



April 2025

Hello there! As the Earth is **SPRINGING** back to life with beautiful colors and textures, we want to congratulate you for making it through the winter! Now, get ready to enjoy **SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DAY!**

This month, *Library Helpers Newsletter* is ready to lend a hand with some great book suggestions AND lots of resource ideas for:

- Teaching about Maps for PreK-6th grade
- Celebrating "Purple Up Day" for Military Kids (FREEBIE ALERT!)
- Teaching Kids to Save Money
- School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- And ... of course... Earth Day!

We'll test your memory with a "kiddie lit siblings" matching game, and we'll tell you all about a library friend who became a **BUS DRIVER** this year! (AND LOVES IT!) Be sure to look for Laura's yummy dinner recipe and her resource on book spine poetry, too! Enjoy!

Take care –

Julie and Laura



Contact Us

Sonya will be back next month!

Blog



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Blog



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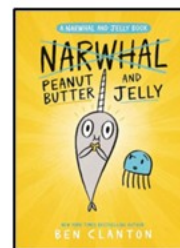
10 "National Days" for APRIL 2025

2nd Peanut Butter & Jelly Day



Have fun with Narwhal and Jelly (Peanut Butter and Jelly). Read the book...then sing the *You're the Peanut to My Butter* song with Emily Arrow.

 [YOUTUBE LINK](#)



4th School Librarian Day



Feel forgotten during School Library Month? If you have a local group of school librarian pals who collaborate, Carolyn Vibbert of Virginia has a fun idea -- swap names and launch your own **secret pal exchange program** to celebrate each other!

 [CAROLYN'S GOOGLE DOC LINK](#)

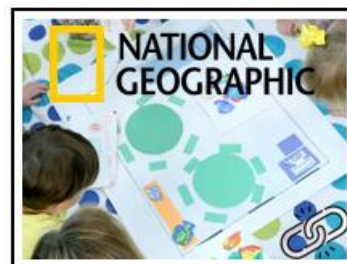


5th Read a Map Day



While paper maps may be rare these days, knowing how to read a map is still an important skill. This National Geographic website provides sequential and **FREE resources** for grades PreK-6.

 [NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LINK](#)



7th No Housework Day



Yes, please! Let's meal prep or make take-out plans for tonight, then ignore the messes, and put our feet up for a bit! (But don't delay in putting your garbage out!) This link features **Shel Silverstein** reading one of our favorites!

 [YouTube – Shel Silverstein](#)

Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out



10th Siblings Day



From Beezus and Ramona to Katniss and Prim, loving (and not so loving) siblings abound in children's literature.

Just for fun, we have a quiz for you! **Can you match our book character siblings with their books?**

The quiz and answer key are on pages 13-14.



10 "National Days" for APRIL 2025, cont.

15th Military Kids Day

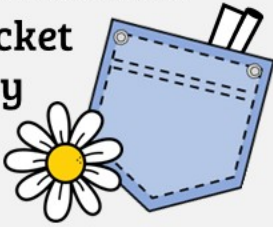


April is the Month of the Military Child. Encourage your students to show their support of all military branch families by wearing PURPLE on April 15th -- and share FREE bookmarks all month long!

 [FREEBIE from That Library Girl](#)



18th Poem in Your Pocket Day



The original *"Poem in Your Pocket"* was written by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers in 1958. The idea is to find a favorite poem, jot it down on paper, and carry it in your pocket to share with others throughout the day. Now, Emily Arrow has a song about all about it!

 [Hear Emily Arrow's Song HERE](#)



22nd School Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Bus drivers endure hours of training for a job with big responsibilities! Celebrate them with this new **"appreciation day"** resource.

Also, on page 5... read about Julie's librarian friend who made transporting kids a very profitable side hustle this year!

