

Library Helpers



Newsletter for K-8 Librarians

Hello there!

Fun fact – the month name “March” comes from the Latin *Martius*, after Mars (the Roman god of war). In ancient times, this month signaled the beginning of warfare. Similarly, in schools, March often seems like the beginning of a lonnnnnnggg game of tug-o-war! (If you know, you know...school staff members try to keep students motivated to learn for three or four more months...and the students are fighting off the distractions of spring fever!)

Fortunately, in the U.S., March can also mean a FUN month in our libraries! As we celebrate “Read across America” near the beginning, there are often book fairs to host, spirit weeks for dressing up, and storybook character parades to organize. Then, in the middle of the month, there are exciting opportunities involving books and basketball, lucky leprechaun tales, and possibly even galleries of “potato people” book characters!

As we turn the page from winter to spring with you, we hope you will be able to find lots of everyday joy in sharing amazing books with kids!

Take care,

Julie, Laura, and Sonya



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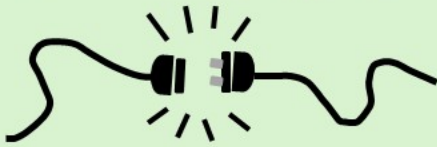


[The Trapped Librarian Store](#)

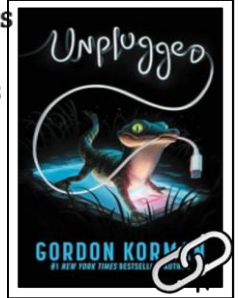
10 "National Days" for March 2025

1-2nd

Global Days of Unplugging



BOOK TALK - When the world's richest kid goes too far, his billionaire dad sends him off to a "wellness camp" in the backwoods of Arkansas. The staff quickly confiscates his phone, starts him on a "cleansing diet" ...and alerts his radar! Something WEIRD is going on at "the Oasis," and Jett is determined to figure out what's up – even if it gets him into MORE trouble! Click the cover to read chapter one. By Gordon Korman for ages 9-11, ©2021



2nd

Read Across America Day



Celebrate **Read Across America Day** with an exciting "book tasting" event! Learn more about it and get FIVE helpful tips in this blog article from the Trapped Librarian.

Click the graphic to go to Laura's post.



3rd

World Ear and Hearing Loss Day



ALA's *Programming Librarian* describes tips for providing services especially for deaf patrons. Click the ear icon to read it.

Want to learn more about the deaf community? Click the link below.



[National Association of the Deaf FAQs](#)



3rd

World Wildlife Day



Working on animal research? This FREEBIE download includes Sonya's TOP TEN favorite animal websites for kids. Once you download the file, open it up, and you will have a fun and INTERACTIVE bibliography for your students.



[From The Library Patch](#)



8th

International Women's Day

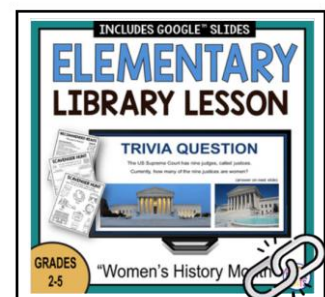


This elementary library lesson highlights the lives of 28 women throughout history.

It includes trivia, fun facts, and some thought-provoking "would-you-rathers." Click the graphic to see the preview on TPT.



[Resource from MrsReaderPants](#)



10 "National Days" for March 2025, cont.

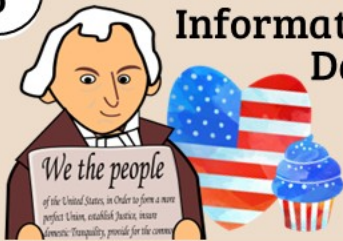
14th Children's Crafts Day



Do your students have spring fever... and are you running out of ideas for keeping them engaged? With new videos every week, you'll find plenty of library time craft projects on this YouTube channel. The videos are short, so creating springtime art with your classes will be simple and fun!



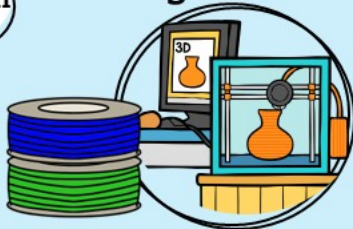
16th Freedom of Information Day



FYI -- This day celebrates the belief of James Madison, the 4th U.S. President, that Americans have the right to ask our government for facts about how it is handling its business -- and to request primary documents that explain details -- unless it's something that protects our national safety. (March 16th was his birthday.)



