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

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**Picture Books**

*Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten/Adventure Annie Goes to Work* by Toni Buzzeo

*The Amazing Adventures of Bumblebee Boy* by David Soman

*The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man* by Michael Chabon

*Awesome Dawson* by Chris Gall

An innovative fellow since birth, young Dawson uses dissasembled toys and random junk to build a variety of strange contraptions, most importantly, a body for his faithful asisstant Mooey, a plastic cow head with built-in-speaker. When Dawson creates a cleaning machine, the Vacu-Maniac, to save time on chores, the machine morphs into a towering Godzilla-sized force of destruction as it sucks up everything in its path. It’s up to Dawson and Mooey to create a contraption that will save the town. Gall’s vibrant, energetic illustrations, complete with speech bubbles, will please comic book fans young and old. The aburdity of a boy and his talking toy cow head, surrounded by mutant devices that look like they came from Frankenstein’s toybox, provide laugh-aloud humor and a dose of suspense for ages 6+.

*Bad Baby/Another Perfect Day* by Ross MacDonald

*The Day I Lost My Superpowers* by Michael Escoffier

*DC Superheroes Storybook Collection*

*Do Superheroes Have Teddy Bears?* by Carmela Coyle

*Elecopter* by Michael Slack

A zany and efficient hybrid of helicopter and elephant, Elecopter has flapping ear wings, a propeller atop her head, and the cheery look of a 1950s plastic toy. Whether rescuing flight-challenged baby birds or retrieving a bunch of unreachable leaves for giraffe, Elecopter is an everyday do-gooder. So when a fire blazes through the jungle, there’s no question that Elecopter will save the day. Elecopter lifts animals to safety and uses her ingenious trunk-hose to battle the flames and save her jungle home. Slack’s jolly, popsicle-hued illustrations add a silly energy to this breezy can-do tale. Suspenseful without being scary, this rhyming rollick will delight audiences ages 2-6.

*Elliot Jones, Midnight Superhero* by Anne Cottringer

*Ladybug Girl* (series) by David Soman

*Marveltown* by Bruce McCall

*Nighttime Ninja* by Barbara DaCosta

*Ninja, Ninja, Never Stop* by Todd Tuell

*Once Upon a Royal Superbaby* by Kevin O’Malley
Worm is much too modest to refer to himself as a superhero, but to his forest friends, he is indeed a “superworm.” No job is too big or too small for Superworm’s stretchy form. He volunteers his services as a jump rope for two bored bees, makes himself into a lasso to swoop a road-crossing toad out of a bicycle’s path, and pulls a panicky beetle out of a well. Unfortunately, word of Worm’s good deeds reach the wicked Wizard Lizard, who orders his crony Crow to kidnap Superworm. Under the power of the Wizard’s mind-control flower wand, Worm is forced to tunnel underground looking for treasure. Fortunately, Superworm’s loyal garden brigade have a plot to entrap the no good Wizard with the use of a cleverly designed trap. Victory belongs to the good guys in this heroic tale embellished by Donaldson’s trademark: energetic and effortless rhyme. (Ages 5–8)

The Three Ninja Pigs by Corey Rosen Schwartz

Timothy and the Strong Pajamas by Vivianne Schwartz

Traction Man (series) by Mini Grey

A comic-book style layout complements the ingeniously imagined adventures of toy action figure Traction Man, his faithful “canine” Scrubbing Brush, and peripheral characters including a bevy of Brenda-Dolls. A young boy narrates as Traction Man in faces-off against an evil sock, the monster-like dwellers of a trash can, and a misguided green onesie/bonnet combo hand-knit by granny. From the beach to a muddy backyard, Traction Man and friends use common household objects (a pillowcase tent, a bottle of cleaning spray) on their rescue missions. Children will appreciate the action figure antics while adults will get a kick out of the witty asides in these zippy odes to creative play where the good guys prevail. (Ages 4–8)

Violet the Pilot by Steve Breen

Zero the Hero: A Book about Nothing by Jean Holub

Beginning Readers

The Adventures of Wedgieman (series) by Charise Myracle Harper

Bizarro Day! by Billy Wrecks

Buzz Boy and Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold

DC Super Friends (series) by Billy Wrecks/Dennis Shealy

Iron Man (series) by Michael Shealy

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (series) shelved under Teenage
Chapter Books

