

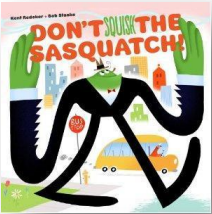


Are they for Real? Picture Books featuring Unicorns, Sasquatches, Fairies, Robots, Aliens, Mermaids, and more!



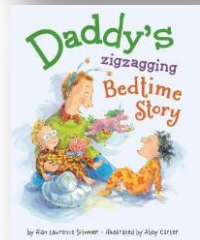
A Select List of Brown County Library Children's Books (Preschool – Early Elementary)

Click on each title below to see the library's catalog record. Then click on the title in the record for details, current availability, or to place a hold. For additional books and items on this theme, ask your librarian or search the library's online catalog.



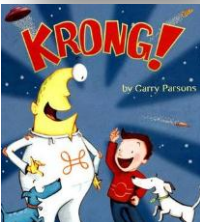
See also: "Monster Mash" for more monster reads
"Dragons, Knights, and Castles" for dragon-themed picture books

Picture Books, Folktales, and Beginning Readers



The Adventures of Beekle: An Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santant

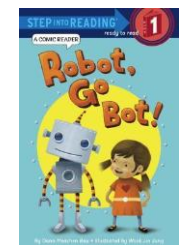
The star of this story is a golden-crowned creature that resembles a hybrid of Caspar the Friendly Ghost and a gumdrop. Beekle lives in a surreal Candyland-toned fantasy world with other beguiling yet bizarre creatures who are waiting to be imagined by a child. One by one, Beekle's friends leave to become "unimaginary" friends on earth. Lonely but determined Beekle decides to leave the only home he knows and travel to a big city in order to seek out the child who hasn't yet dreamed him. The city, with its distracted pedestrians and gloomy atmosphere, proves to be a discouraging place for Beekle. He takes shelter in a tree in the park, where he is finally discovered by "his" child, a shy, bespectacled little girl, and becomes the true friend he's meant to be. With Beekle by her side, the once lonely girl gains confidence and soon makes friends with a little boy and his imaginary friend, a blue chameleon-esque critter. This uplifting tale, with its sophisticated yet cheery illustrations, will spark wonder in children ages 4-8.



Adventures of Meno (series) by Tony DiTerlizzi

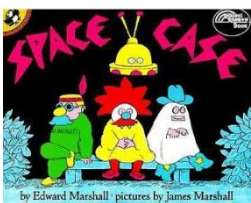
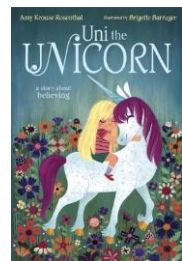
Big Bad Bubble by Adam Rubin

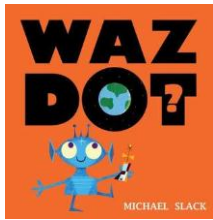
Did you know that when a bubble pops, it reappears in La La Land? And that the big, scary and humorously-illustrated monsters who live there are all terrified of bubbles? Besides sharing these key facts, the calm, reasonable narrator of this story explains why the monsters are so afraid: for instance, "Bubbles are sneaky. You never hear them coming." The dialogue encourages readers and listeners to help the monsters overcome their fears. Ages 4-8.



Boy + Bot by Ame Dyckman

Ame Dyckman's "Boy + Bot" introduces an unlikely friendship between an easy-going kid and an equally cheery robot. A chance meeting in the forest leads to an almost instant camaraderie despite the occasional language barrier (the boy quickly learns that "affirmative!" is robot speak for "yes indeed!"). When an accidental flip of the off-switch abruptly ends playtime, Boy carts the Robot to his home in suburbia for some rest. Robot is re-powered during the night and, upon finding Boy sleeping, grows alarmed that a malfunction has occurred. Robot gently carries Boy to the Inventor's spooky mansion on the hill, where he tries to revive the sleeping lad with an eyedropper of oil and a battery. Luckily, Robot's Inventor/Dad intercedes, Boy wakes up, and





Inventor and Bot return Boy to his parents (who are pretty laid back about the whole thing). The adults approve an official play-date for the duo. The future looks bright, albeit mishap-prone, for Boy+Bot. Dan Yaccarino’s cheerful and bright 1950s-style illustrations pair perfectly with this upbeat tale.