 [From That Library Girl](#)

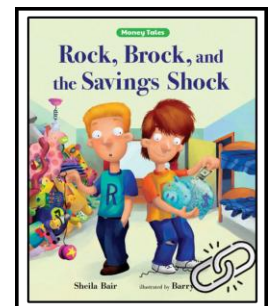


22nd Teach Children to Save Day

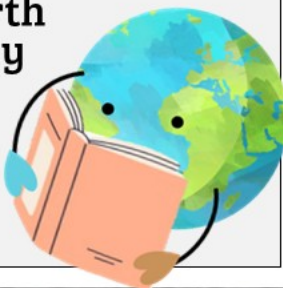


BOOK TALK - Rock, Brock, and the Savings Shock /Written by Sheila Bair, illustrated by Barry Gott | © 2017 | Published by Albert Whitman and Co. | Recommended for grades 1-5 – When twin brothers make a deal with Grandpa... ONE ends up with a lot of cash!

 [YOUTUBE READ ALOUD](#)



22nd Earth Day



Read all about it! In this issue, we've included two pages with book ideas to use when teaching students about taking care of the environment!

You can find our recommendation lists on pages 10-11.



Have a Happy School Librarian Day w/2 Freebies!

COLOR BUNNY

Scavenger Hunt

Looking for a free, fun activity to add to your spring library lessons? This Bunny Scavenger Hunt is perfect for K-2 — just print, cut, and hide the colorful bunny cards around your library.

It's an easy, engaging way to fill time after a read-aloud or book checkout, and kids will love hunting for bunnies while practicing their color words!



[From The Trapped Librarian](#)



BOOKMARKS

"Purple Up" for Military Kids!

Show appreciation to your military families by thanking their strong and resilient children for an amazing ability to "BLOOM anywhere!"

This FREEBIE has four bookmark designs in shades of purple and in black and white, or gray tones.



[From That Library Girl](#)





Always Let Mrs. Epps Drive the Bus!

Have you ever wanted to be Ms. Frizzle? When her school district put out a desperate call for help, Jennifer Epps, a school librarian from Arkansas, jumped in to train as a school bus driver – and recruited a co-worker as well!

TRAINING

The process turned out to be a bit more complicated than expected! After purchasing a \$40 study manual for the CDL-B (commercial drivers license with a "B for bus" endorsement) Mrs. Epps studied during June – while also tackling her district's normal 132 summer professional development hours.

TESTS AND MORE TESTS... AND ONE MORE TEST...

After passing the FOUR separate tests that are required BEFORE you can even move to the driver training part, Mrs. Epps spent about six weeks on bus driving lessons during July and part of August.

Once she earned her CDL permit, she participated in 30 hours of classroom instruction via computer modules in preparation for yet another exam. Although the training had been very challenging at times, Mrs. Epps persevered and made it through the final written exam. Then, she aced the on-the-road portion... took the drug test that's required for all commercial drivers... and just like that... she earned her official CDL-B license -- in ONE busy summer! (Did I mention she has 3 kids?!)

DAILY ROUTINE

These days, Mrs. Epps's morning bus route begins at 6:53 AM. When she returns to campus, she swaps hats and starts her librarian duties until it's time for the afterschool route. She says driving the bus doesn't really impact her day as the school librarian, but she did recruit a few responsible students to help her open the library each day.

While she loves driving the bus, she admitted that the most time-consuming part is also the scariest part – handling traffic violations! It has been surprising how many drivers ignore the bus's stop sign and its red hazard lights as she makes her stops. Each violation must be written up.

THE BEST PARTS

Mrs. Epps feels that becoming a school bus driver was a great choice. "It fits into my schedule rather nicely," she states, "It has taught me not to waste a moment of my time when I'm not with students."

A favorite part has been having her youngest son, who is a senior this year, ride along with her on her route. She also shared that "the pay increase has been very satisfying. It has been a way to earn extra money without interrupting my home life, and I have met a lot of new people." She also mentioned that the (school district) transportation department is "... a very nice and supportive group of individuals. I look forward to driving again next year."



**Early
Risin'**



**SAFE
TRAVELIN'**



*Kid
Lovin'..*



**BUS
DRIVER**



TPT Resource Ideas for April

Coding Robot Fun

Recycling Robots!

