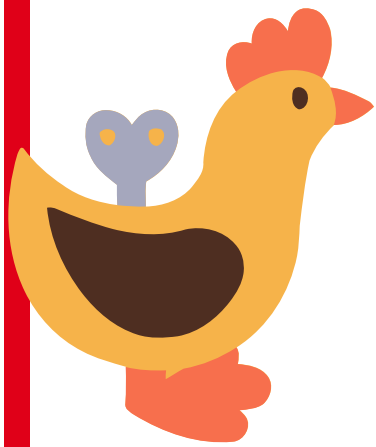
Blurb

FOR READERS OF CHILDREN'S NOVELS

WINTER 2024

MCCRACKEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, PADUCAH, KY

THE TOY AND ISSUE



Toys and books are alike in many ways. With a book or a few simple toys, you can defend a castle from a dragon, visit the bottom of the ocean, or explore other planets. Toys and books have the power to spark your imagination and turn ordinary moments into exciting stories. Whether you're putting together a puzzle, dressing up in costumes, building with Legos, or reading by yourself, toys and books help you dream big and discover new ideas. They let you be anyone you want to be and go anywhere you imagine.

Mr. Matt Recommends WINNIE-THE-POOH by A.A. Milne



The writer A.A. Milne had a son named Christopher Robin, and Christopher Robin had a set of stuffed animal toys that included, a bear, a donkey, a kangaroo, a rabbit, a tiger, and a tiny pig.

Milne's son and his toys inspired the stories of Winnie-the-Pooh, Eeyore, Kanga and Roo, Rabbit, Tigger, and Piglet. The first tales of Pooh and his friends' adventures in Hundred Acre Woods were published in October 1926. The book was an instant success, selling out in its native England, and making its way to the United States where it sold 150,000 copies before Christmas. It is estimated that more than 50 million copies have since been sold worldwide.

The Original Toys



The original stuffed Pooh was purchased at a department store and given to Christopher Robin on his first birthday in 1921. The other stuffed friends were presented as gifts to Christopher between 1921-1928. Now, Pooh and all his friends live safely at the New York Public Library, so lots of kids can visit them.

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BIG WORD DISSECTOLOGIST

A DISSECTOLOGIST is someone who enjoys putting together jigsaw puzzles. The jigsaw puzzle was invented in 1760 by John Spilsbury, a mapmaker who used a saw to cut up a wood-mounted map to help teach his students geography. Spilsbury originally called his puzzles “dissected maps,” and that’s where the term “dissectologist” came from.

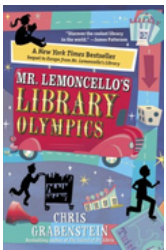
Mr. Lemoncello’s Fantabulous Finale Series by Chris Grabenstein



Chris Grabenstein is a prolific author (that means he writes a lot). Since publishing his first book about 20 years ago, he’s written more than 50! You can find many of them in our Juvenile Fiction section, including the Mr. Lemoncello series.



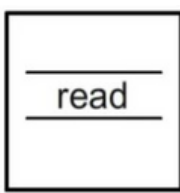
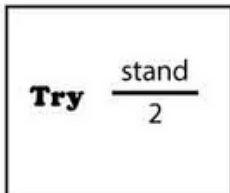
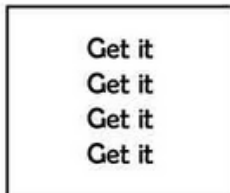
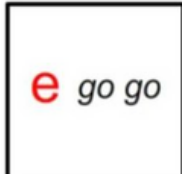
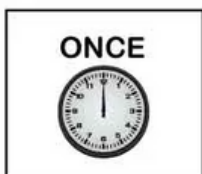
If you aren’t familiar, the series follows the adventures of Luigi Lemoncello, a creator of puzzles, board games, and video games, who likes to challenge children to participate in puzzling challenges with the chance to earn big rewards: escape room challenges, library olympics, scavenger hunts, and more.



There are seven books in the series, and in the last one (which just came out!) children compete to win his multi-billion dollar gaming empire. Now that’s a prize.

SOLVE IT!

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT THESE COMMON PHRASES? ANSWERS ARE ON THE BACK PAGE.



SPY TOYS SERIES BY MARK POWERS



Three toys with tiny computer brains are rejected because they’re just not good with kids...Dan the “Cuddlebear” came out strong enough to crush car, Annabelle the “Sunshine” Doll has a horrible temper, and Flax is a combination Robot Rabbit Police Officer (which is just bad combo all around). However, instead of being forgotten, the three are recruited by the head of the toy world to fight crime and track down villains.



THE FURBY

A Real Life Spy Toy?

Way, way, way back in 1998, before the days of cellphones and tablets, a company named Tiger Electronics came out with a toy called Furby that blinked, jiggled, lit up, and spoke. Fresh out of the box, a Furby spoke a gibberish language called “Furbish” and over time would start to speak more and more English words. Because of an infrared sensor in their heads, Furbies would even react excitedly when other Furbies were around. For three years straight, Furbies were the “must have” toys and sold 40 million units.

