Cowboys & Cowgirls & the Wild West

A Select List of Brown County Library Children’s Books
(Preschool – Middle School)

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.

Picture Books and Folk-Tales

The Adventures of Granny Clearwater & Little Critter by Kimberly Willis Holt

Alice from Dallas by Marilyn Sadler

Are You a Horse? by Andy Rash

Armadilly Chili by Helen Kettelman

Bad Day at Riverbend by Chris Van Allsburg

Banjo Granny by Sarah Busse

Buffalo Music by Tracey Fern

Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp by Denise Fleming

Charlie the Ranch Dog (series) by Ree Drummond

Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella by Susan Lowell

Cowboy and Octopus by Jon Scieszka

Cowboy Christmas by Rob Sanders

Cowboy Jose by Susan Middleton Elya

Cowboy Ned and Andy/Ned’s New Friend by David Ezra Stein

Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg by Lori Mortenson

The Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town by Mary Casanova

Dirk Yeller’s reputation precedes him; he is aggressive, impatient, and not very nice. Young Sam is the only resident of his old Western town willing to give Dirk a chance. When Sam leads the the gruff and burly
Dirk to a very unexpected place, the former bully emerges a reformed man. This story of second chances and the power of reading is a great bet for ages 5-10.

**Desert Rose and her Highfalutin Hog** by Alison Jackson

**Diamond Jim Dandy and the Sheriff** by Sarah Burell

**The Dinosaur Tamer** by Carol Greathouse

**Don’t Touch My Hat** by James Rumford

**Dust Devil/Swamp Angel** by Anne Isaacs

**Dusty Locks and the Three Bears** by Susan Lowell

**Every Cowgirl Loves a Rodeo/Every Cowgirl Needs a Horse/Every Cowgirl Needs Dancing Boots** by Rebecca Janni

**Fandango Stew** by David Davis

**The Gingerbread Cowboy** by Janet Squires

**Holler Loudly** by Cynthia Leitich Smith

**I Want to Be a Cowgirl** by Jeanne Willis

**Jack and the Giant Barbecue** by Eric Kimmel

**Let’s Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy** by Jan Thomas

Cowboy is not your typical gruff cowpoke, although he does take great care of his cows. In fact, he even sings them a twangy, guitar strummin’ lullaby by the campfire. Unfortunately for the sleepy cows, but much to the delight of listeners, Cowboy frequently mistakes harmless shadows for dangerous foes such as snakes and bears. Thankfully, his cows are quite good at reassuring their jumpy pal. When one of the shadows actually turns out to belong to a scary creature, Brave Cowboy’s reaction provides a surprising and delightful ending to this hilarious bedtime story.

**Old Granny and the Bean Thief** by Cynthia DeFelice

**On Top of Spaghetti** by Paul Brett Johnson

**Pecos Bill: A Tall Tale** by Steven Kellogg

**Pirates vs. Cowboys** by Aaron Reynolds

**Prairie Chicken Little** by Jackie Hopkins

**Railroad Hank** by Lisa Moser

**Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett** by Steven Kellogg

**Señorita Gordita** by Helen Ketteeman

**Sock Monkey Rides Again** by Cece Bell

**Take Me to Your BBQ** by Kathy Duval

**There was once an Old Cowpoke who Swallowed an Ant** by Helen
Ketteman

**Thunder Rose** by Jerdine Nolen

Thunder Rose is notable for many things, including naming herself just minutes after being born, in this tall tale featuring an African American heroine. Born talking, Thunder Rose can also harness lightning, sing down the rain with her sweet songs, lull a wild steer into domesticity, and perform feats of strength despite looking like an ordinary child. When attempting to sing down the rain during a drought, Thunder Rose angers the clouds, which form into two twisters bent on destruction. Thankfully, our plucky yet kind heroine is up to the challenge in this feminist folk tale yarn featuring Kadir Nelson’s superb illustrations. Ages 5-10.

**Tornado Slim and the Magic Cowboy Hat** by Bryan Langdo

**Way Out West with a Baby!** by Michael Brownlow

### Chapter Books

**Behind the Masks: The Diary of Angeline Reddy** by Susan Patron

**Clueless McGee gets Famous** by Jeff Mack

**The Ghosts of Luckless Gulch** (picture book for upper elementary) by Anne Isaacs

**Ghost Town at Sundown** by Mary Pope Osborne

**The Good, the Bad and the Goofy** by Jon Scieszka

**Hank the Cowdog** (series) by John Erickson

**Hard Gold: The Colorado Gold Rush of 1859** by Avi

**Holes** by Louis Sachar

A book that is a wild-west adventure/modern-mystery/friendship/wilderness survival/humorous summer camp/family curse hybrid seems like it would be too ambitious to succeed. However, **Holes** seamlessly integrates all of these elements into a riveting novel with no plot holes, but plenty of digging for answers. When good-natured, but chronically unlucky, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a juvenile detention camp for a crime he didn’t commit, he is forced to dig holes in the desert from sun-up to sundown. It doesn’t take Stanley long to realize that the camp’s heartless warden is looking to uncover a big secret in the arid dirt, but before Stanley can piece things together, his friend Zero escapes into the desert. Despite the danger, Stanley goes after his friend, never guessing that a strange song, a thumb-shaped mountain, and an onion-loving horse might turn his luck around.
Mercy Watson Fights Crime by Kate DiCamillo
Maude March on the Run/The Misadventures of Maude March by Audrey Cololumbis
Pecos Bill, Colossal Cowboy by Sean Tulien
Western Mysteries (series) by Caroline Lawrence

Non-Fiction

Bill Pickett, Rodeo-Ridin’ Cowboy by Andrea D. Pinkney
The California Gold Rush by Linda Thompson
Cowboys and the Wild West by Hilarie Staton
The Cowgirl Way: Hats off to America’s Women of the West by Holly George-Warren
Crooks, Cowboys, and Characters by Sean Price
Home on the Range by Barbie Schwaeber
Home on the Range: John A. Lomax and his Cowboy Songs by Deborah Hopkinson
How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush by Tod Olson

Think you would have struck it rich during the gold rush of 1848? This guide is written in the style of a travelogue narrated by fictional explorer Thomas Hartley upon the completion of his own prospecting adventure. Hartley’s spirited conversational tone adds intrigue to the two-page spreads covering every facet of gold rush history, from mapping the route to selecting supplies to prospecting to eventual profit or downfall. The sepia-toned pages and colored pen-and-ink sketches enhance the authentic, yet feisty, feel of this peek into the past.

If I Were a Cowboy by Eric Braun
The Rodeo by Lynn Stone
The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West by Sid Fleischman
Which Way to the Wild West? by Steve Sheinkin

http://tinyurl.com/BCLreads2014