[The Boy who Cried Alien!](#) by Marilyn Singer

[The Boy who Cried Bigfoot!](#) by Scott Magoon

[Buddy and the Bunnies in: Don’t Play with your Food](#) by Bob Shea

When Buddy the Monster sees some adorable bunnies, he sees a delicious meal. Luckily for the rabbits, Buddy is easily distracted. The clever bunnies delay doomsday by offering up tasty cupcakes that leave Buddy too full for a bunny buffet. The next day, it’s a beach outing that diverts the goofy beast’s culinary quest, and after that, a dizzying day of amusement park rides. Will the bunnies be able to keep stalling Buddy, or better yet, convince the shaggy orange fellow to accept them as unlikely friends? The answer is a no-brainer! Bold, energetic illustrations in carnival bright tones invite group sharing. And of course, the moral of this story cannot be denied: Don’t eat your friends! For a trio of funny tales about surprisingly sweet and sensitive monsters add “The Monster’s Monster” and “Big Bad Bubble” to your reading rotation. Ages 4+

[Can’t Scare Me!](#) by Ashley Bryan ages 6+

[Chicken Big](#) by Keith Graves

This delightfully warped version of “Chicken Little” stars a chick so humongous that the rooster and three regular-sized chickens don’t believe he could be one of them. Besides being confused by the friendly giant in their midst, the bird-brained (pun intended) group are also mystified and panic-stricken by both wind and rain. Luckily, Chicken Big is able to provide shelter and reassurance to his meteorologically adverse pals. When an egg thief strikes the coop, Chicken Big is the only one brave and clever enough to nab the culprit, thereby proving himself an essential member of the farmyard. Visual gags and foolish proclamations abound in this lighthearted tale about looking beyond appearances.

Ages 5-9.

[Daddy’s Zigzagging Bedtime Story](#) by Alan Sitomer

[Don’t Squish the Sasquatch](#) by Kent Redeker

This absurd and dazzling rollick with zany 50s –style illustration is the perfect antidote to “The Wheels on the Bus” fatigue. As a city bus gets more and more crowded with peculiar creatures, Sasquatch is ever closer to being squished. The inevitable result is captured on a dynamic two-page foldout. A surprising solution to the calamity adds a bit of sweet to this mostly-wacky wonder.

[Doug Unplugged/Doug Unplugs on the Farm](#) by Dan Yaccarino

[Earth to Clunk](#) by Pam Smallcomb

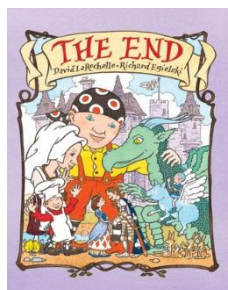
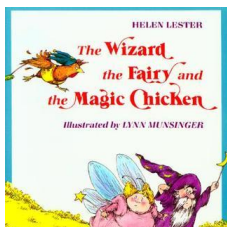
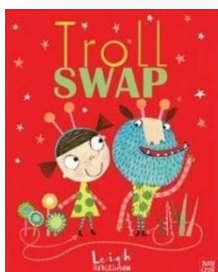
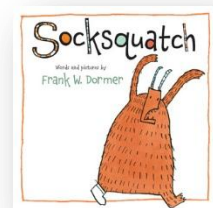
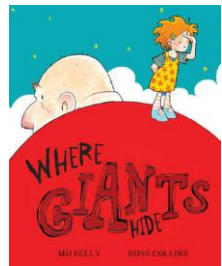
[The End](#) by David LaRochelle