19th 3-D Day



If your library is just getting started with 3-D printing, be sure to check out this informative video clip from YouTube and National Geographic Kids for a brief (and kind of funny) introduction to the process.

Just click the graphic to view the clip. →

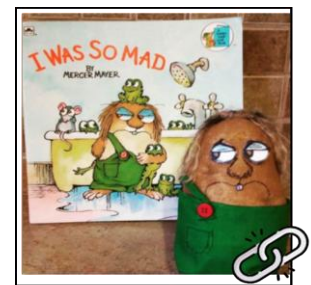


31st Tater Day



Host a "book character potato gallery" in your library this month! (Real potatoes or construction paper creations will work!)

The link attached to this photo leads to some ideas and inspiration from Midtown Montessori School in Memphis. →



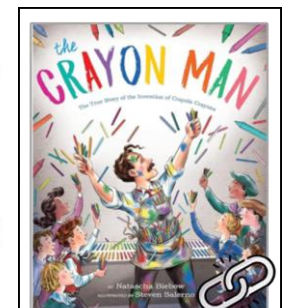
31st Crayon Day



End March by reading *The Crayon Man* by Natascha Biebow (©2019, Clarion Books) to learn about Edwin Binney, the inventor of Crayola crayons. (Our link shows the author reading it!)

Add a video from Mister Rogers (*How People Make Crayons*) and top it off with some coloring!

 <https://misterrogers.org/videos/crayons/>



THREE MARCH FREEBIES

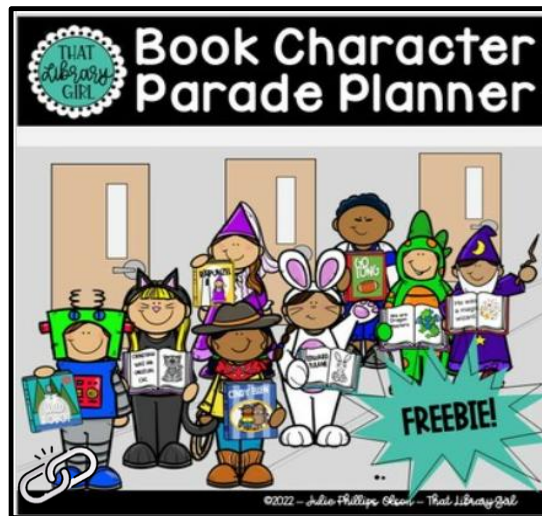
Booklist for Leprechaun Storytime *Shenanigans galore!*

It's time for fun stories about our favorite springtime mischief-maker! Make sure you have plenty of leprechaun picture books on hand this month.

Download this [free booklist](#) and read the short reviews on the Trapped Librarian blog.



[From The Trapped Librarian](#)



Book Character Parade Planner

Great for Read Across America Celebrations!

If you're in charge of a book character parade this year... you may not know where to start.

Don't worry – my ["Book Character Day Parade Planner"](#) is a FREEBIE to help you get organized and promote your event!



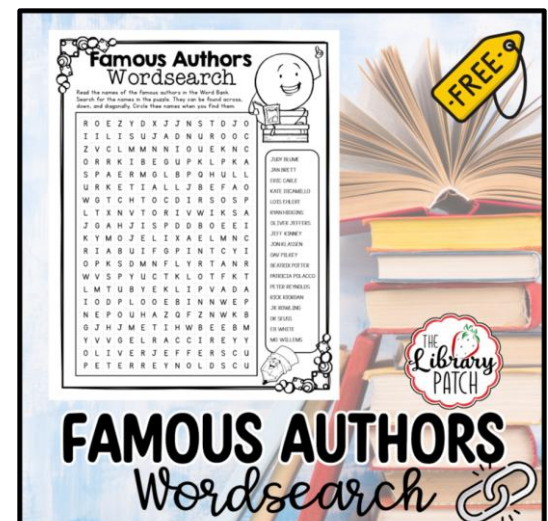
[From That Library Girl](#)

Book Author Word Search

This quick and fun [word search activity](#) is perfect for Read Across America Day! Kids can search for 18 different authors in this puzzle.



[From The Library Patch](#)



The Yarn by Podcaster, Author, and School Librarian, Travis Jonker



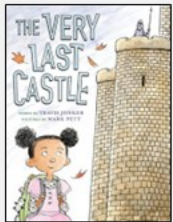
If going behind the scenes of children's literature appeals to you... put your listening ears on and tune in to an elementary librarian/podcaster, who lives in Michigan with his wife and two kids -- Travis Jonker.

