



May and June 2025

Hello there! We're doubling up this issue of *Library Helpers* to provide **20** "National Day" ideas! The days may be flying, BUT, there's still a lot of potential for pulling together interesting and inexpensive lessons involving everything from Mother Goose, to sea turtles, to digital citizenship!

This month's "librarian side hustle" feature involves a former library media specialist who has become a successful children's book author. She is living proof that a teacher's kind words of encouragement can be VERY powerful! We're also pre-inviting you to jump into a summertime conversation on Facebook about "book character BESTIES!" (There are links to our private groups on page 4, next to "June 8th" and also on page 17.) If you're not one of our group members yet... join us...and jump on our email lists, too!) Then in June, stop by and let us know which friendship storybook pair has continued to touch your heart — long after you closed the book!

As always, we have a few TPT freebies to share... a few paid library resources to highlight...and most of all...big virtual hugs to give you for a job well done!

Thank you for all that you do for your schools!

Take care,

Julie, Laura, and Sonya



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10 "National Days" for MAY 2025

1st Mother Goose Day



Do you know about the real "Mother Goose" who lived in the late 1600s? According to Chris Rascka's book *Mother Goose of Puddling Lane*, she married a widower with TEN kids – and then had FOUR more! (That old shoe rhyme makes more sense now, right?!) To find a curated list of possible Mother Goose titles to add to YOUR collection, head over to this helpful link that we found on Goodreads.

 [LINK TO GOODREADS](#)



2nd School Lunch Hero Day



With her spork phone, milk carton cam, and fish stick nun chucks, Lunch Lady is a pro at solving problems (AND crimes) for the kids at her school! As you honor your cafeteria staff, be sure to check out this early graphic novel series for elementary and middle school students. (See page 5 for a "Lunch Lady" brownie recipe!)

 [LINK TO JARRETT KROSOCZKA'S WEBSITE](#)



3rd Paranormal Day



This genre includes tales about spooky creatures like ghosts, zombies, and aliens. The characters often deal with phenomena beyond the realm of natural science, such as telepathy, clairvoyance, and time travel. How spooky is too spooky? *Common Sense Media* is a good source for reviews, if you're wondering about the content of a title that you're considering for your library.

 [LINK TO COMMON SENSE MEDIA](#)



4th Weather Observer's Day



FREE VIDEO RESOURCES: Love primary sources? A team of meteorologists in Nashville, TN have created a "Weather School 4 Kids" series on YouTube. Topics include rain, hurricanes, lightning, straight-line winds, weather instruments, thunderstorm safety, and even a little about weather map "green screen magic."

 [LINK TO "WEATHER SCHOOL 4 KIDS"](#)



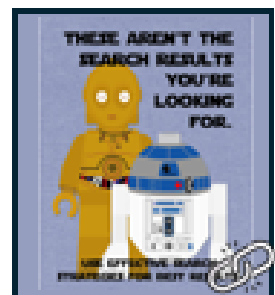
4th Star Wars Day



"MAY the FOURTH be with you!"

"Mrs. Karpiuk" (a technology specialist from an Indiana middle school) shares an amazing set of TEN Star Wars-themed digital citizenship posters on her website. Use them for a lesson, a bulletin board, or both!

 [LINK TO FREE STAR WARS POSTERS](#)



10 "National Days" for MAY 2025

7th Cartoonists Day



Do you share summer fun ideas? Reach out to your artsy students by introducing them to this YouTube channel. It's hosted by Christopher Hart, an author and illustrator who has created a series of amazingly simple "How-to-Draw" books.

 [LINK TO HIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)



12th Limerick Day



BOOK TALK -- What do you get when you combine poetry and a joke? A limerick! This book by award-winning author, Brian Cleary, brings out the silly (AND sly) features of a tiny poetry form that's lots of fun to read and write! He explains how limericks work – and how they can trigger big laughs! Right now, it's FREE on Amazon Kids+!

 [GO TO AMAZON – NOT AN AFFILIATE LINK](#)



17th Learn to Swim Day



Need an easy, end-of-the-year book display? Grab some pool toys and books about swimming! See our list on page 11 for picture book and chapter book ideas.