♻️ This Earth Day, turn your BeeBot, Code-and-Go Mouse, or Botley into "Recycling Robots!"

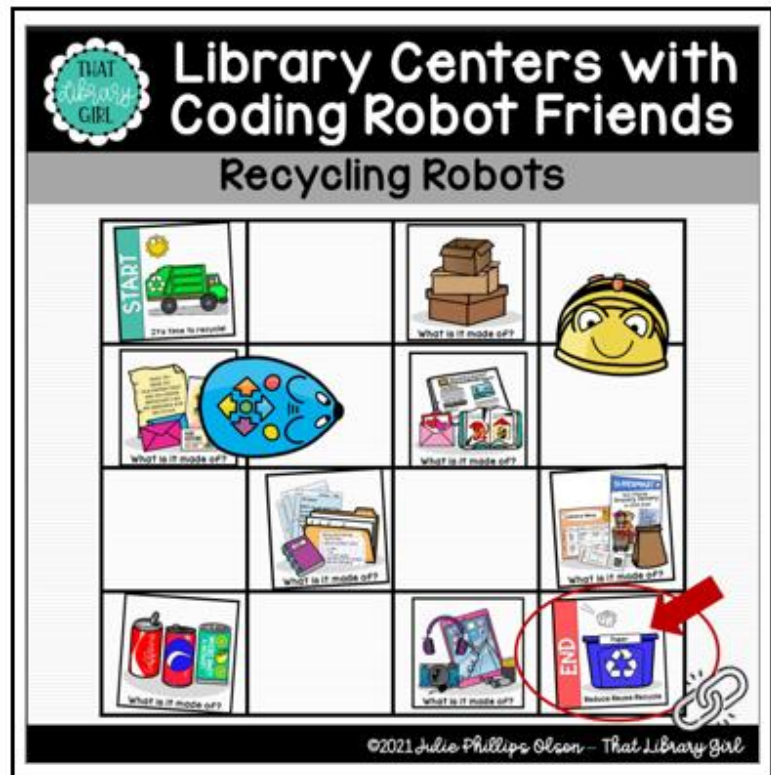
♻️ Your coding robots and my coding mat cards will help your students learn to sort everyday items into categories, all while pretending to work for the local Recycling Center!

(No coding robots? Just use the cards as a sorting center!)

♻️ The resource is based on the book *Rally for Recycling* by Lisa Bullard – which is free on Kindle Unlimited and EPIC.



[From That Library Girl](#)



Earth Day

Bulletin Board and Bookmarks

♻️ Get ready for Earth Day with this fun, low-prep resource!

♻️ The interactive bulletin board, complete with student-friendly posters, a booklist, and sticky note prompts, encourages kids to share ideas on how to protect our planet.

♻️ Plus, the Earth Day bookmarks — packed with jokes and greetings — make the perfect reward or coloring center activity.



[From The Trapped Librarian](#)



RECIPE from Laura's Kitchen

Weeknight Black Beans and Rice

*Quick and easy to put together after a long day at school!

Ingredients:

- 1 package sausage, cooked (I like to use andouille, but you can use any kind of sausage you like!)
- 1 can black beans, rinsed
- 1 cup rice
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 cup water



**A dash of Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning, cayenne powder or red pepper flakes if you like it spicy!*

Toppings: Sour cream, extra salsa, cilantro, peppers, and/or green onions.

Directions: Mix all ingredients in a large skillet over medium-high heat until the liquid starts boiling. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes (until the rice is done). Serve with a salad and your favorite crusty bread!

Hhmm...CAN'T ARGUE WITH BOOK SPINE POETRY!



Want to learn more about this fun activity for poetry month? Keep scrolling to page 8 and check out Laura's Book Spine Poetry resource!

Ideas That Will Be Poetry to Your Ears!

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!