He and his co-host, Colby Sharp, a fifth grade teacher, meet up bi-weekly to produce a podcast that usually features an author or an illustrator.

With 230 episodes so far, these guys have an easy, conversational style that lends itself well to covering hundreds of titles -- and the path that was taken to get those great story ideas into kids' hands.

If you can only listen to a few podcasts, be sure to tune in to their "year in review" and X (type a year here) "preview" episodes.

Travis is also a published author with a list of picture books to his credit. His new book *Caboose* just released in February and *Just One Wave* comes out in April.



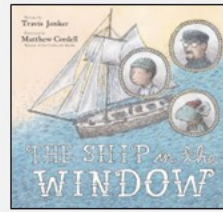
2018



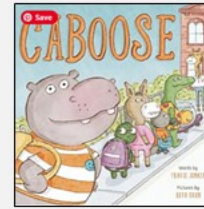
2021



2023



2024



2025



2025

The Yarn podcast is available on iTunes/Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Audible.



Recycle Old Calendars



Wondering what to do with those leftover 2024 calendars?
Cut the pictures into strips to make bookmarks to give away at your circulation desk!

SPRING RESOURCE IDEAS FOR BUSY LIBRARIANS

Leprechaun Activities *for March Library Lessons*

- 🍀 Your K-2 lessons will be loads of fun with Leprechaun Storytime! This unit includes suggested holiday-themed songs, a book review activity, St. Patrick's Day Bingo, a fun scavenger hunt and more!
- 🍀 Use the suggested books or your own favorite leprechaun stories and your library will be buzzing with excitement!

[From The Trapped Librarian](#)



Spring Research Project for Gr. 1-2 *Reading for Information*

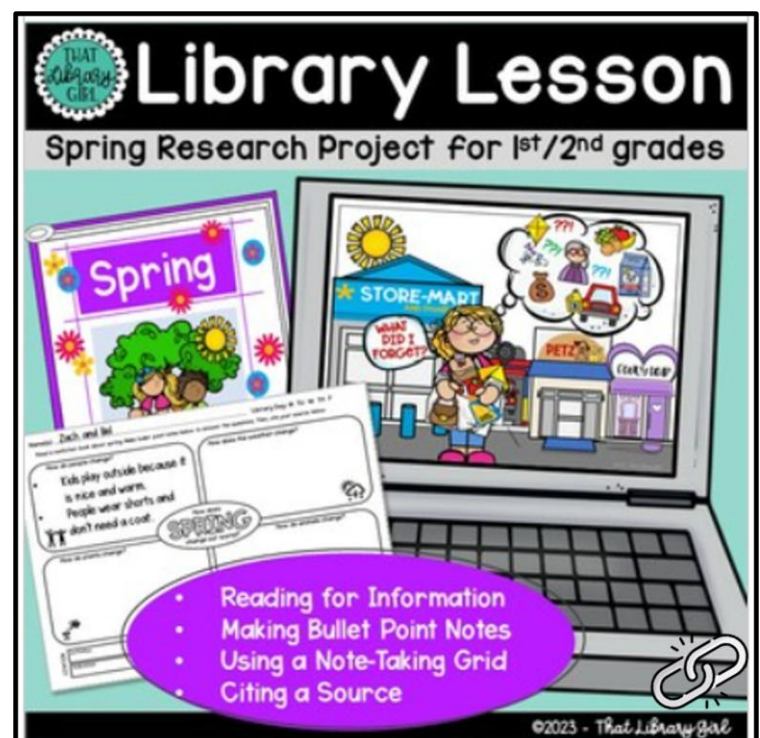
Do your littles need to develop some beginning research skills? This easy spring library lesson involves the essential question --

"How Does Spring Change Our World?"

With several teaching slides and a graphic organizer template, *it will help your first and second grade students learn to:*

- ✿ Read for information.
- ✿ Make simple bullet point notes.
- ✿ Use a graphic organizer for note-taking... and ...
- ✿ Cite a source for a printed book or an e-book.

