

POCONO RECORD

Friday October 3, 2014
Stroudsburg, PA

BY KENDAL A. RAUTZHAN

Great Books Instill Confidence in Independent Readers

Early independent readers need access to books that are easy and interesting. Such books instill confidence which leads to enjoyment and enjoyment leads not only to an interest in reading by a willingness to tackle more difficult reading materials.

Just like toddlers who want to read the same book over and over again, beginning independent readers often gravitate to the same book several times over. There's nothing wrong with this, even if the book is below their reading ability. Don't pressure the child into reading books that they will struggle and stumble over. Advancing to more difficult reading materials will come as the child is ready.

Independent reading outside of the classroom should be for fun. That's what you'll find in today's reviewed books—engaging stories, intermittent illustrations, and easy, accessible writing. Check out these titles and ask your librarian and bookseller for more suggestions. With your help, every child can experience reading success, and that spells success across the board.

BOOKS TO BORROW

The following book is available at many public libraries.

"Magic Tree House #28: High Tide in Hawaii" by Mary Pope Osborne, illustrated by Sal Murdocca, Random House, 96 pages. Read aloud: age 5-6 and older. Read

yourself: age 7-9.

Eight-year-old Jack and his seven-year-old sister, Annie, have been on many exciting adventures in their magic tree house, and this exciting installment takes the two back in time to a Hawaiian island of long ago.

Hawaii is even more beautiful than Jack and Annie had expected, and they quickly make friends with a brother and sister who teach them how to surf. But when Jack feels an earthquake rumble the earth under his feet, he knows that a tsunami (tidal wave) is close behind. Annie and their new friends are still out surfing. Will he be able to get to them in time? Will they be able to get to higher ground before it hits?

Like all the books in the "Magic Tree House" series, this quick easy reader has all the right components that will make newly independent readers want to gobble-down every page and head for another "Magic Tree House" book.

LIBRARIAN'S CHOICE

Hawley Public Library, 103 Main Ave., Hawley

Choices this week: "Bark, George" by Jules Feiffer;
"A House for Hermit Crab" by Eric Carle;
"A Chair for My Mother" by Vera Williams

Continued ➔

BOOKS TO BUY

The following books are available at favorite bookstores.

"I Survived: The Destruction of Pompeii, AD 79" by Lauren Tarshis, illustrated by Scott Dawson, Scholastic, 2014, 108 pages, \$4.99 paperback. Read aloud: age 7-10. Read yourself: age 8-10.

With numerous bestselling "I Survived" stories from author Lauren Tarshis, this newest installment is every bit as exciting as her previous offerings.

On Aug. 24, AD 79, the residents of the city of Pompeii were accustomed to an occasional trembling of the earth, and many simply shrugged the tremors believing a great angry beast lived under the mountain. What they didn't know was that Mount Vesuvius was a volcano, was exploding, and in a matter of hours would kill thousands of people, burying Pompeii under thirty feet of ash and stone.

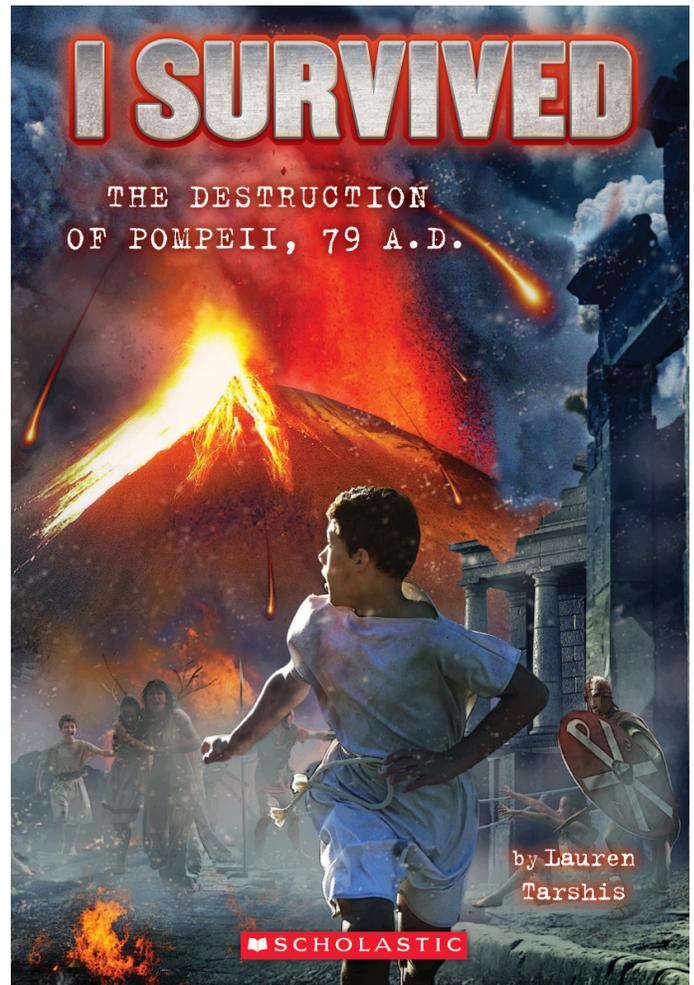
The young slave, Marcus, had miraculously been reunited with his slave father, Tat, the previous afternoon. Tat was a firm believer in science, and he knew the tremors were something far more dangerous than a mythical beast. When Vesuvius began its reign of terror, would Marcus and Tata be able to escape?

A breathless pace, loaded with history and snippets of wisdom, this story excels in every regard.

"Leroy Ninker Saddles Up" by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen, Candlewick, 2014, 90 pages, \$12.99 hard cover. Read aloud: age 6-9. Read yourself: age 7-9.

More than anything in the world, Leroy Ninker wants to be a cowboy. He already has a cowboy hat, boots and a lasso. What he doesn't have is a horse.

Taking his friend's advice to take his fate in his hands and wrestling it to the ground, Leroy acts upon an advertisement for an old but good, very inexpensive



horse. When Leroy meets the horse Maybelline, his life is turned around for the best. Leroy cares for Maybelline just as he was told, and things are perfect until Leroy forgets item #3 in caring for Maybelline. That mistake leads to Maybelline's disappearance, Leroy's panic, and relentless search to find and rescue his horse.

Wonderfully funny and entraining, this selection will be a guaranteed winner with the kids in your life.

Nationally syndicated, Kendal Rautzhan writes and lectures on children's literature.