A Select List of Brown County Library Children’s Books
(PreK–Middle School)
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**Picture Books/Folktales**
*Adventure Annie (series)* by Toni Buzzeo
*Brave Margaret: An Irish Adventure* by Robert San Souci
*Chester’s Way* by Kevin Henkes
*Clever Beatrice* by Margaret Willey
  
  Plucky and quick-as-a-whip little girl Beatrice is the heroine of this mind over brawn tale. Set in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, this action-packed yarn has many similarities to “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Beatrice and her mother are going hungry, so Beatrice makes a bet with the forest’s richest inhabitant: a foolish but scary giant. Will Beatrice win some gold coins without angering the fortress-sized fellow? Children in grades K-3 will be impressed by the daring feats of a brave young fortune-seeker. Pair this story with “Mary’s Penny” for another tale of a girl who uses her wits to help her family and herself.

*Elena’s Serenade* by Geeslin Campbell
*Every Day Dress Up* by Selina Alko
*Freedom School, Yes!* by Amy Littlesugar
*The Hair of Zoe Flefrenchucker Goes to School* by Laurie Halse Anderson
*Imogene’s Last Stand* by Candace Fleming
*Just Like Josh Gibson* by Angela Johnson
*Kate and the Beanstalk* by Mary Pope Osborne
*Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
*Madam President* by Lane Smith
*Mary’s Penny* by Tanya Landman
*Me …. Jane* by Patrick McDonnell
*Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* by Margot Theis Raven
*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney
*Moon Over Star* by Dianna Hutts Aston
*My Name is not Isabella* by Jennifer Fosberry
*Nellie May has her Say* by Cynthia DeFelice
*No Bath, No Cake! Polly’s Pirate Party* by Matthias Weinert
  
  When a truly motley crew receives their first invite to a neighborhood birthday party, at the home of a little girl named Polly, the cake-loving misfits are bursting with excitement. However, their parrot captain, clearly the brains of the crew, won’t let them depart without some lessons in party etiquette. This entails bathing, a trip to the tailor for new duds and the toy store for a dolly (the only suitable gift for a young lady) and dainty gift wrap. The finely-detailed cartoon illustrations include a priceless scene of the befuddled pirates trying to look dignified in ill-fitting finery, as they ring Polly’s doorbell. When the pixie-sized girl opens the door, she sizes up her newly dignified guests and demands scraggily loot-lugging land lubbers: Polly is having a pirate party! Pore over this captivating caper with sea-faring ladies and lads ages 4-8.
In medieval times, women were not allowed to be scientists (or pursue any kind of education) and insects were thought to be demons born from the mud. Challenging these backwards notions, teenaged Maria Marian, born in Frankfurt in 1647, observes and draws the life cycle of the butterflies, then known as “summer birds.” Thanks to an unusually supportive family and a scientific respect for nature that was rare for the times, Maria advanced the study of
insects despite the very real threat of being accused of witchcraft for doing so. The appealing picture book format, with light text and exuberant, brilliant folk-art illustration, provides visual appeal to this biography for ages 7-11.

**Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper** by Ann Malaspina

Told in a free-verse style that mimics the graceful arcs of a high-jumper, this biography celebrates the first African American woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal. Using determination, natural talent, and support from her coach and teacher, Alice excels first at track and then high jumping, earning her a prestigious scholarship. Alice leaves poverty, gender inequality and racial prejudice in the dust as she soars over each obstacle to qualify for the Olympics and win the gold in 1948. The realistic illustrations show Alice’s journey from a gangly child leaping over logs to a world-class athlete in this inspirational portrait for ages 6-10.

**A Voice from the Wilderness: The Story of Anna Howard Shaw** by Don Brown

**Wangari’s Trees of Peace** by Jeanette Winter

**What to do about Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules** by Barbara Kerley

**Chapter Books**

- **Above World** by Jenn Reese
- **Amulet (Graphic Novel Series)** by Kazu Kibuishi
- **The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich
- **The Breadwinner/My Name is Parvana** by Deborah Ellis
- **Caddie Woodlawn** by Carol Ryrie Brink
- **City of Ember** (Series) by Jeaneen DuPrau
- **Coraline** by Neil Gaiman
- **Dovey Coe** by Frances O’Roark Dowell
- **Enola Holmes Mysteries (Series)** by Nancy Springer
- **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan
- **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate** by Jacqueline Kelly
- **Flutter** by Erin Moulton
- **Julie of the Wolves** by Jean Craighead George
- **The Lunch Lady (Graphic Novel Series)** by Jarrett Krosoczka
- **The Marble Queen** by Stephanie Blake
- **Matilda** by Roald Dahl

  *Matilda is a shy genius, born to selfish crookster parent, who enrolls in a school run by a hulking brute of a headmaster named Miss Trunchbull. At the slightest misbehavior, Miss Trunchbull threatens children with days in the pokey (a child-sized cage) or swings them by their hair with arms that used to throw javelins. Obedient Matilda stays under Trunchbull’s radar while managing to make friends with a few classmates and her devoted and inspiring young teacher Miss Honey. Soon Matilda’s unused genius starts to emerge in the form of psychokinesis (moving objects with her mind), but is this a gift or a curse? When Matilda learns a tragic secret from her beloved teacher’s past that once again involves the evil Miss Trunchbull, the peaceful six-year-old decides to use her powers to free her school and her teacher, and most of all herself, from the clutches of evil. If this all sounds like very dark humor, that’s because Dahl’s trademark is the grim and fairytale-esque. At the core of this story, however, is a triumph of kindness and smarts over cruelty. An added bonus: this novel contains the most spectacular and absurdly transfixing cake-eating scene of all time! This ageless tale is a treasure in the hands of any reader ages 7 and older.*

- **The Mighty Miss Malone** by Christopher Paul Curtis
Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Our Only May Amelia by Jennifer Holm
Pippi Longstocking (Series) by Astrid Lindgren
The Princess Academy by Shannon Hale
Protector of the Small (series) by Tamora Pierce
Ramona Quimby (series) by Beverly Cleary
Rapunzel’s Revenge (Graphic Novel) by Shannon, Dean, and Nathan Hale
Ruby Lu (Series) by Lenore Look
The Sisters 8 (Series) by Lauren Baratz-Logsted
Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage
Tua and the Elephant by R.P. Harris
Sylvia and Aki by Winifred Conkling
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Zita the Spacegirl (Graphic Novel Series) by Ben Hatke

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