[From That Library Girl](#)



A St. Patrick's Day Recipe from Sonya's Kitchen

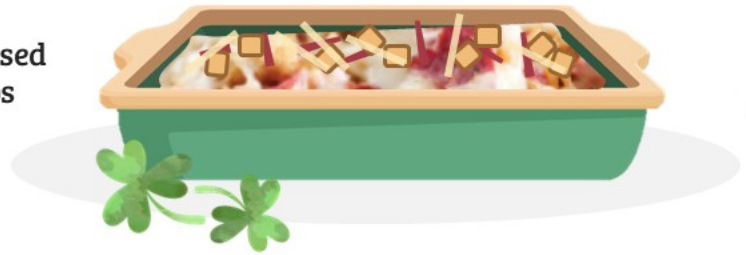
Reuben Casserole

This tasty Reuben casserole, with layers of sauerkraut, corned beef, Swiss cheese, rye bread crumbs, and Russian-style salad dressing, is like a baked deli sandwich in a dish.

Prep Time: 15 mins | **Cook Time:** 30 mins | **Total Time:** 45 mins | **Servings:** 6

Ingredients

6 slices rye bread, cubed
1 (16 ounce) can sauerkraut, drained and rinsed
1 pound deli-sliced corned beef, cut into strips
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Russian-style salad dressing
cooking spray
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese



Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Spray one sheet of aluminum foil with cooking spray.

Spread bread cubes in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Layer bread cubes with sauerkraut and beef strips, then pour dressing over top. Cover with the aluminum foil, sprayed-side down.

Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes. Remove and discard foil; sprinkle Swiss cheese over casserole. Continue baking until cheese is melted and bubbly, about 10 more minutes.

Live Author Events with "Read-Aloud Fridays"

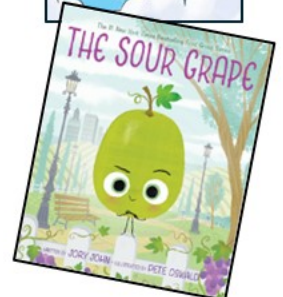
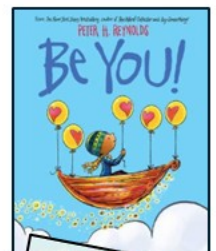
Introduce your students to authors, illustrators, and a variety of celebrity guest readers by signing up for the FREE "Storyvoice" program.



Each week, Scholastic hosts live "Read-Aloud Friday" events. As students listen to stories, they may be invited to participate in on-screen prediction polls, draw-along activities, and so on.

If a live Friday performance is missed, recordings can be accessed on the next school day. (These are available to watch for two weeks for North American audiences).

← Click the graphic to get more details.









MORE TPT RESOURCE IDEAS FOR BUSY LIBRARIANS

March Bulletin Board

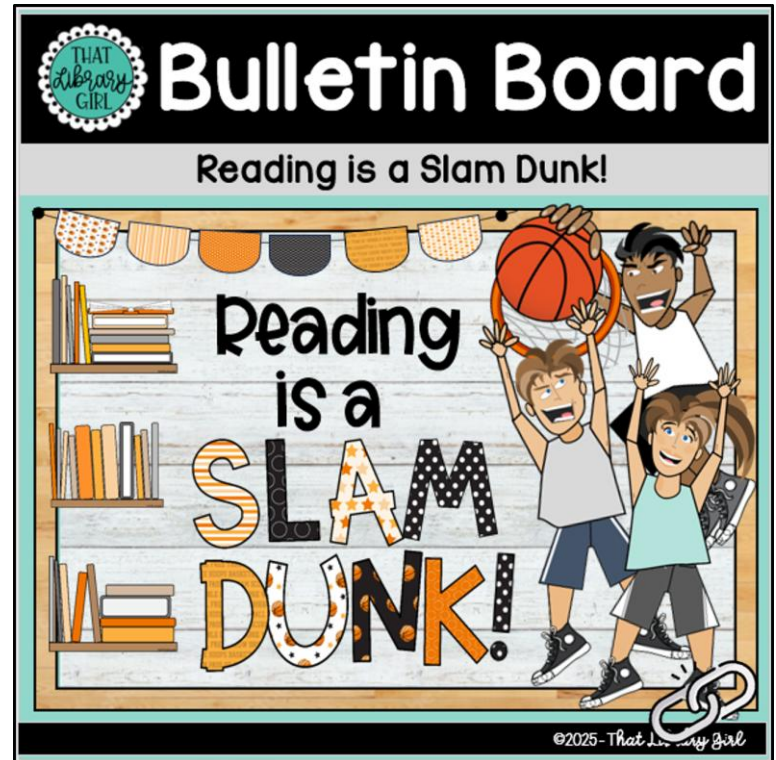
Reading is a SLAM DUNK!