As an added bonus... be sure to add a flyer about swim lesson opportunities in YOUR community!

SCROLL TO PAGE 11



24th Scavenger Hunt Day



Get your students moving and exploring with this free "School Supplies Scavenger Hunt" from The Trapped Librarian! (More details on page 6.)

Use it after book checkout or as a quick end-of-year activity to keep students engaged and smiling.

 [LINK TO THE FREEBIE](#)

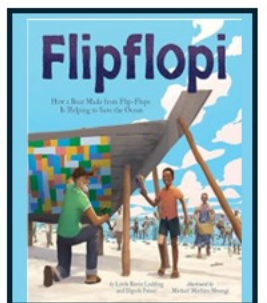


28th Flip Flop Day



BOOK TALK -- Juma was excited to go fishing with his grandfather, but they found their sandy beach covered with plastic pollution. At first, they felt sad, but then... a random, floating flip flop gave the pair an amazing upcycling idea! Based on a true story from Kenya.

Flipflop! : How a Boat Made from Flip-Flops is Helping to Save the Ocean by Linda Ravin Lodding | ©2023 | Published by Beaming Books | For ages 4-12.



10 "National Days" for JUNE 2025

1st Game Show Day



If you've ever dreamed of being a game show host, this K-1 trivia game may be your chance!

As teams compete to earn "popsicle points," they'll be reviewing early childhood basics – including some important library concepts! See more details on TPT.



[LINK TO THAT LIBRARY GIRL on TPT](#)



6th Donut Day



Sonya shares..."*Arnie the Donut*, written and illustrated by Laurie Keller, is a kid favorite. This Storyline Online version is read by Chris O'Dowd and has over 2 million views. It never fails to keep my students engaged and laughing."



LINK TO



8th Best Friends Day



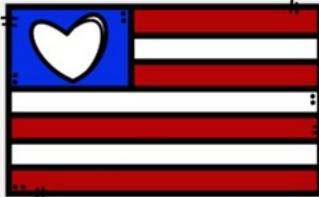
Who are your favorite BOOK CHARACTER BESTIES? Frog and Toad? Or...Elephant and Piggie? Maybe Jesse and Winnie from Tuck Everlasting? Join this discussion on June 8th in one of our private Facebook groups for librarians!



[TPT RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS](#)
[LIBRARY BULLETIN BOARDS & DISPLAYS](#)



14th Flag Day



Did You Know? The "EPIC e-books" website offers a variety of books about the American flag's history ...and educator accounts are FREE for use during the school day. (Great for stretching tight budgets!)

Why are There Stripes on the American Flag? | By Martha E. H. Rustad | ©2015 Millbrook Press | Ages 5-8



[GO TO EPIC E-BOOKS](#)



16th Sea Turtle Day



This website from the Department of Commerce's *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* has free teaching materials about sea turtles for elementary THROUGH high school, including an informative (and beautiful) one-minute video!



[LINK TO THE NOAA WEBSITE](#)



10 "National Days" for JUNE 2025

17th Eat Your Veggies Day



BOOK TALK – What do you do when your Mom and Dad are finnickier eaters, and they REFUSE to even try healthy foods like broccoli and kale?! Read this funny book and find out!

Just Try One Bite by Adam Mansbach and Camila Alves McConaughy, et al. | Published by Dial Books | ©2022 | Recommended for grades Pre-K --2nd Grade



18th Go Fishing Day



Introduce your students to the *Monster Mike Fishing with Bryan the CEO* YouTube channel, which demonstrates common AND unusual freshwater and saltwater fishing techniques...along with crazy ideas, hilarious pranks – and even some Walmart toys!

 [LINK TO MONSTER MIKE ON YOUTUBE](#)



19th Juneteenth



Juneteenth (June + Nineteenth) which is sometimes called Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, and/or Emancipation Day, is the observance of June 19, 1865. This is the historical day when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free! PBS has curated a list of 14 titles – including a cookbook – to help your students learn about this historical event!

 [LINK TO PBS WEBSITE](#)



24th Upcycling Day



If you're wondering what to do with all of those stacks of books that you've worked so hard to weed from your library collection this year, take a peek at this upcycling Pinterest board from That Library Girl. You'll find over 200 ideas for turning your "trash into treasure!"