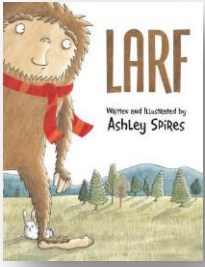
[Even Aliens Needs Snacks!](#) by Matthew McElligot

[Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet](#) by Jane O’Connor

[Fin M’Coul: The Giant of Knockmany Hill](#) by Tomie DePaola

[Giant Dance Party](#) by Betsy Bird





[Giant John](#) by Arnold Lobel

[Have you ever seen a Sneep?](#) by Tasha Pym

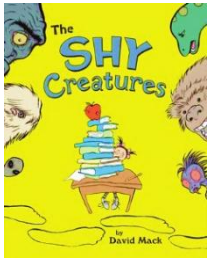
[Imagine you're a Mermaid!](#) (non-fiction) by Meg Clibbon

[Jack and the Beanstalk](#) by E. Nesbit

[Jack and the Giant Barbecue](#) by Eric A. Kimmel ages 6+

[Jane and Mizmow](#) by Matthew Armstrong

Jane's friend Mizmow is an agreeable monster who resembles a cross between a giant sloth and a stuffed bunny. Gently eccentric illustration and succinct text tell the story of the little girl and the not entirely tame creature who look out for each other. The everyday rhythm of the duo's adventures is threatened when the two fight over a hat and then commence the silent treatment. When saying sorry doesn't help, some alone time is enough to make both friends realize how much they adore one another. Share this little gem with preschoolers, beginning readers, and fans of imaginary friends, who will adore the exuberant Mizmow, despite his peculiar appetite for red leaves and picture books.



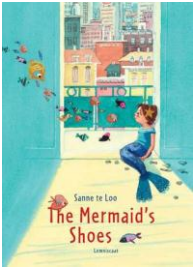
[Julia's House for Lost Creatures](#) by Ben Hatke ages 6+

[Kate and the Beanstalk](#) by Mary Pope Osborne

[Krong!](#) by Garry Parsons ages 6+

[Larf](#) by Ashley Spires ages 6+

A not-scary choice for grade-schoolers, this tale is as unique as its title character, Larf. A lonely sasquatch, Larf is so gentle that he carries his pet bunny in a baby carrier, but people still fear him. Children will root for Larf as he ventures from his forest home to find out if he is the only one of his kind.



[Lily the Unicorn](#) by Dallas Clayton

[Marveltown](#) by Bruce McCall ages 6+

[The Mermaid and the Shoe](#) by K.G. Campbell

[Mermaid Dreams](#) by Mark Sperring

[The Mermaid's Shoes](#) by Sanne te Loo

[The Midnight Unicorn](#) by Neil Reed

[The Mischievians](#) by William Joyce ages 6+

[Mr. Wuffles!](#) by David Weisner ages 6+

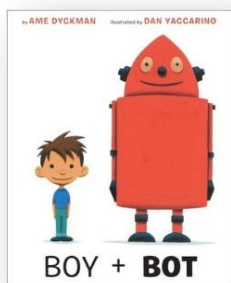
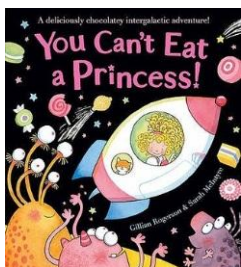
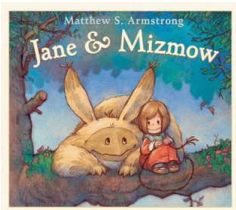
[Mommy's Little Monster](#) by Dawn McNiff

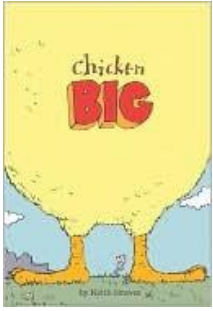
[The Monster's Monster](#) by Patrick McDonnell

