A Select List of Brown County Library Children’s Books  
(Elementary-Middle School)
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**Art**

**The Artsy-Fartsy Auction** by Lisa Mullarkey (Grades 2-4)
**The Birthday Room** by Kevin Henkes (4-7)
**The Blackhope Enigma** by Teresa Flavin (4-7)
**The Calder Game/Chasing Vermeer/The Wright 3** by Blue Balliet (5-8)
**From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg (4-7)
**Grandma’s Gift** by Eric Valesquez (K-3)
**Grave Images** by Jenny Goebel (5-8)

Although 13-year-old Bernie’s family runs an unusual business, she has always been proud of Alpine Monuments. In fact, Bernie has always wanted to create beautiful hand-carved etchings on gravestones, but she can’t seem to make the elaborate images in her head translate to the marble. When her father hires a strange drifter named Abbott Stein, due to his remarkable skill in the dying art (pun-intended) of hand-chiseled engravings, Bernie notices that suddenly business is booming. Abbott Stein seems to be able to predict each death, or is he somehow the cause? Bernie and her new friend Michael are the only ones who sense something sinister surrounding the ominous artist. A creepy mystery with appealing characters and a haunting back story, this is perfect for ghost story fans in grades 5-8.

**Hollow Earth** by John Barrowman (5-9)
**Masterpiece** by Elise Broach (3-6)
**The Mistaken Masterpiece** by Michael Beil (5-8)
**Moxie and the Art of Rule Breaking: A 14-Day Mystery** by Erin Dionne (5-9)
**My Life as a...** (series) by Janet Tashjian (5-7)
**Noonie’s Masterpiece** by Lisa Railsback (4-6)
**The Painting that Wasn’t There** by Steven Brezenoff (3-6)
**Penelope Crumb finds her Luck** by Shawn Stout (3-5)
**The Seer of Shadows** by Avi (4-7)
**The Seven Keys of Balabad** by Paul Haven (5-8)
**68 Rooms** (series) by Marianne Malone (4-6)
**Sparrow Road** by Sheila O’Connor (5-8)
**What I Came to Tell You** by Tommy Hays (5-8)

This story belongs to Grover Johnston, a twelve year old artist who has created a trail of massive natural weavings in the bamboo grove behind his house. Although Grover doesn’t consider himself an artist, being in nature helps him cope with the recent death of
his mother. Grover’s once open-minded dad doesn’t understand Grover’s art, and becomes increasingly critical of his son. Grover discovers support in unlikely places, including a friendship with a “hillbilly” family in the run-down rental next door who have gone through a tragedy of their own. With the bamboo grove scheduled to be demolished Grover feels like he has lost his one refuge, but finds that his artistic creations might empower change beyond himself. Smart and sublimely perceptive, while respecting the intelligence of its audience, Hay’s novel takes readers on a path less traveled. Grades 5-8.

**Words of Stone** by Kevin Henkes (4-7)

**Dance**

**Angelina’s Diary** (series) by Katherine Holabird (1-3)
**Cinderella Smith** by Stephanie Barden (2-4)
**The Dancing Vampire** by Roberto Pavanello (2-4)
**Fiona Finkelstein, Big-Time Ballerina** by Shawn Stout (2-4)
**Ivy and Bean: Doomed to Dance** by Annie Barrows (2-4)
**To Dance: A Memoir** (autobiography in graphic novel format) by Siena Siegel (4-7)

A vibrantly illustrated graphic novel is the ideal medium to portray the emotional journey of a young girl destined to be a ballerina. Ever since she was 6 years old, Siena dreamed of leaping, skipping, spinning, dancing. In chapter format, this snapshot of Siena’s life takes her from her childhood in Puerto Rico to studying dance in Boston to debuting with the New York City Ballet. There are struggles along the way, of course, but this slim volume provides an inspiring and honest introduction to the determination of a devoted dancer - and an excellent biography, especially ideal for reluctant readers.

**Twelve Dancing Princesses** (series) by Jessica Day George (5-9)
**My Unwilling Witch Goes to Ballet School** by Hiawyn Oram (3-5)

**Film/Theater**

**Babymouse: The Musical** by Jennifer Holm (4-6)
**The Barftastic Life of Louie Burger** by Jenny Meyerhoff (3-6)
**Better Nate than Never/Five, Six, Seven, Nate!** by Tim Federle (5-8)
**Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Extra Credit** by Tom Greenwald (5-7)
**Cat Royal** (series) by Julia Golding (6-8)
**The Grave Robber’s Apprentice** by Allan Stratton (5-8)
**The Hanging Hill: A Haunted Mystery** by Chris Grabenstein (4-7)
**Here’s How I See It: Here’s How It Is** by Heather Henson (5-7)
**It's All Greek to Me** by Jon Scieszka (3-5)
**Kenny & the Dragon** by Tony DiTerlizzi (3-6)
**Leap of Faith** by Kimberly Bradley (5-8)
**The Secret of the Rose** by Sarah Thomson (6-9)
**The Sisters Club** (series) by Megan McDonald (4-6)
**Stage Fright** by Meg Cabot (3-5)
**Stage Fright on a Summer Night** by Mary Pope Osborne (1-3)
For Indie Lee Chickory, a fisherman’s daughter in a touristy New England town, summer is just beginning, but her life is falling apart. On the last day of school, her pet Monty Cola, an extremely rare golden lobster, escapes. In addition, Indie’s sister Bebe, who has always been her closest confidant, has become status obsessed and emotionally distant. When Bebe gets a role in the community theater’s production of The Sound of Music, Indie volunteers to work with the “misfits” backstage. Indie finds herself making unexpected friendships with the punk rocker who runs the woodshop, as well as out-of-towner Owen. Owen, serious-minded and scientific, proves to be a loyal friend. He even accompanies Indie on her moonlit searches for Monty. When Bebe and her arrogant friends play a cruel prank on Owen, Indie makes a decision that defines her summer and herself. Vivid, likable characters, poetic imagery, and a cola-swigging lobster add up to a standout summertime novel.

Music/Singing

**Babymouse: Rockstar** by Jennifer Holm (4-6)
**The Battling Bands** by Frank Cammuso (3-6)
**Bittersweet Summer** by Anne Warren Smith (3-6)
**Chase Against Time** by Steve Reifman (3-6)
**The Composer Is Dead** by Lemony Snicket (K-5)
**A Crooked Kind of Perfect** by Linda Urban (4-6)
**Fairest** by Gail Carson Levine (6-9)
**Four Seasons** by Jane Breskin Zalben (6-9)
**Gaston Leroux’s The Phantom of the Opera** adapted by Lisa Mullarkey (3-7)
**Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace** by Nan Marino (4-7)
**How to Rock** (series) by Meg Haston (4-7)
**Ingraine the Brave** by Cornelia Funke (3-7)
**Julia Gillian (and the Quest for Joy)** by Allison McGhee (4-6)
**The Last Holiday Concert** by Andrew Clements (4-6)
**Mackenzie Blue** by Tina Wells (4-7)
**The Mysterious Woods of Whistle Root** by Christopher Pennell (3-7)
**Notes from an Accidental Band Geek** by Erin Dionne (5-8)
**Play It Again, Mozart!** by Federica Salfo (2-4)
**The Silver Secret** by Sharon Draper (3-5)
**Vanished** by Sheela Chari (3-6)
**The Wizard of Rondo** by Emily Rodda (4-6)

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