Book Spine Poetry

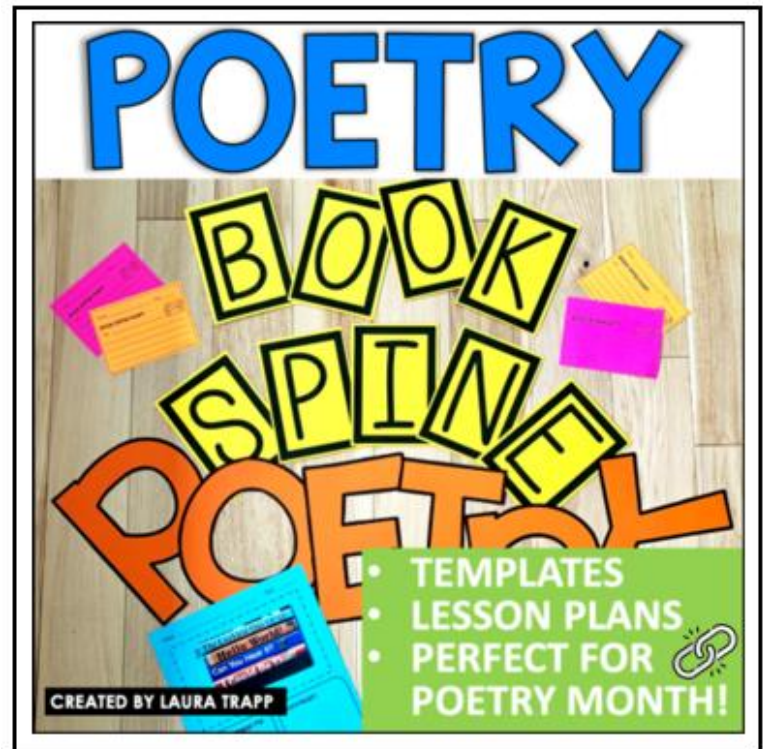
Bring National Poetry Month to life with this creative Book Spine Poetry activity!

The low-prep kit includes everything you need — from lesson plans to a ready-to-go bulletin board caption — to guide students in stacking book titles into clever poems.

Whether they use books, printable templates, or digital slides, your students will love seeing their poetic creations on display!



[From The Trapped Librarian](#)



Bulletin Board or Circ Desk Banner

Spring Flows into Summer

This large, vibrant banner spells out "Spring Flows into Summer" with colors that range from cool blues ❄️ to red hot! 🔥

(The **flow of colors** is intended to mimic the cooler days of early spring ☁️ ☁️ ☁️ ...which end up being the oh-so-sweaty days of summer!)



PLUS... it's poetry month... so I've included two easy poem templates for your students to fill out. They're a fun way to keep that creativity flowing in your library... and easy enough for a sub day!