This bulletin board is the perfect décor choice for March basketball events – especially if they involve reading good books!

This set includes:




-  4 Player Graphics
-  Instructions for Enlarging Graphics
-  Bulletin Board Caption
-  Words “SLAM DUNK” in Two Sizes
-  Bookshelf and Scoreboard Graphics
-  Basketball Banner Topper

[From That Library Girl](#)

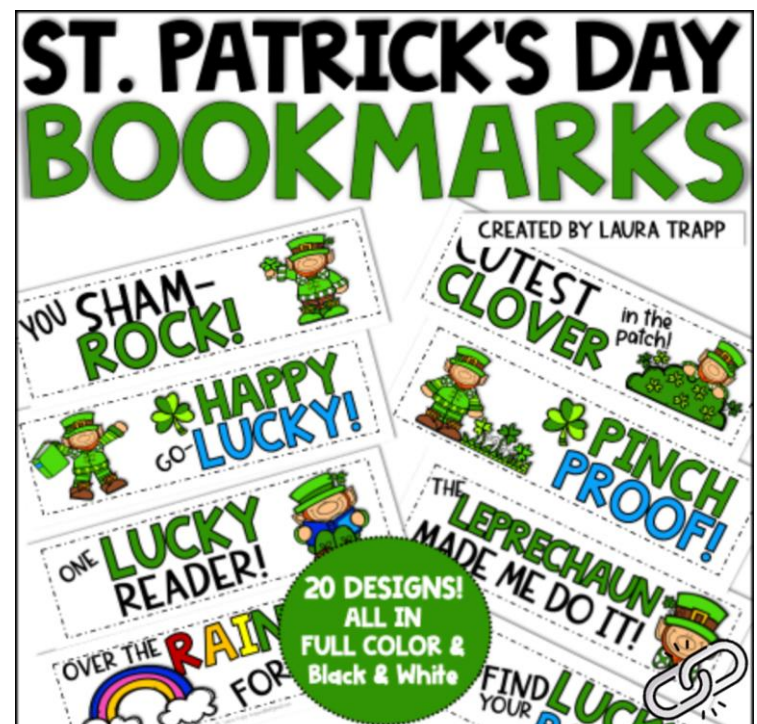


St. Patrick's Day Bookmarks

20 Designs in All!

-  Encourage reading and spread some St. Patrick's Day fun in your library with these cute bookmarks.
-  12 jokes and 8 greetings, all in full color – plus black and white printing options.
-  Great for a March center or to give away at your circulation desk!

[From The Trapped Librarian](#)



Resources from The Library Patch



MAKER MAPS

For Makerspace

- 🍀 This resource has over 70 Makerspace Challenges guaranteed to bring the MAKE back into your SPACES. Maker Maps are a creative way to bring purpose and meaning to your Makerspaces!
- 🍀 Maker Maps are a set of ***EDITABLE*** challenges that utilize the variety of materials and centers that your library or classroom has to offer.

[From The Library Patch](#)

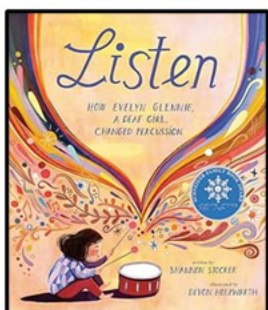
March Resource Task Cards

- 🌈 Encourage kids to practice their researching skills by finding the answers to interesting and engaging questions with these editable March research task cards.

[From The Library Patch](#)



Collection Development : Books Featuring Deaf Students

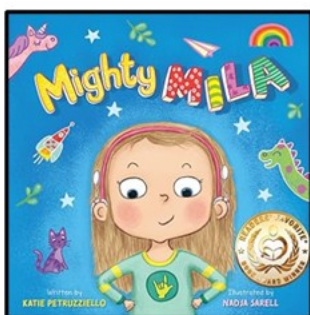


Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion

Written by Shannon Stocker and illustrated by Devon Holzwarth

©2022 | Published by Dial Books | Recommended for PreK-3rd Grade

This biography tells the story of Evelyn Glennie, a young girl who loved playing music. Sadly, when the nerves in her ears began to deteriorate, she was told that a deaf girl could not be a musician. Happily, Evelyn found a new way to listen... and to continue making the beautiful music she loved!