 [LINK TO PINTEREST BOARD](#)



30th Social Media Day



Yes, this lesson idea has been around for a long time, but it's STILL needed. So, on Social Media Day... let's remind our students to **THINK!**

BEFORE YOU POST...

T – Is whatever you're about to share **TRUE**?

H – Is it **HELPFUL** ...or is it **HARMFUL**?

I – Is it **INSPIRING** ...or **IMMATURE**?

N – Is it **NECESSARY** for you to even put it out there?

K – Is it **KIND** ... or **KINDA** mean?



FREEBIES

SHARE A SUMMER READING LIST

Parents and teachers are always looking for book suggestions to help students avoid the dreaded “summer slide” effect and the “I’m bored!” lament, too! This editable “Summer Reading List” resource will give you a great start for sharing your ideas!



[LINK TO SONYA'S GOOGLE DOCS LIST](#)

CELEBRATE SCAVENGER HUNT DAY!

Get your students moving and exploring with this free “School Supplies Scavenger Hunt” -- which is perfect for “National Scavenger Hunt Day” on May 24!

It's a fun, low-prep activity that helps kids notice different areas of your library while enjoying a purposeful challenge. Use it after book checkout or as a quick end-of-year activity to keep students engaged and smiling.

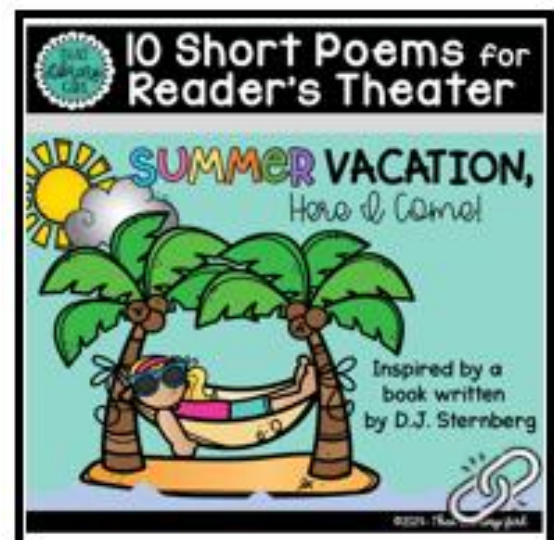


[LINK TO LAURA'S FREEBIE](#)

10 POEMS for READER'S THEATER *Summer Vacation, Here I Come!*

Performing reader's theater is a fun end-of-the-year activity that kids LOVE... but it's also packed with solid opportunities to build strong *reading, speaking, listening, and even note-taking skills!*

My blog post explains what reader's theater is and how to utilize it as a means of teaching AASL standard #3. The post also describes my TPT resource that helps teach the basics. AND... if you scroll to the bottom you can grab my FREEBIE -- “10 Short Poems for Reader's Theater.” These are perfect scripts for beginners!



[LINK TO THAT LIBRARY GIRL'S BLOG](#)

Recipe – “Lunch Lady” Brownies

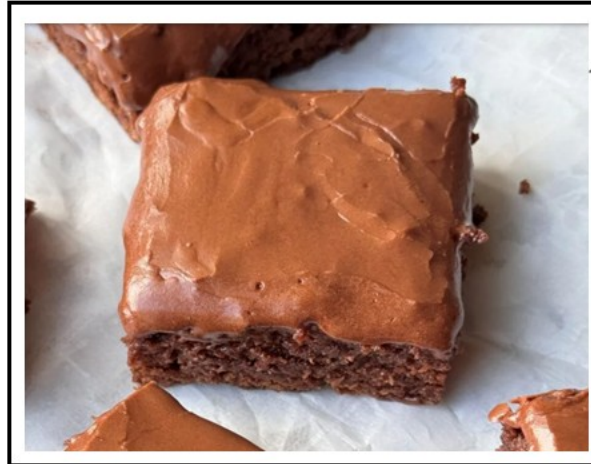
ADAPTED FROM : <https://thesouthernladycooks.com/lunch-lady-brownies/>