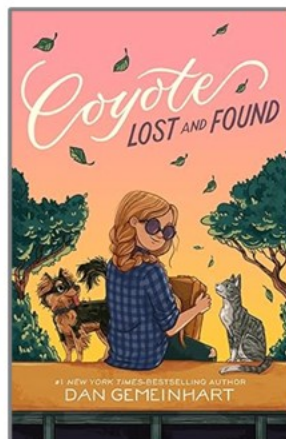
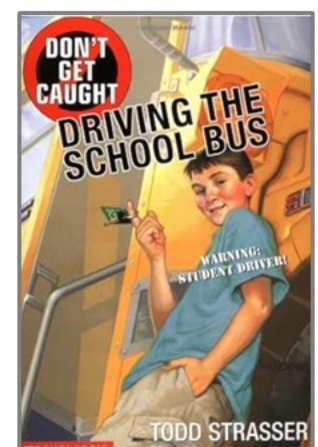
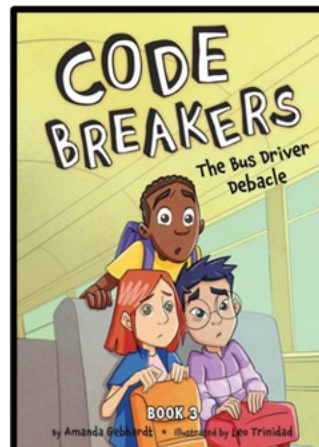
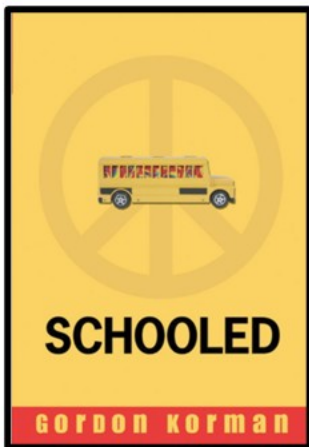
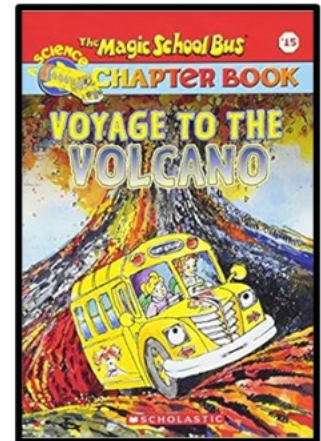
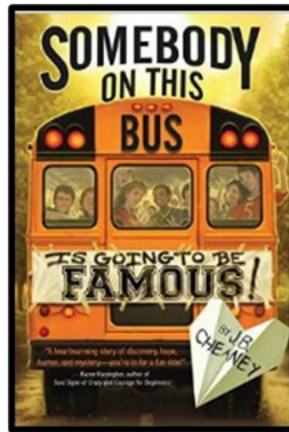
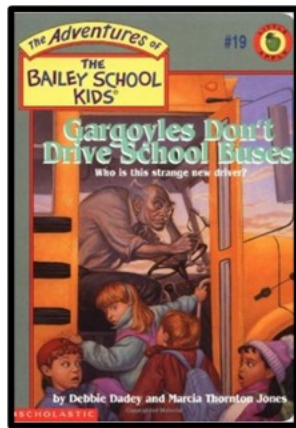
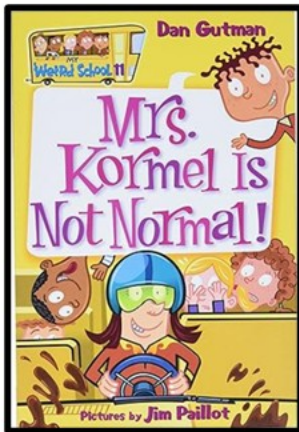


[From That Library Girl](#)



SCHOOL BUS BOOKS for MIDDLE GRADES

Here's a selection of titles for a school bus display! You can use them in April for a "National School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day" medley – or save them until school convenes in the fall! (The last four involve themes that are better suited for older kids... or are pretty scary!)





Middle Grade Books with Earth Day Vibes!

WHERE THE SKY LIVES by Margaret Dilloway | (c)2022 | Published by HarperCollins | Recommended for grades 3-7

Astronomy lover, Tuesday Beals, is working to save a beloved piece of property surrounding Zion National Park, where she learned to love stargazing with an uncle who recently passed. (Tuesday lives nearby with her mother, the park's head archaeologist.)

After finding an old camera, Tuesday and her friend Carter get interested in both photography and activism. Partnering up, they launch an Instagram campaign to save the beautiful property from developers.



THE FIRST RULE OF CLIMATE CLUB by Carrie Firestone | © 2022 | Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons | Recommended for ages 10 and up

This companion to *Dress Coded* starts with 8th grader Mary Kate joining a science club and starting a podcast about climate change.

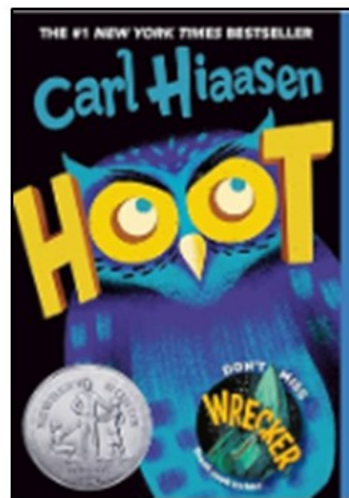
Noticing a lot of waste going on around her (for example, the kids in the cafeteria wasting food, the parents in the car pick-up line wasting gas, EVERYONE buying too much stuff) she begins to come up with good solutions -- only to have them dismissed by the mayor.