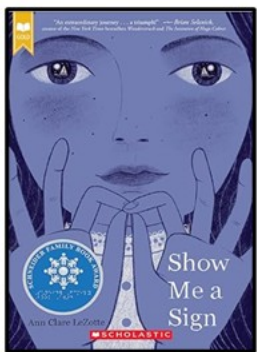


Mighty Mila

Written by Katie Petruzzello and illustrated by Nadja Sarell

©2021 | Published by Mighty Books | Recommended for Ages 4-7

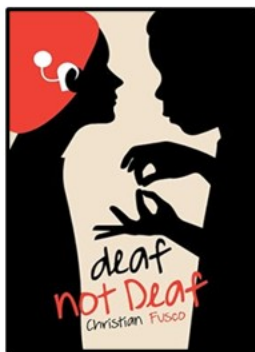
In this picture book, Mila is a spunky young girl who wears cochlear implant hearing devices, but they are not the focus of the story. Instead, she's determined to prove to her parents that she's a "big kid." As Mila starts trying to figure out things on her own, she conquers many tasks, but others begin to make her doubt her own "big kid" abilities!



Show Me a Sign

Written by Ann Clair LeZotte (a deaf author and librarian) ©2020 | Published by Scholastic | Recommended for Ages 10-13

Mary's historical fiction story takes place on Martha's Vineyard in 1805. She lives in a thriving community where many people are deaf and communicate well with sign language. Mary's life has always felt safe until her brother's death, a series of land disputes, and the encroaching pursuit of a young scientist who considers Mary a "live specimen" in a quest to determine the reason behind the island's prevalence of deafness.



deaf Not Deaf

Written and published by Christian Fusco, Illustrated by Kostis Pavlou | ©2021 | Recommended for Ages 13-15

Rian is a sixth-grader at a new school, who almost immediately has a problem with a bully (who breaks one of her cochlear implant hearing devices). As she tries to navigate the challenges of the new school's routines and friendships, she also begins to grapple with her misunderstanding of the terms "deaf" (as a medical condition) and "Deaf" (as part of a cultural identity).

Don't miss this illustrated article of practical tips for fostering communication with our students who have reduced hearing.



Reads from the Trapped Librarian's Granddaughter



My 7th grade granddaughter is a voracious reader who loves romance and mystery! Here are a few of her favorites.

THE AGATHAS / KATHLEEN GLASGOW & LIZ LAWSON

In this suspenseful mystery, two girls—one an outcast and the other a popular student—team up to solve the case of a missing girl, inspired by the works of Agatha Christie.

As they uncover dark secrets, their investigation brings them closer, changing their lives forever. It's a mix of thriller, friendship, and mystery.

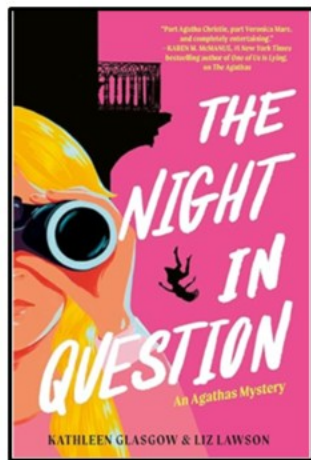
©2022 | Published by Delacorte Press | Recommended for grades 9-12



THE NIGHT IN QUESTION / KATHLEEN GLASGOW & LIZ LAWSON

In this thrilling sequel to *The Agathas*, amateur teen detectives Alice and Iris are back, this time investigating a mysterious death at a Gatsby-themed high school party. When a student turns up dead, and a friend is accused of the crime, they must untangle secrets, lies, and alibis before it's too late. Full of twists and classic detective story vibes, it will keep you guessing until the very end.

©2023 | Published by Delacorte Press | Recommended for grades 9-12

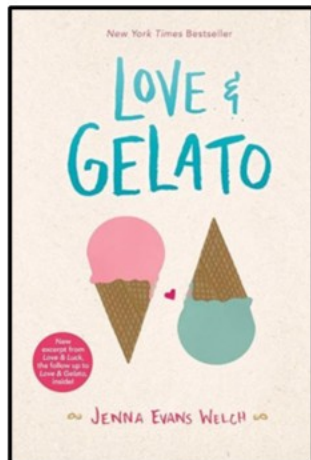


LOVE & GELATO / JENNA EVANS WELCH

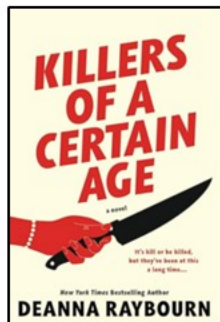
After her mother's death, Lina travels to Italy to fulfill her mother's last wish: to spend the summer with her father.

