

Spotlight

Wednesday, July 18th

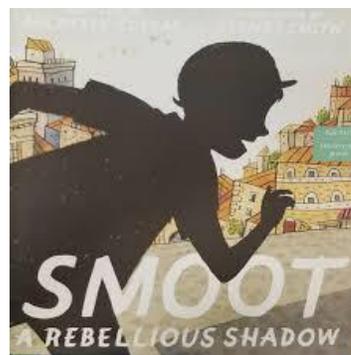
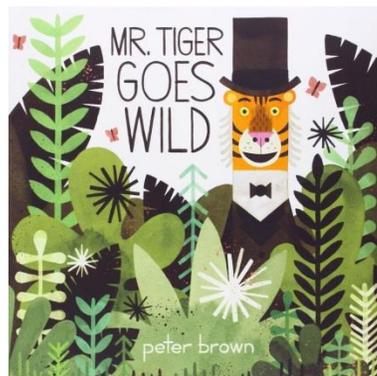
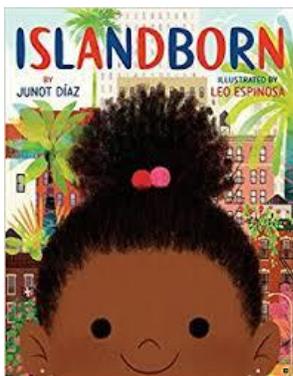
The annual Summer Reading Club at the library is well underway. Four times a week lively programs and energetic kids take over our meeting room for an hour of story, craft, and games. In honour of all the silly songs, the cute crafts, and the timeless joy of sharing a good book I bring to you some of my favourite picture books from our collection.

First up, *Smoot: A Rebellious Shadow* by Michelle Cuevas begins with the intriguing line “If life is a book, then Smoot the Shadow had been reading the same yawn-colored page for seven and a half years.” Smoot needs a change and he gets it in a charming and quirky story about freedom and adventure. When Smoot gets himself free from the tired routine of the little boy he serves he wrecks colourful havoc all over the city. Inspiring chaos and calamity Smoot reintroduces the town and his little boy to fun. The book is richly illustrated by Sydney Smith with a classical line drawing aesthetic and vibrant colouring.

Next up is a perennial favourite for story time here at the library, *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* by Peter Brown. Similar to Smoot, Mr. Tiger is in need of a bit of life reset. He is tiring of boring rules and endless routines. He wants to have a little fun and this is when he has his one very good and very wild idea. The book is a sweet story about the importance of being yourself with a cheeky reminder to not become *too* wild. *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* is an homage to a life of balance as learnt by a mischievous tiger in a top hat.

Finally, new to the library and written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Junot Diaz *Island Born* is an extraordinary and heartbreaking story of family and home. *Island Born* introduces us to Lola a little girl who goes to a school where everyone is from somewhere else. When Lola is asked to draw a picture of where her family emigrated from she finds that she can't. She doesn't remember the island but through her imagination, and with the help of her family, the book beautifully explores what her abuela explains in the poignant line, “Just because you don't remember a place doesn't mean it's not in you.” The poetic language reveals the talent of the author but does not confuse or complicate the story. *Island Born* is a great book to read aloud and share.

Children ages 3 – 12 are still welcome to join in on the summer reading club fun! Programs happen weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact the library for more information.



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