Believing in her ideas, she begins to rally her classmates to move forward in making needed changes a little at a time.

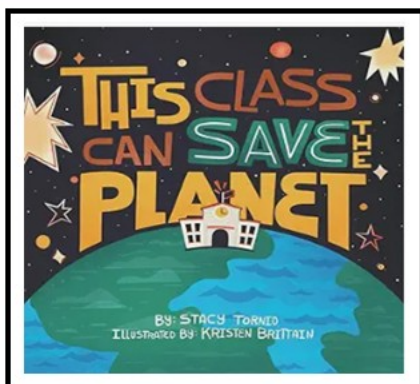


HOOT by Carl Hiaasen | ©2002 | Published by Knopf Books for Young Readers | Recommended for grades 5-6

Roy may be the new kid, but he guesses he's as excited about the new "Mother Paula's Pancakes" restaurant as anyone. Until, he notices the colony of cute endangered owls that live in burrows under the building site. How will those little owls survive under a layer of parking lot concrete? (And he thought the school's bully was his biggest problem!)



More Earth Day Titles to Try!



THIS CLASS CAN SAVE THE PLANET by Stacy Tornio and illustrated by Kristen Brittain | ©2022 | Published by Be a Good Human Co. | Recommended for ages 4-10

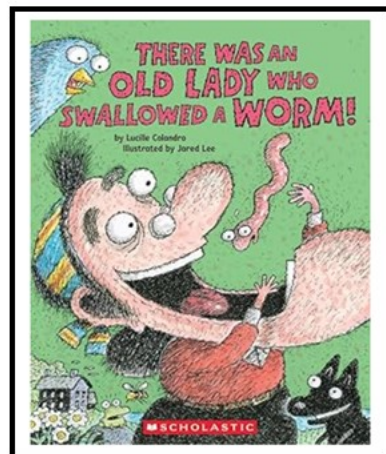
A classroom full of kids tackles real-world environmental challenges, showing how small actions—like reducing waste and planting gardens—add up to big change.

This uplifting story inspires teamwork and environmental responsibility, making it a great fit for classroom read-alouds.

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A WORM by Lucille Colandro | ©2023 | Published by Cartwheel Books | Recommended for ages 3-9

The newest in the series with an eco-friendly twist on the classic Old Lady series, with the old lady swallowing worms, dirt, and even a flower pot to help her garden grow.

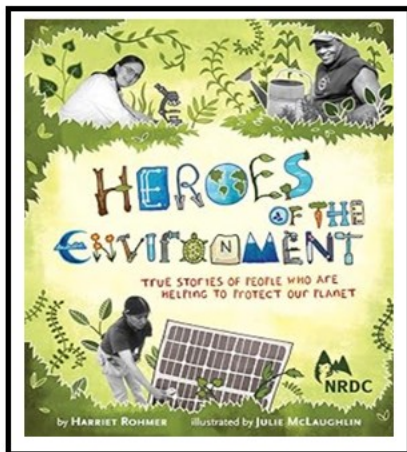
It's a fun, lighthearted way to spark conversations about planting and caring for nature.



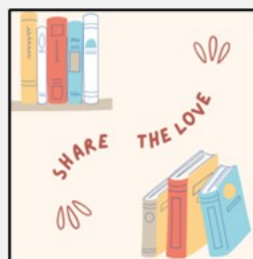
HEROES OF THE ENVIRONMENT by Harriet Rohmer | ©2009 | Published by Chronicle Books | Recommended for ages 9-13

This inspiring collection of true stories introduces readers to twelve environmental heroes from diverse backgrounds.

The stories showcase how ordinary people can make an extraordinary impact on the planet. It's a great pick for encouraging students to see themselves as changemakers.



