

Books

Just Read It | Kelly Parks Snider

Just Read It is a regular feature in which the State Journal seeks recommendations from Wisconsin authors, literary enthusiasts and experts, focused on the contributor's particular genre of expertise.



Kelly Parks Snider

Kelly Parks Snider is a visual artist, the founder of the independent publishing company Goathouse Press and the author of the children's book "Zilly: A Modern-Day Fable." Parks Snider is also the co-founder of Project Girl, a nonprofit program and touring exhibition that combines art, media literacy and youth-led activism into an educational experience for children, parents and educators. Here, Parks Snider chooses three picture books that hold a special place on her shelves.



1. "The Wild Woods" by Simon James (Candlewick Books) is a sweet story with an essen-

tial message about respecting our natural environment. Granddad and his bold granddaughter, Jess, are walking together in the woods when they see a squirrel. As Jess follows the creature deeper into the woods, she discovers more natural wonders. I love Granddad's determination and Jess's quiet pace.



2. "My Farm" by Alison Lester (Houghton Mifflin Company).

This picture book is an old favorite of our family and, undoubtedly, is the reason we live on a small farm outside of Madison. This autobiographical book follows the seasonal chores, mischief and fun growing up on a farm. Each page is filled with creative homegrown fun ideas

creative homegrown fun ideas, family get-togethers and every day farm happenings. I fell in love with this book; it took me back to an easier time exploring nature and spending time with family.



3. "Winter Eyes" is a book of poems and paintings by Douglas Florian (Greenwillow Books). It's a book of poetry and

art that inspires winter nostalgia in a most contemporary way. An absolute necessity for Wisconsin's drawn-out winters! This unusual book is filled with playful illustrations and distinctive wordplay. I grab this book at winter's first sign of a chilling frost. Though written as a children's book, the poems are appreciated by readers of all ages. Florian's books are some of my favorites, always containing an enormous amount of quirkiness and imagination.

Kelly Parks Snider will speak about "Raising Media Savvy Girls" at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Wisconsin Academy Offices, 1922 University Ave. An RSVP is required; call 263-1692 or visit wisconsinacademy.org. To read more from Parks Snider, visit kellyparkssnider.com.