While there, she uncovers secrets about her mother's past and forms new relationships that help her navigate grief and find love. This sweet, heartfelt story is filled with adventure, gelato, and self-discovery.

© 2017 | Published by Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers | Recommended for Grades 7-9



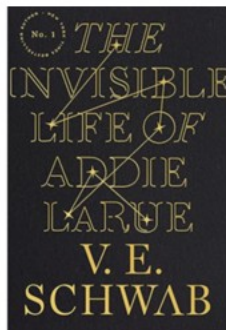
Spring Break Suggestions for Adults



Killers of a Certain Age by Deanna Raybourn

Four elite female assassins, forced into retirement, discover they've become targets themselves. Using their decades of experience, sharp wit, and old-school spy skills, they must outwit and defend against their own organization to stay alive. This fast-paced, darkly funny thriller gives a refreshing take on aging in a male-dominated field.

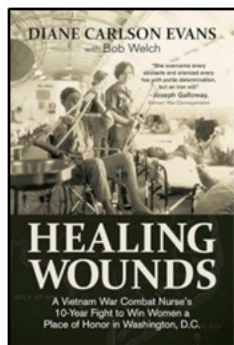
©2022 | Published by Berkley



The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by Victoria Schwab

In 1714 France, Addie LaRue makes a bargain for immortality but is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. She spends centuries figuring out how to make a lasting difference until she meets a man who mysteriously remembers her. A beautiful tale of love, identity, and the power of leaving a mark on the world.

©2020 | Published by Tor Books



Healing Wounds by Diane Carlson Evans

If you've read *The Women*, you'll want to read this memoir that inspired the story! It follows Diane Carlson Evans, a former Army nurse in Vietnam, as she recounts her experiences on the front lines and her fight to establish the Vietnam Women's Memorial. An inspiring journey of resilience, advocacy, and honoring the contributions of women in war.

©2020 | Published by Permuted Press

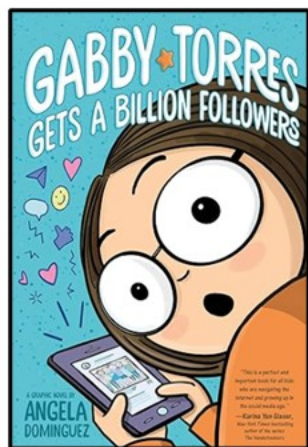


Homecoming by Kate Morton

When journalist Jess returns to Australia to care for her grandmother, she stumbles upon an unsolved family mystery from 1959. As she digs into the past, she uncovers long-buried secrets that connect her own life to a shocking tragedy. A captivating mystery full of twists!

©2023 | Published by Mariner Books

NEW Graphic Novels for 2025



GABBY TORRES GETS A BILLION FOLLOWERS / ***By Angela Dominguez***

Gabby, 9-years old and ready to be the “Sea Musketeers” BEST. MEMBER. EVER. (not to mention the youngest!)

When she wants to start a social media page to impress the older club members, her parents think she’s too young. Of course, THAT doesn’t stop her... but some online bullies sure might!

©January 2025 | Published by Roaring Brook Press | Recommended for ages 6-9

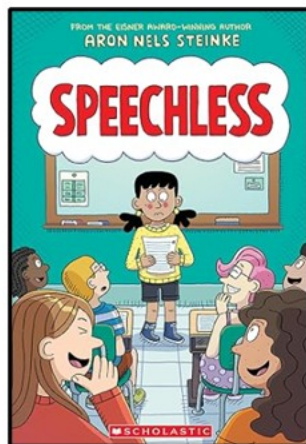
SPEECHLESS / By Aron Nels Steinke

Mira struggles to speak at school, even though she can express herself at home without a problem. Her former bestie, Chloe, has somehow become an enemy -- and when an emergency comes up... she learns that her family has volunteered to host Chloe for the duration! Ugh...

These days, Mira’s only consolation seems to be creating content for her stop-motion animation video channel. While navigating anxiety and friendships, she struggles to find her inner (and outer) voice.

From the creator of Mr. Wolf’s Class.