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 C. unsweetened cocoa
- 2 C. all-purpose flour
- 1 ½-2 C. granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 C. butter, melted
- 4 t. vanilla

Frosting Ingredients:

- 1/4 C. evaporated milk
- 1/4 C. butter softened
- 3 C. powdered sugar
- ¼ C. unsweetened cocoa



INSTRUCTIONS:

• Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a 9 X 13-inch baking dish with parchment paper and spray with a non-stick cooking spray, such as PAM. Combine cocoa and melted butter in bowl and mix well. Then, add flour and sugar. Continue to beat together – using an electric mixer, if needed. Next, add eggs and vanilla. Mix until combined, but don’t over mix. The batter should be thick.

• Pour mixture into the prepared baking dish and spread out evenly. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

• Let cool 15 minutes, then, while they are still warm, add the frosting on top.

FROSTING DIRECTIONS:

Combine all frosting ingredients and beat with a mixer until smooth. Pour and spread out over the warm brownies. Let them cool completely before cutting.

NOTE: If your frosting seems too thick to pour, add a little more milk to create a better consistency before attempting to spread over the warm brownies.



The *Lunch Lady* series by Jarrett J. Krosoczka tells the stories of a dedicated cafeteria worker/spy -- and her sidekick Betty -- who solve problems and even fight crime at Thompson Brook School when they're not busy serving sloppy joes, of course. Whether the villain is a rogue robot sub, an evil league of librarians, or a hijacked and hypnotized visiting author -- Lunch Lady WILL save the day! (I don't remember her baking brownies in any of the books... but these are seriously yummy... and they'll be a hit at any summer picnic!) -- Julie

Finish Up the School Year Strong!

Library Book Return Kits

"Quit Kitten Around...Books are due MEOW!"

When it's time to gather up the books before summer vacation... relax! My library book return kit can help! It features 12 common excuses that students often give for having missing library books!

The 12 kitten-themed, lesson slides double up as mini-posters for a bulletin board, and the kit also includes cute hallway signs, notes to go home for parents, social media graphics, and bookmarks. You'll have everything you need to wind up the school year... AND keep your sense of humor, too!

 [LINK TO THAT LIBRARY GIRL](#)

Also see... Stop "Dragon" That Book Around!

OR... Retro VW Bus Race for other book return kit ideas!

NEW...RELEASING MAY 1st -- It's "O--Ally Time to Return Your Books"



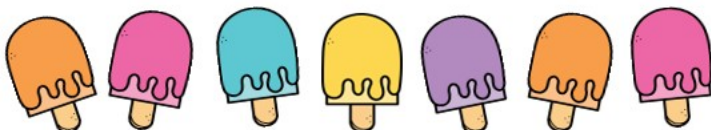
End-of-the-Year Trivia Review Game

For Kindergarten & First Grade

This PowerPoint-based, trivia game lets you pretend to be a game show host as you quiz your K-1 students on review questions that involve...

- *opposites*
- *fact and opinion*
- *nursery rhymes*
- *folk tales*
- *color words*
- *American coins*
- *and lots of library facts about fiction/nonfiction, spine labels, the check-out process, etc.*

Teammates ("Blue Frost" or "Purple Freeze") must work together to determine the best answers in order to earn "popsicle points!" See more details on TPT...



 [LINK TO THAT LIBRARY GIRL](#)

Summer Lesson Resources!

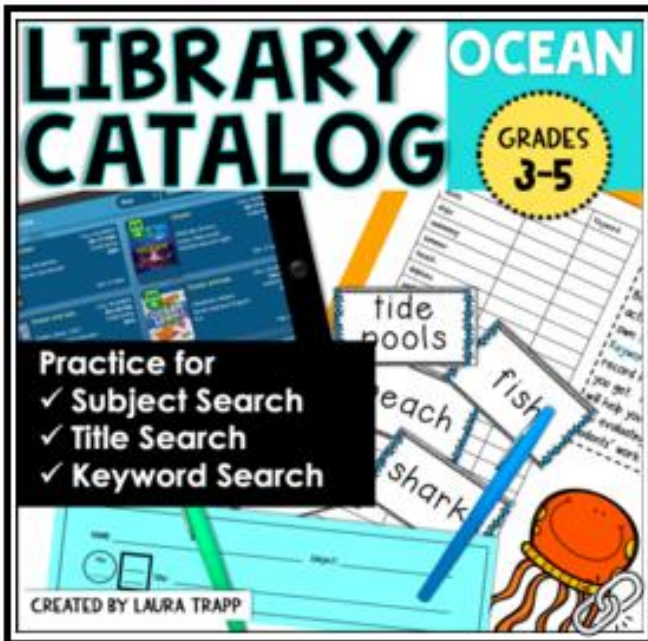
SAVE WITH A SUMMER READING BUNDLE!