April can be a stressful time of year. Be kind to yourself and your kiddos with some calming mindful activities. A few ideas: play calming music in the background as they look for books, put out a jigsaw puzzle, create a simple coloring center (even big kids like to color - give them some colored pencils!), or try some yoga. As librarians we have the privilege of interacting with everyone in the school. Let's do what we can to provide an oasis during stressful times! 💜



Looking Ahead to May

LIBRARY BOOK RETURN KITS

"Cruise on by & Return Your Books!"

When it's time to start rounding up your school's library books, use my book return kits to save time – and your sense of humor!

So far, I have 3 different sets, including this groovy retro VW bus/van theme for PreK through 8th grade. Each one is decorated with happy vibes and summer colors.



[From That Library Girl](#)

See also...

["Quit KITTEN Around... Turn Your Books in MEOW!"](#)

["Stop DRAGON Your Books Around & Turn Them In Please!"](#)



14 Best Yoga Books for Kids

We all know school can get a little lively in the spring — sometimes, a calming reset is just what everyone needs.

These yoga books offer a fun, gentle way to introduce mindfulness, movement, and self-control, helping students refocus while fostering a sense of calm and confidence.



[From the Trapped Librarian](#)

Are You Up for the Challenge? (Answer Key on page 16)

Siblings Match-Up



Caleb and Tris Prior

Anna and Caleb

Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie

Cassie and Caitlyn Waters

Peter and Fudge Hatcher

The Hatford Brothers and Malloy Sisters

Greg, Rodrick, and Manny Hefley

Hank and Boo

Patty and Maddy Jones (Patina)

Josh and Jordan Bell

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire

Ada and Jamie Smith (War that Saved)

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern Gaither

Cathrine and David (no surname given)

A Series of Unfortunate Events (series)

The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing (series)

Sarah, Plain and Tall (series)

Patina (Run series)

The War that Saved My Life (series)

Rules

One Crazy Summer (series)

The Boys Start the War (series)

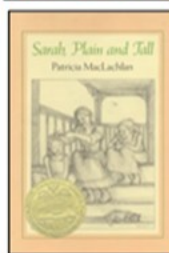
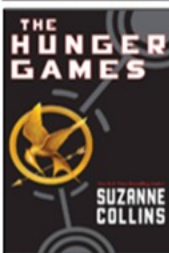
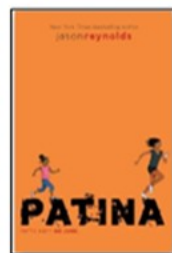
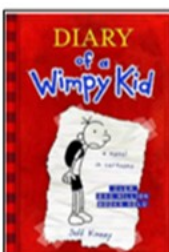
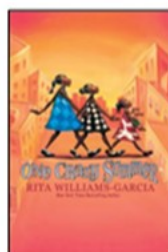
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (series)

Double Vision (Twintuition series)

Divergent (series)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)

The Crossover (Series)



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Siblings Match-Up Answer Key

Siblings Match-Up (Key)



Caleb and Tris Prior	A Series of Unfortunate Events (series)
Anna and Caleb Witting	The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman
Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing (series)
Cassie and Caitlyn Waters	Sarah, Plain and Tall (series)
Peter and Fudge Hatcher	Patina (Run series)
The Hatford Brothers and Malloy Sisters	The War that Saved My Life (series)
Greg, Rodrick, and Manny Hefley	Rules
Hank and Boo Hooperman	One Crazy Summer (series)
Patty and Maddy Jones	The Boys Start the War (series)
Josh and Jordan Bell	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (series)
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Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern Gaither	Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)
Catherine and David (no surname given)	The Crossover (Series)



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Dreaming of the Day **after** the Last Day of School

Savoring
your food.



Diving into
your personal
TBR stack.



Sleeping
late

Potty-ing at
random times



Feeling the
satisfaction
of a job
well done.



Taking time to
finally relax!

Credits:



The book covers are from



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