

A Page in a Book

RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

By Paige Gardner Smith

THE FASHION IN KIDS BOOKS

As new parents, we dress our babies in the sweetest, cutest clothes the minute they leave the hospital. As long as they will let us, we put them in the clothes we like, because we know the fashion clock is ticking. There quickly comes the time when our child says, “I don’t want to wear that,” the time when they start making their own fashion choices. Sometimes it’s a cringe-worthy combination of PJ pants, cowboy boots and a puffy vest. Sometimes they prefer an eye-blinding blend of fuchsia, turquoise and camouflage anything. It’s the beginning of our children starting to see clothes as an outward extension of themselves – the same way adults do. Offering kids a new way to look at what we wear and why, the following titles feature colorful stories that revolve around articles of clothing.



Lost and Found

By Bill Harley, Illustrated by Adam Gustavson (Peachtree)

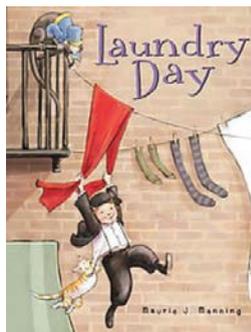
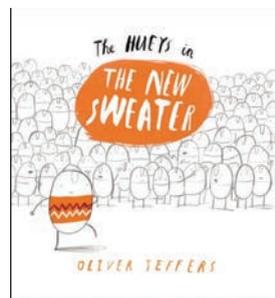
Kids know what it means to have a favorite clothing item...and what it means to lose it. For parents (and kids) who have turned the house upside down before school in the morning seeking the elusive hat-shirt-scarf-whatever, this title will strike a familiar chord. When a boy loses a special cap knitted by his grandmother, he begins an all-encompassing search to find it before her visit. He discovers a mountain of items, separated from their owners in the school 'Lost & Found.' But to get to through the avalanche of stuff and find his hat, he must cultivate a relationship with the school's crusty custodian. His hat search evolves into a mission that reunites classmates with things from the box, and finding homes for unclaimed items along the way. A warm celebration of natural attachments to favorite clothing, *Lost and Found* is a great kids' book find!



The New Sweater

By Oliver Jerrers (Penguin)

In a world full of Hueys who all look alike and think alike, it's hard to stand out. But one Huey, named Rupert, decides to knit himself a sweater. And wearing it, he distinguishes himself from the rest of his peers. The other Hueys think Rupert's new look is a bit odd. But Gillespie thinks the sweater is cool – and knits one that he can wear, too. Soon the look catches on and Hueys everywhere are sporting the same sweater. No longer viewed as odd, but rather a trend-setter, how will Rupert stand out from the crowd now? Jerrers's simply-drawn, wildly expressive world of Hueys is the perfect landscape to illustrate the power of one brilliant orange sweater to make an individual fashion statement.



Laundry Day

By Maurie J. Manning (Houghton Mifflin)

A poor shoeshine boy is hawking his services (without much success) on an early 20th century city street when a red scarf floats down around his shoulders. Looking up, among the clothes lines strung between the city's buildings, he realizes it's laundry day and the scarf could have dropped from a host of neighbors' lines. Climbing fire escapes, shimmying up drainpipes, the shoeshine boy carries the scarf from balcony to balcony seeking its owner. He meets people from different cultures and countries as he navigates through buildings filled with immigrant families. The boy's journey to return the scarf becomes more than a goodwill mission, it opens up a world of discovery with its own rewards.