Looking for a meaningful way to wrap up the school year?

This Summer Reading Bundle includes three best-selling resources to help you celebrate your students' reading progress, encourage summer reading, and make your final library lessons easy and fun. It's a great value too — grab all three at a discounted price and finish the year strong!



[LINK TO THE TRAPPED LIBRARIAN](#)



LIBRARY CATALOG PRACTICE -- *Ocean Edition*



Make library catalog practice fun and engaging with this ocean-themed library skills activity! Perfect for the end of the year, this resource helps students review how to search for books while tying in a fun summer theme.

It's a great way to keep lessons meaningful and low-prep as the school year winds down. 🐠🐡



[LINK TO THE TRAPPED LIBRARIAN](#)



More Ideas for Late Spring and Summer!

BUILD YOUR OWN

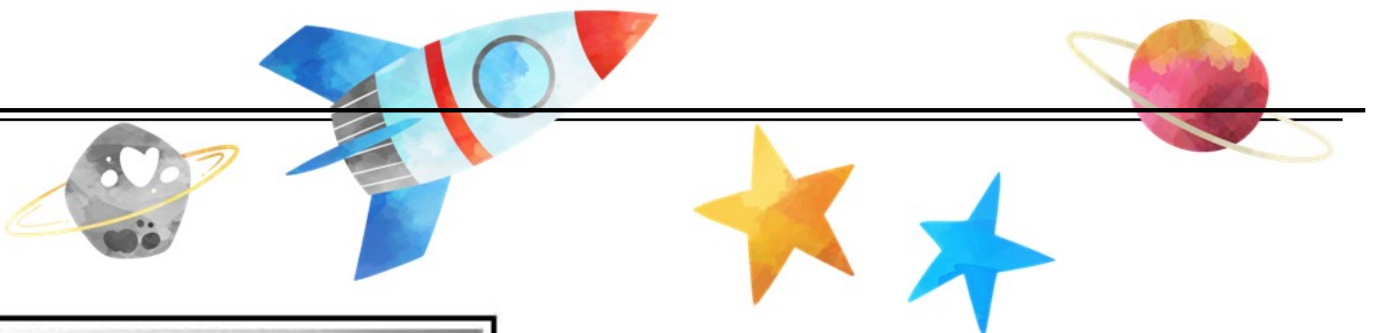
Summer Reading Challenge!

Don't plan an ordinary, track-your-minutes, summer reading activity! Excite your students with this unique EDITABLE summer reading program.

Kids are encouraged to complete reading activities that will have them begging their parents to let them read this summer.



[LINK TO THE LIBRARY PATCH](#)



INTERACTIVE SPACE RESEARCH REPORT

Looking for a spring research report that your youngest students will FLIP for?? This interactive style research report will fit the bill!

Students will need to put their reading and research skills to work in order to complete this lapbook style Space research project.

Your kids will LOVE the finished project! You will LOVE all the skills that the students practiced in completing it!



