

# Book Beat

## Book reviews by Andrea Barilla

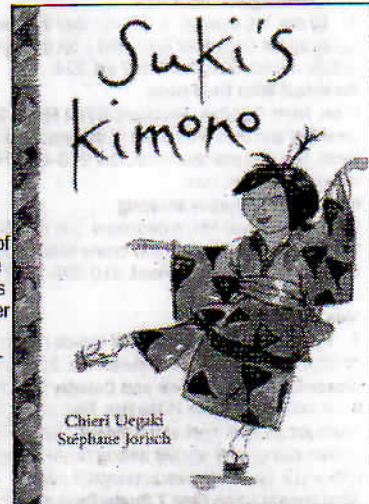
### The Invention of Hugo Cabret A novel in words and pictures by Brian Selznick

Set in 1930's Paris, this story is absolutely magical! Centered on a young orphan boy named Hugo Cabret, the story is cinematic and full of suspense, both quiet and quick, real and fantastical. The author begins by placing you in a movie theater, "I want you to picture yourself sitting in the darkness..." and the next 45 pages are nothing but still shots, as you see the sun rise over Paris and follow young Hugo through the innards of the train station, where he works and lives. Hugo's uncle has disappeared and so Hugo has taken on his job of tending the station clocks, trying to avoid discovery by the station inspector, who would surely send him away to an orphanage and away from his most prized possession: his automaton, the mechanical man that his father was trying so hard to finish before his unexpected death, the mechanical man who, when fixed, will write a message that Hugo just knows will be from his father. But when Hugo is caught stealing from the old man who runs the station's toy booth, the old man grabs Hugo's most important tool: his father's notebook, the notebook that holds the key to fixing the automaton. And here is when the story really begins, a story that is full of suspense and surprise, much like the films of Georges Méliès, the famous early filmmaker best known for his 1902 film, *A Trip to the Moon*. Méliès will become unexpectedly important to Hugo, and we as readers are treated to still shots of some of his greatest work. A Today Show book club selection. You must read this! Ages 9-12.



### Suki's Kimono Written by Chieri Uegaki, Illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch

This picture book is just wonderful; I want to buy one for each of my girlfriends, as it invites everyone, young and old, to boldly celebrate their uniqueness. It is the first day of school for young Suki and she wants to wear her kimono. This kimono was given to her by her obachan, her grandmother, and she wore it on a very special day, the day of the street festival where they both slurped somen noodles and shared crunchy, shaved ice topped with sweet red bean sauce. On this day, she joined her obachan and other women and children in a circle dance. It was the most perfect day. So naturally, she would like to wear her kimono for her first day of school. Her sisters are embarrassed by her and children snicker as she glides down the street, lifting up her arms so she can feel the breeze through her butterfly sleeves. At school, children make fun of her but Suki just sits up straighter as her obachan always did. And when it comes time to share what she did that summer, she gets right up out of her seat and shows her class the dances she learned at the street festival, losing herself in the wonderful memory, as her classmates' snickers turn to applause.



## Local Storytimes

### Barnes and Noble

Mayfaire Town Center  
509-1880

#### Story Times

Tuesdays at 10 am and Fridays at 7 pm. Read together and do a craft.

#### Magic Tree House Book Club

Thursday, July 19 at 7 pm. Reading club based on the popular book series. This month's selection is "The Knight at Dawn." No registration necessary.

#### American Girl Club

Tuesday, July 24 at 7 pm. Come for a tea party. Learn the history and social customs of this important beverage.

#### Midnight Madness Party

Friday, July 20 at 8 pm.

Celebrate the publication of the final book in the Harry Potter series. Activities include The Magic Man show, House sorting trivia games, crafting your own magical creature and picture frame, and more. Register in advance to participate in a costume contest and come dressed as Harry, Ron or Hermione. Those who pre-ordered the book will be able to pick up their copy after the stroke of midnight.

#### Cape Fear Literacy Council

9 am Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers teach English to Spanish speakers.

#### Creative Writing Workshop

7 pm. Meets the first and third Tuesday of the month (July 3 and 17).

#### Summer Reading Program

Through September 2. Children who read any eight books, complete a form and turn it in to Barnes and Noble will receive a free book. The theme this year is the Magic Tree House book series.

#### Author Discussions and Signings

2 pm Saturday, July 7. Author and UNCW graduate Kirsten Holmstedt of "Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq."  
2 pm, Saturday, July 28. Author Ellen Elizabeth Hunter of "Murder on the Cape Fear."

#### Books-A-Million

3737 Oleander Dr.  
452-1519

Story times and crafts are every Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30 pm.

#### Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Release Party

9 pm, July 20. Costume contest, face painting, giveaways and more. Pick up pre-ordered copies after midnight.

#### New Hanover Library

Storytimes resumed June 12 and are held on Tuesdays at the Main Library (798-6303), Wednesdays at Myrtle Grove branch (452-6414), and Thursdays at Northeast Regional (256-4488).

Lapsit (for infants up to 18 months of age) at 9:30 am, Main Library only.

Toddler Time (for ages 18 - 36 months) at 10 am

#### Preschool (ages 3-5) at 10:30 am

School Age (6 and older) at 11 am. Register for Get A Clue, The Summer Reading Program, through August. Keep a reading log and win certificates and other prizes. The following programs are free but registration is required.

#### Elementary Mystery Crime Caper

3:30 pm, July 2 at Myrtle Grove

3:30 pm, July 16 at NE Regional

#### Color Mysteries

2:30 pm, July 11 at NE Regional

#### Teen Mysteries Cracks in the Wall

6 pm, July 12 at Myrtle Grove

3:30 pm, July 19 at Main Library

#### Dinosaur Day

2:30 pm, July 18 at Main Library

#### Fingerprint Art

3:30 pm, July 25 at NE Regional

#### Treasure Maps

2:30 pm, July 27 at the Main Library

### Brunswick County Public Library

#### Author Lecture

11 am, July 11. Kevin Duffus of "The Mystery of the Lost Cape Hatter's Fresnel Lens."

#### Get A Clue at Your Library Youth

#### Summer Reading Programs:

Leland Library (371-9442)

2 pm, July 3. Birdman Dave

11 am and 12:15 pm, July 10: Fort Fisher Aquadum

11 am, July 17: Pizza and Awards Party

#### Rourk Library (754-6578)

Programs are held Thursdays at the Shalotte Presbyterian Church at 10 am for preschoolers and 11 am for ages 6 and older.

July 5: Cat Tails

July 12: Ha Ha the Clown

July 19, 10:30 am: Pizza and Awards Party

### Pender County Public Library

Story times for children 2-12 are held at 11 am Tuesdays at the Hampstead Branch (270-4603), and 11 am Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Burgaw Branch (259-1234) beginning July 10. Each week features different stories, songs and crafts.

#### Summer Reading Program

#### Performances

Performances are scheduled at the Hampstead Branch at 11 am and the Burgaw Branch at 3 pm.

July 12: The NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher

July 19: Priscilla Best, Heart to Heart Storyteller

July 26: Magic Trunk Theatre Company and The Mystery of the Magician's Riddle

July 26: Magic Trunk Theatre Company and The Mystery of the Magician's Riddle

### Once Upon A Child

New Market Shopping Center

452-9976

Storytelling and Crafts

Thursdays, 6 - 7 pm.