[Nell's Elf](#) by Jane Cowen-Fletcher

[Robot, Go Bot!: A Comic Reader](#) (beginning reader) by Dana

Meachen Rau





[Robot Zombie Frankenstein!](#) by Annette Simon

[Robot Zot!](#) by Jon Scieszka

[The Shy Creatures](#) by David Mack

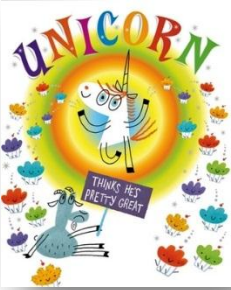
[Socksquatch](#) by Frank Dormer

[Space Case](#) by James Marshall

[Take Me to your BBQ](#) by Kathy Duval

[There's a Nightmare in My Closet](#) by Mercer Mayer

Tired of being afraid at night, a boy confronts the monster in his bedroom closet. What he finds is a hulking ugly creature who is lonely and frightened. Mayer's tale is an early-childhood classic, with understated lessons in confronting fears and not judging by appearances.

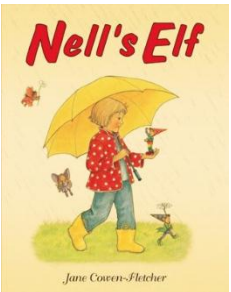


[There's a Wocket in My Pocket](#) (beginning reader) by Dr. Seuss

[Three Little Aliens and the Big Bad Robot](#) by Margaret McNamara

[Toys in Space](#) by Mini Grey

Wonderdoll, a female superhero doll of the type that would cast a withering glare towards Barbie, is a capable source of comfort to a motley crew of toys. Left on the lawn overnight, the six toys, including a plush pony, rabbit and sheep, a toy dinosaur, a cowboy figurine and a wind-up robot, quickly descend into panic and/or fussiness, until Wonderdoll leads an impromptu storytime. Careful to include all of her friends, Wonderdoll weaves a spellbinding tale involving aliens, a missing "Cuddles," a room of lost toys and an intergalactic party. Frequent interruptions by the enthusiastic listeners highlight the personalities of each toy in this hilarious ode to playthings and the realm of imagination on earth and beyond. Ages 5 -9.



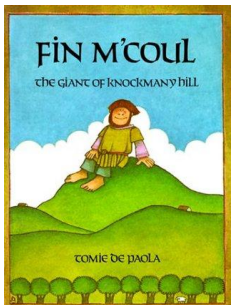
[Troll Swap](#) by Leigh Hodgkinson

[Uncle Bigfoot](#) by George O'Connor

[Uni the Unicorn](#) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

[Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great](#) by Bob Shea

Unicorn poses proudly, surrounded by rainbows, cupcakes, glitter, and sheer charisma, while grumpy Goat glowers in the corner. This cover scene reveals to children that jealousy is at the center of this tale. Goat grumbles at Unicorn's seeming perfection; from flying, to advanced magic tricks, to prancing skills, everything seems to come easily to Unicorn. Embittered, Goat takes to imitating Unicorn by prancing about with a plunger on his forehead in lieu of a horn. Goat only starts to recognize his own strengths, including goat cheese-making and mountain climbing, when Unicorn points them out. Unicorn's willingness to share his own insecurities, as well as notice the good qualities in others, wins over the once resentful Goat. In fact, the new friends decide they would make quite the crime-fighting duo when combining Unicorn's power of flight with Goat's "cloven [hooves of justice]." This surprisingly nuanced friendship story will resonate with children ages 4-8.





[Wazdot?](#) by Michael Slack

[Where Giants Hide](#) by Mij Kelly

[Wilfred](#) by Ryan Higgins ages 6+

[The Wizard, the Fairy, and the Magic Chicken](#) by Helen Lester

[You Can't Eat a Princess!](#) by Gillian Rogerson



<http://tinyurl.com/BCLReadsKids>