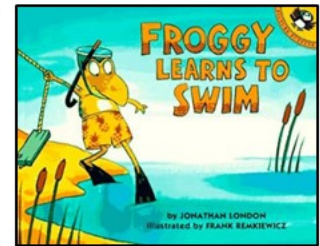
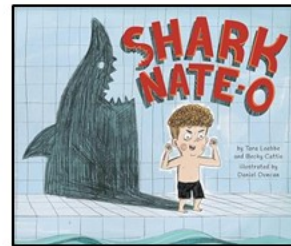
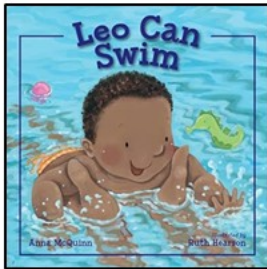
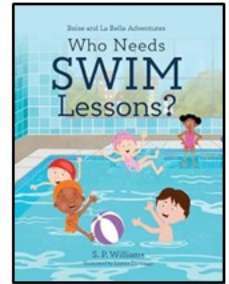
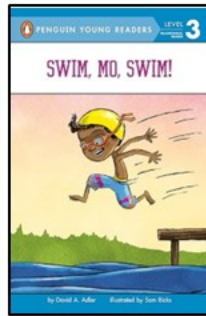
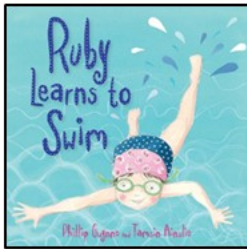
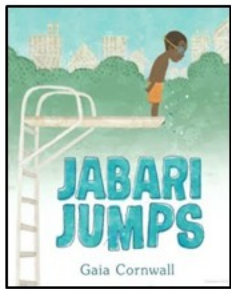
[LINK TO THE LIBRARY PATCH](#)

Dive into Books about Swimming

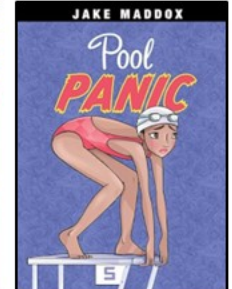
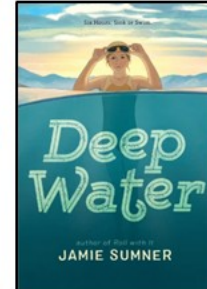
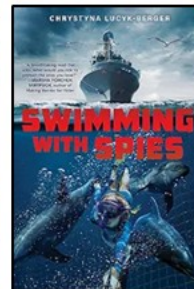
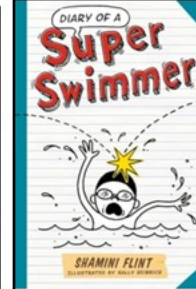
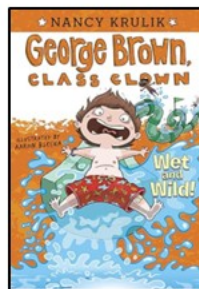
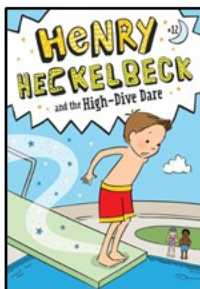
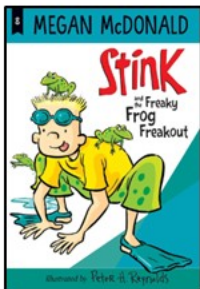
Grab some pool noodles or a few inflatables from the dollar store to create a fast seasonal display with books about swimming. Here's a few ideas to get you started! -- Julie



PICTURE BOOKS



CHAPTER BOOKS



From Children's Librarian to Author!

How's this for a career journey? From pre-K teacher to library media specialist to full-time children's book author with nearly 40 titles published so far... WOW! Meet Tammi Sauer!

Back in the day, this farm-raised, Oklahoman was encouraged by a favorite college professor to pursue writing for publication. The professor's encouragement prompted Tammi to believe in herself... and funny-book-loving libraries across the planet have been the real winners ever since. Her books have won numerous awards, been transformed into musicals, translated into other languages, and most importantly...they've been loved by kids!



 2005	 2009	 2010	 2011	 2012	 2012	 2012
 2012	 2012	 2013	 2015	 2015	 2015	 2016
 2016	 2016	 2016	 2017	 2018	 2018	 2018
 2018	 2018	 2018	 2018	 2019	 2019	 2019
 2019	 2020	 2021	 2021	 2022	 2022	 2022
 2022	 2023	 2025	 Link to Tammi's Amazon Store  Link to Tammi's Website			

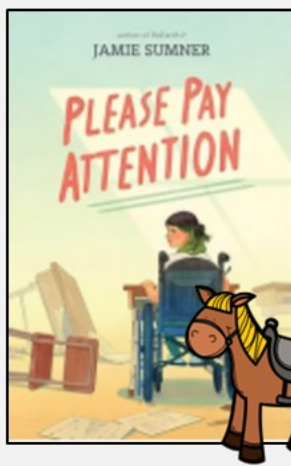
The Trapped Librarian is Reading...

