

## NEW ARRIVALS!

### Children's Materials at the Ames Free Library

### September 2009

Thank you for subscribing to the Children's edition of the New Arrivals eNewsletters.

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**The Clockwork Dark #1: The Nine Pound Hammer**  
John Claude Beemis

Twelve-year-old Ray is haunted by the strangest memories of his father, whom Ray swears could speak to animals. Now an orphan, Ray jumps from a train going through the American South and falls in with a medicine show train and its' stable of sideshow performers. The performers turn out to be heroes, defenders of the wild, including the son of John Henry. They are hiding the last of the mythical Swamp Sirens from an ancient evil known as the Gog. Why the Gog wants the Siren, they can't be sure, but they know it has something to do with rebuilding a monstrous machine that John Henry gave his life destroying years before, a machine that will allow the Gog to control the will of men and spread darkness throughout the world.

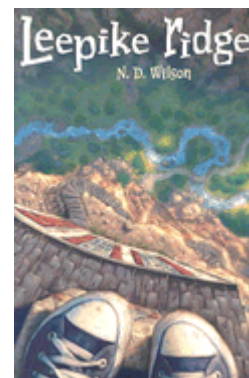
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**The Last Leopard**  
Lauren St. John

Martine can't wait to spend the school vacation riding her white giraffe around the Sawubona wildlife reserve with her friend Ben. But when her grandmother gets a distressed call from an old friend her hopes are dashed. They must all travel to Zimbabwe, where local legend says that the last resting place of the king of leopards is the hiding place of a treasure. Martine and Ben must find and protect Khan, the last leopard in the Matobo Hills, from the poachers and treasure hunters who will stop at nothing to discover if the legend is true. This heart-pounding companion to "The White Giraffe" and "Dolphin Song" brings Martine even closer to her own destiny as the child who has power over all the animals.

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**Leepike Ridge**  
N.D. Wilson

Eleven-year-old Thomas Hammond is in for the ride of his life when he's swept downstream and underground aboard a crumbling raft of Styrofoam. What Tom finds under Leepike Ridge--a castaway, four graves, a tomb, and buried treasure--will answer questions he hadn't known to ask and change his life forever. Now, if he can only find his way home again. . . . An original mix of "Robinson Crusoe, King Solomon's Mines, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, "and "The Odyssey," N. D. Wilson's first book for young readers is a remarkable adventure, a journey through the dark of the grave and back out into the light.

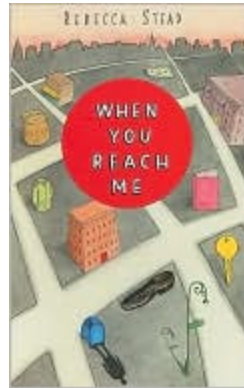
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**A Taste For Red**  
Lewis Harris

Svetlana Grimm has recently discovered she's a vampire. The clues are all there: she can eat only red foods, has to sleep under the bed because of her heightened sensitivity to light and noise, and can read others' thoughts. But this new discovery is making her transition from home-schooling to attending sixth grade at Sunny Hill Middle School that much more difficult. Things get more interesting when her cruel yet beautiful science teacher, Ms. Larch, reads her thoughts. Svetlana is excited to have found another of her kind--until her new neighbor, The Bone Lady, fills her in on Ms. Larch's true identity and her own. What happens when your sixth-grade science teacher might also be your immortal enemy?

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**When You Reach Me**  
Rebecca Stead

Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go and they know whom to avoid, like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel when Sal gets punched by a new kid and shuts Miranda out of his life. Then the apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for an emergency is stolen and Miranda finds a mysterious note scrawled on a tiny slip of paper: "I am coming to save your friend's life, and my own. I must ask two favors. First, you must write me a letter." The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows all about her, including things that have not even happened yet. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

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**Wild River**  
P.J. Peterson

When twelve-year-old Ryan reluctantly agrees to join his experienced older brother Tanner on a camping trip, he could never have dreamed this would turn into the most frightening day of his life. Ryan's no good at sports or outdoor stuff. He'd rather be home playing video games. But Tanner says it's an easy trip. They'll kayak down the Boulder River, catch fish, and roast marshmallows. But the river is higher than usual, and the kayaking is scary. Tanner isn't worried. But soon after, he's badly hurt in a kayaking accident, leaving Ryan alone and afraid he can't save his brother's life. He's only faced danger in video games. What good are games now when Ryan faces a real-life battle?

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