However, the Furbies ability to seemingly learn language made people in the government a little nervous. Furbies were banned on some military bases because officials thought the toys had the ability to record and learn (which is a big no-no around government secrets). The technology in a Furby was so new that not many people understood how it really worked. Some even feared allowing Furbies on airplanes because they might interrupt flight controls.

However, Furbies had no ability to record; all of their behaviors were programmed ahead of time. No matter what you said or did, every Furby acted the same way. Eventually, Tiger Electronics had to release a statement that said, “Furby is not a spy.”

WORLD'S OLDEST TOY



Maybe it's this baby rattle which was unearthed in Turkey and is estimated to be 4000 years old.

Does this look like a doll to you? It was found in at a child's ancient gravesite in Siberia and is thought to be 4500 years old.



Or maybe it's this chariot that dates back 5000 years ago. Is this something you think kids might have played with?

These are only a few of the old toys that we know about. Kids have been playing with stuff for as long as there has been kids and stuff. According to the National Museum of Play in New York, the original toy, the very first thing that ancient children played with, was probably a stick. Makes a lot of sense when you think about it. I used to play with sticks; I bet you did, too.



MARY POPPINS COMES BACK BY P.L. TRAVERS

A lot of people don't know that Mary Poppins was a series of books before it became the famous movie. All together, there were 8 books. Now we all know in the first book, Mary Poppins flies in holding an umbrella. **But in the second book she flies in holding onto a common toy. Can you guess? Answer is on the back.**

THE TEDDY BEAR

Do you know why the Teddy Bear is named Teddy?



In 1902, President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt went on a bear hunting trip with some friends in Mississippi. After a long chase, the hunting party cornered an exhausted bear and tied it to a tree. They left it for the President to shoot, but Teddy Roosevelt refused, saying that it was not sporting to shoot a trapped bear.

When the press found out, they immortalized the story in cartoons which then inspired a toymaker named Morris Michtom to create a soft, stuffed bear which he put in the window of his store with a sign that read "Teddy's Bear." Obviously, the name stuck.



One of the original 1902 cartoons that sparked the creation of the Teddy Bear.

Bear with these Books



The Stuffed Bear Mystery by Gertrude Warner Smith

Is there an adventure the Boxcar Children haven't been on? In this one, the kids get a behind-the-scenes look at a teddy bear workshop. But when one extremely valuable bear goes missing, they must spring into action.



They Threw Us Away by Daniel Kraus

Buddy the Bear wakes up in a dump. In fact, there lots of teddies have been tossed out. Can Buddy and his friends get back to the store, so they can find real homes?

SOLVE IT! ANSWERS

1. Once Upon a Time
2. Ready to Go
3. Forget It
4. Try to Understand
5. Read Between the Lines



PUPPET MASTERS

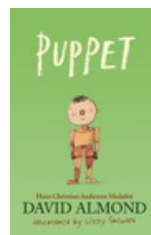
Puppets aren't just toys. They are also a type of theater. People have been using puppets to tell stories for about 2500 years, so it makes sense that puppets will show up in some books, too.

Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi



If you thought the Disney movie was a little weird, you should read the book. In addition to a talking cricket, a growing nose, a giant fish, the book also features a helpful tuna, a friendly pigeon, a green fisherman, a smoking snake, and a gorilla judge.

Puppet by David Almond



What should a puppet master do when he's old and alone and all his puppets are gone? Silvester decides to make one last puppet. But this one is different. When the old man speaks to him, Puppet speaks back. And then he starts to walk . .

The Puppets of Spelhorst by Kate DiCamillo



Shut up in a trunk by an old sea captain, five puppet friends--a king, a wolf, a girl, a boy, and an owl--bicker, boast, and comfort one another in the dark. Individually, they dream of song and light, freedom and flight, purpose and glory, but they all agree they are part of a larger story...together.

Diary of a Dummy by R.L. Stine



What do Zoey and Billy Traister do when they find an abandoned ventriloquist dummy in an empty lot? They take him home, of course! As the pair tries to figure out why someone would throw out a perfectly good dummy, they accidentally bring Slappy to life. Hmmm...not good.

MARY POPPINS FLIES IN ON A... KITE!

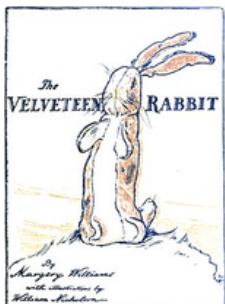


That's at the beginning of the book. At the end of the book, Mary Poppins disappears on a merry-go-round horse....naturally.

SOME BUNNY LOVES READING

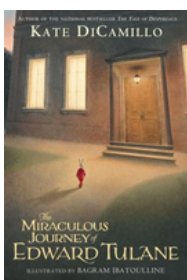
Bears aren't the only stuffed animals to appear between the pages. Here's a couple great ones about rabbits.

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams



This 1922 classic tells the story of a stuffed rabbit who is loved so much by a little boy that it feels real. When the boy comes down with scarlet fever, however, the rabbit, along with all his other toys, are scheduled to be burned to kill all the germs. But because the velveteen rabbit feels real, perhaps there's a chance it can survive.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo



Edward, the china rabbit, is lost by the girl that loves him. Of course, he has to make his way back to her, and it's a journey that will take him to the depths of the ocean, the hospital, and the streets of Memphis.