©March 2025 | Published by Graphix | Recommended for grades 3-7

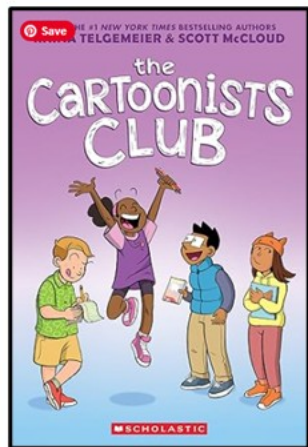


THE CARTOONISTS CLUB / Written and illustrated by ***Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud***

When you mix a group of artistic kids with an opportunity to express themselves through drawing and storytelling, you get a really special club! Meet:

- *Makayla – Lots of ideas... but not sure how to turn them into a story.*
- *Howard – Loves to draw... but struggles to generate ideas.*
- *Lynda – Draws constantly, but focuses on her mistakes.*
- *Art – Enjoys his creativity, but is ready to try something new!*

©April 2025 | Published by Graphix | Recommended for grades 3-7

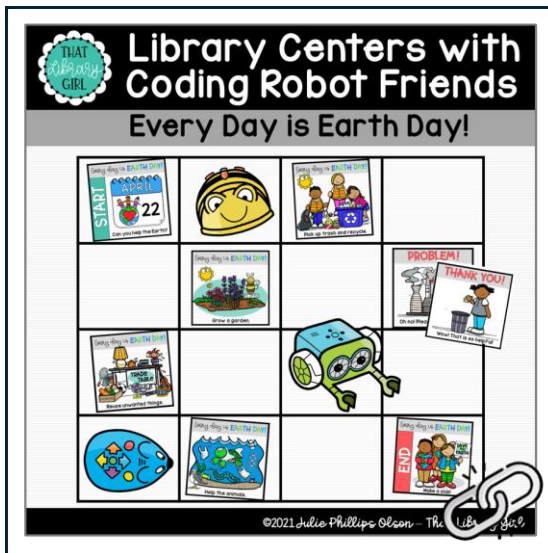


LOOKING AHEAD TO April!

Earth Day Activities

- Next month we'll celebrate the planet we love! Although it's not a "National Day," it is an annual day of activism. First celebrated in 1970, the event became a global movement in 1990.
- Plan ahead for Earth Day with engaging activity ideas in this article from the Trapped Librarian.





 [Head over to the Trapped Librarian's blog.](#)



Coding Robot Fun for Earth Day

This center is based on the book *Earth Day, Every Day* by Lisa Bullard. (Available for free on EPIC AND Kindle Unlimited as of February 2025!) My coding robot cards share 12 tips from the book and provide both path-building steps and roadblocks for your young robot engineers!



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

-  12 Earth Day Coding Robot Cards (in two sizes)
-  An Unplugged Activity (for those who are waiting)
-  Information about coding robot grids
-  Original Earth Day song with lyric chart

 [From That Library Girl](#)

Also available... [Recycling for Coding Robots](#)

Butterfly Research Project

-  April brings thoughts of spring and warm weather, so it's not too early to start thinking about a little bit of spring research.
-  In this engaging first research project, students will ask and answer questions about key details in a text and interact with a variety of text features.

 [From The Library Patch](#)

Also available... [Animal Research Project BUNDLE](#)

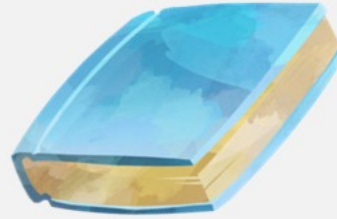


THINGS TO "CATCH UP" ON DURING SPRING BREAK

Catch up on some much-deserved pampering.



Catch up on some "for fun" reading.



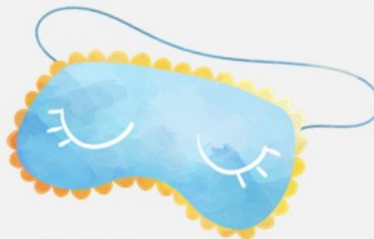
Catch up on family time.



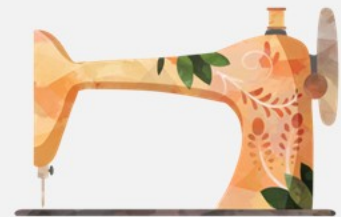
Catch up on your shows.



Catch up on your sleep.



Catch up on a hobby.



Catch up on time spent in nature.



Catch up on a call with an old friend.



Credits:



The book covers are from



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