

Title		Library Lion			
Author (Text & Illustration)		Michelle Knudsen (Text), Kevin Hawkes (Illustration)			
Publication Year		2006	Publisher	Candlewick	
Translated Versions		Japanese translation available			
Words	1,373	Pages	48	YL Level	N/A
Synopsis					
<p>One day, a lion visits a library. Mr. McBee, a librarian, rushes to report it to the head librarian, Miss Merriweather, saying "There's a lion in the library!" However, Miss Merriweather says, "If he follows the rules, there is no problem." The lion sniffs the card catalog (Don't you mess them!) and then falls asleep in the story corner, and then together with the children, listens to the stories being read aloud. Gradually, the lion helps out in the library, dusting and carrying the books around, and the library's patrons begin to feel comfortable about his presence. However, Mr. McBee is the only one who does not like him. During this time, while reaching for a book on a high shelf, Miss Merriweather falls and breaks her arm. The lion, who was watching her, runs to Mr. McBee to inform him about the emergency. It is against the rules to run in the library. Also, the lion cannot speak, so it roars loudly to let him know that Miss Merriweather is injured. This also violates the rules. Lions who break the rules will not be allowed to enter the library. How will Mr. McBee and Miss Merriweather resolve this situation?</p>					
Introduction					
<p>This is a picture book about how reading picture books is a pleasant experience. I first encountered this book when I bought the Japanese version to read to my young son. For some reason, my son fell in love with this book and would insist that I read it to him almost every night, and I don't know how many times I read it to him. Other than the unusual setting of a lion coming to the library, there's not much of an adventure in this story, but for some reason, it's exciting to read. Maybe this is the "library effect." The comfort of spending time being surrounded by books in the library. My favorite page is where the children and the lion are listening together to a story during story time in the library. I'm also drawn to the page where a child is reading a book while leaning against the sleeping lion's soft fur. These pictures seem to be indicative of what a library should look like.</p> <p>There are also two lion statues at the entrance of the New York Public Library, the setting for the documentary "Ex Libris: New York Public Library," which was released in 2019. The model for the picture book's library was Cornell University Library, as the dedication states, "In loving memory of Carol J. Buckley, shining star of the Cornell University Library," but the author Knudsen lives in New York, and the famous lions of the New York Public Library may have also been an inspiration. You can feel the similar philosophy between the library in the picture book that will</p>					

accept even a lion, and the New York Public Library, which strives to make the library widely available to citizens who cannot afford to buy books and textbooks, or who have no other access to cultural activities other than coming to the library.

Related work/Reference URL

【Other recommended picture books by Kevin Hawkes】

- *Weslandia* (Written by Paul Fleischman (Text), Candlewick (Illustration), 2002) (Japanese translation available)

(Text: Motoko Fukaya)