Hello! I've signed up with "Net Galley" to read forthcoming titles, and thought I'd share a few. Take a look... you may want to add these to your purchases for 2025-26! -- Laura

Snoop by Gordon Korman | Published by Scholastic, July 2025 | Grades 4-7

Middle schooler Carter is more interested in the latest social media trend than enjoying a ski vacation with his dad and brother. This preoccupation with his phone leads to a life-changing accident that lands him attending school by Zoom for an extended period. When Carter's advanced technology skills and curiosity lead him to important knowledge about his town he must make a decision. Does he admit to being a snoop in order to do the right thing?

In true Gordon Korman fashion, this humorous mystery is a page-turner that will be a hit with middle grade readers!



Please Pay Attention by Jamie Sumner | Published by Scholastic, April 2025 | Grades 6 and up

Bea has already had her share of challenges and is living a good life in a comfortable routine when tragedy strikes at her school.

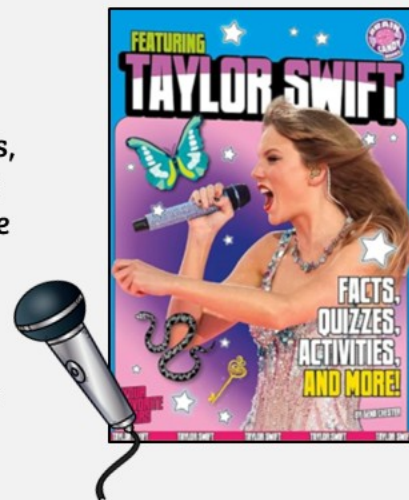
Confined to her wheelchair due to cerebral palsy, the 6th grader must wrestle with the helplessness she feels in the aftermath.

This novel in verse is poignant and realistic with lots of heart. A gentle way to approach a very scary subject. I do recommend it with a caveat. Be sure to read it yourself when you add it to your collection, so you're prepared to discuss it with your students.

Featuring Taylor Swift: Facts, Quizzes, Activities and More! By Gena Chester | Published by Capstone Press, August 2025 | Ages 8-11

Swifties of all ages will love this engaging title packed with vibrant photos, fun facts, and interesting tidbits about the ever-popular Taylor Swift. The book includes interactive quizzes that both test fans' knowledge and invite future fans to learn more about the star's life, music, and career.

If your students are anything like mine, they can't get enough of Taylor Swift — and this book will definitely feed their fascination. I highly recommend adding it to your collection, and you might even want to grab more than one copy. It's bound to be in high demand!



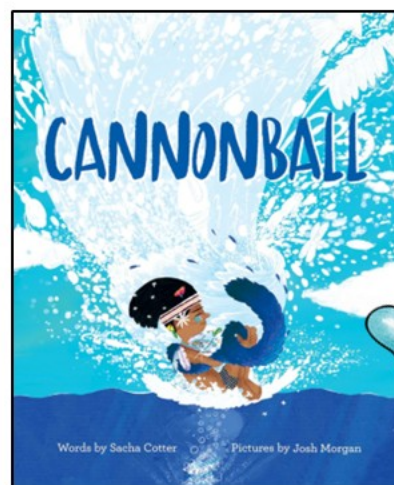
Book Recommendations from The Library Patch!

Cannonball by Sacha Cotter | Published by Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, June 2020 | For Grades K-4

Seems like everybody just needs to chime in with their own opinions and advice...

- "You need more weight!"
- "Bigger shorts!"
- "More muscles!"

And so it goes, in a sweet summer tale about a boy and a challenge. He works on figuring out his family, overcoming his fears, and finding his own particular style -- all in the pursuit of landing the perfect CANNONBALL!