The Adventures of Beanboy by Lisa Harkrader (Grades 4-7)
The Adventures of Captain Underpants (series) by Dav Pilkey (3-5)
The Adventures of Daniel Boom (aka Loud Boy) by David Steinberg (3-5)
Almost Super by Marion Jenson (4-7)
Babymouse (series) by Jennifer and Matthew Holm (4-6)
Batman Strikes (series) shelved under Batman (4-7)
Captain Awesome (series) by Stan Kirby (K-3)
Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford
Cold Cereal Saga (trilogy) by Adam Rex (5-8)
DC Super Heroes. Batman (series) shelved under Batman (3-5)
DC Super Heroes. Flash (series) shelved under Flash (3-5)
DC Super Heroes. Green Lantern (series) shelved under Green Lantern (3-5)
DC Super Heroes. Superman (series) shelved under Superman (3-5)
DC Super Heroes. Wonder Woman (shelved under Wonderwoman) (3-5)
DC Super Villains (series) shelved under Super Villians (3-5)
Diary of a 6th Grade Ninja (series) by Marcus Emerson (3-6)
Fangbone!, Third-Grade-Barbarian (series) by Adam Rex (3-6)
Geeks, Girls, and Secret Identities by Mike Jung (4-6)
The Gumazing Gum Girl (new series) by Rhode Montijo (K-2)
Hero by Mike Lupica (6-9)
A Jack Blank Adventure (series) by Matt Myklusch (5-8)
Joshua Dread (series) by Lee Bacon (4-7)
Lego Ninjago (series) shelved under Lego (1-4)
Lunch Lady (series) by Jarrett Krosoczka (3-5)
Magic Pickle (series) by Scott Morse (3-5)
Melvin Beederman, Superhero (series) by Greg Trine (2-4)
Naruto (series) shelved under Naruto (2-4)
Pirate Penguin vs. Ninja Chicken by Ray Friesen (2-4)
Powerless/Super by Matthew Cody (5-7)
Ricky Ricotta’s Mighty Robot (series) by Dav Pilkey
Sidekicked by John David Anderson (4-7)

Drew is not your typical kid, which is why he’s in an alternative education class designed to train future heroes to make the full use of their powers and abilities. Drew has supersenses and can hear, smell, taste, and see better than everyone else. Drew is a side-kick for the Titan, a crime-fighting hero who is M.I.A. A mysterious new villain that is kidnapping heroes may be behind the disappearance, but not everything is as it seems. A great read for comic book fans.
Squish (series) by Jennifer Holm (2-5)
Stuart Goes to School/Stuart’s Cape by Sarah Pennypacker (2-4)
This quietly quirky pair of beginning chapter books features Stuart, an anxious bespectacled boy whose story is entirely rooted in the real world until he creates a superhero cape. New in town, Stuart figures that his new accessory, created with old neckties and hundreds of staples, will give him confidence to make friends at school. Much to the surprise of both Stuart and the reader, the cape really is enchanted in very unpredictable ways. Stuart’s magic cape allows him to fly (naturally), but not land (uh-oh), and surprises him with his favorite breakfast in the form of a gargantuan toast-growing plant. Young readers will root for relatable underdog Stuart. Ages 6-9.
Superman Family Adventures (series) shelved under Superman (K-3)
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (series) shelved under Teenage (3-5)
Transformers (series) shelved under Transformers (3-5)
The Ultra Violets (new series) by Sophie Bell (4-6)
Young Samurai (series) by Chris Bradford (5-8)

Non-Fiction

Batman Science (series) by Capstone Press
The ingenious Batman Science series reveals the real-life science behind the technologies of the superhero realm, from body armor to flight capabilities to crime-fighting devices. Interspersed with Batman trivia and photos, these highly readable volumes explore the science behind both present and future technologies that exist in Gotham and the real world. Batman fans will find themselves delving into engineering, aerodynamics, and physics, with the caped crusader by their side. Grades 3 and up.

Batman’s Guide to Crime and Detection by Michael Teitelbaum

Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman by Marc Tyler Nobleman

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman

Graphic Library, Graphic Science (Max Axiom series) by Capstone Press

Manga Martial Arts Figures/Manga Superheroes (Learn to Draw Manga series) by Richard Jones

Marvel Year by Year: A Visual Chronicle by Marvel Comics Group

The Spider-Man Character Encyclopedia by Daniel Wallace

Spider-Man: Inside the World of Your Friendly Neighborhood Hero by Matthew K. Manning

Superman versus the Ku Klux Klan: The True Story of How the Iconic Superhero Battled the Men of Hate by Richard Dowers

A Superhero Cookbook: Simple Recipes for Kids by Sarah Schuette

Superman: The Ultimate Guide to the Man of Steel by Daniel Wallace

Ninja background image: eo_kuro@flickr Superhero girl: Bre LaRow@flickr

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