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Trixie Belden comes back with mysteries

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Something old, something new is the phrase that goes with weddings, and it's also true for book publishing this summer.

Trixie Belden might not ring a bell with parents who read more of the popular Nancy Drew series, but this younger girl detective is full of spunk and fun. The retro-mystery series by Julie Campbell is back in print, and Trixie is worthy of a spot on bookshelves next to Nancy. From the inviting covers of "**Trixie Belden #1: The Secret of the Mansion**" and "**Trixie Belden #2: The Red Trailer Mystery**" (Random House, \$6.99) to the last pages, your reader will be hooked. These stories are set in the '40s, when kids had plenty of time and freedom to explore old mansions and neighborhood mysteries.

"**Made You Look**" by Diane Roberts (Random House, \$15.95) offers a different kind of summer tale -- about a family cross-country road trip. Jason, the star of the story, isn't crazy about his family's grand plan to skip airline travel for the joy of a long car trip and camping in an old-fashioned trailer. The lure is a chance to try out for a trivia game show in Los Angeles. The adventures along the way are funny and sure to ring true for any kid who's spent hours in the car with family.

And what would summer be without baseball? "**The Boy Who Saved Baseball**" by John H. Ritter (Philomel, \$17.99) is about Tom Gallagher, a boy who finds his baseball field may be sold as part of a real-estate deal. Although it isn't as compelling as last summer's environmental tale, "Hoot," it will have young readers who love baseball rooting for their hero.

If you're headed up north for a final summer trip, "**Stories from Where We Live: The Great Lakes**" (Milkweed Editions, \$19.95) would be great to pack. The stories take place in present-day

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Michigan as well as neighboring Minnesota and Wisconsin. This book would also be good for the thoughtful older reader and nature-lover.

Lynne Reid Banks, best known for "The Indian in the Cupboard," is back with a magical adventure story that takes place in the mountains, "**The Farthest-Away Mountain**" (Delacorte, \$15.95). The young heroine is on a quest to free mountain creatures from bad magic.

Michigan native Amy Goldman Koss makes an environmental tale the focus of the newest character in the American Girl Collection. "**Kailey**" (Pleasant Company, \$6.95) brings to life the 10-year-old and her battle to save the tidal pools from development. Koss will be in town at Book Beat Bookstore in Oak Park, speaking and signing from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday. The store is at 26010 Greenfield, Oak Park.

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