Summer is for Cousins by Rajani LaRocca | Published by Harry Abrams, May 2023 | Recommended for Grades PreK-3

Ravi is excited to spend summer vacation at the lake house with his extended family —especially his seven cousins! He can't wait to spend his days at the beach, hiking, paddleboarding, and — of course -- eating ice cream from their favorite shop!

Ravi and his oldest cousin, Dhruv, were so close last summer... even preferring the same flavor, but this year, Dhruv seems more grown-up and everything just seems different.

On a Summer Night | By Deborah Hopkinson and Kenard Pak | Published by Chronicle Books, May 2024 | Recommended for ages 3-5.

On a warm summer evening, the world is still. A little girl wakes up and notices elements of the soothing night all around her...

- a kitten padding along the floor
- a tiny dog yapping
- tree leaves stirring in the breeze
- the moon's golden light shining down...

This beautifully-illustrated children's book is ideal for soothing young readers to sleep -- or encouraging a contemplative break after an energetic day.





Looking Ahead to Back-to-School



LEARN & GROW THIS SUMMER *With the Trapped Librarian!*

😊 Ready to grow this summer? Starting June 1, I'll be updating my "Professional Development Bundle" with brand-new video content released weekly throughout the summer. If you already own it, you'll get the new updates at no extra cost. If you're new to my online PD, you can grab each revised module at a discount as it launches. Be sure you're on my email list and bookmark the page so you don't miss a thing! 📧 📖 .



[LINK TO PD RESOURCES](#)



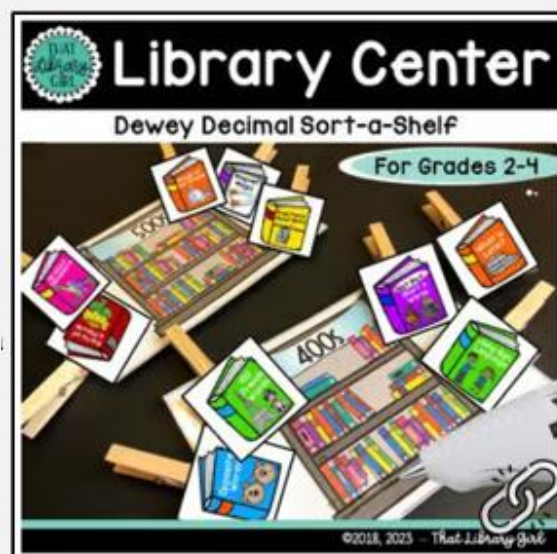
Dewey Decimal Sort-a-Shelf Game *For Grades 2-4*

📖 Need a fun library center activity that provides hands-on practice for Dewey Decimal lessons? This best-selling, sorting game features little make-believe book covers that match 10 Dewey category mats.

As your students sort through the book covers, they'll be learning about the Dewey categories and discovering where to look for similar books in your library media center. A handy chart provides a little scaffolding for younger students. See more details about how the game works on TPT!



[LINK TO THAT LIBRARY GIRL](#)



READING INTEREST INVENTORY *Primary & Intermediate*

👁️ Do you have your students complete a reading interest inventory at the beginning of the year?

Your elementary students will love this reading survey, now available in both print and digital versions. Matching the right book with the right kid is vital for positive reading experiences! This is a perfect activity for the first few weeks of school.



[LINK TO THE LIBRARY PATCH](#)



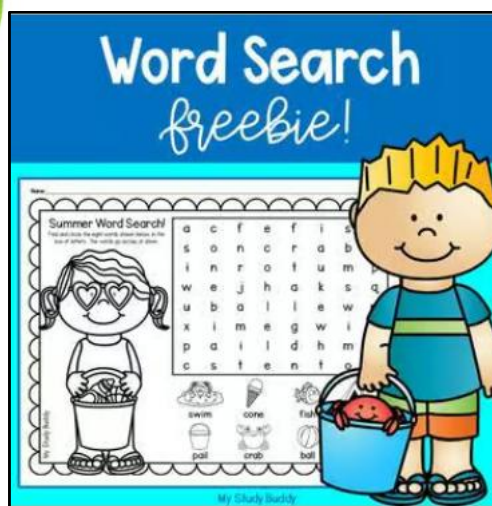
A FEW MORE FREEBIES FROM TPT...



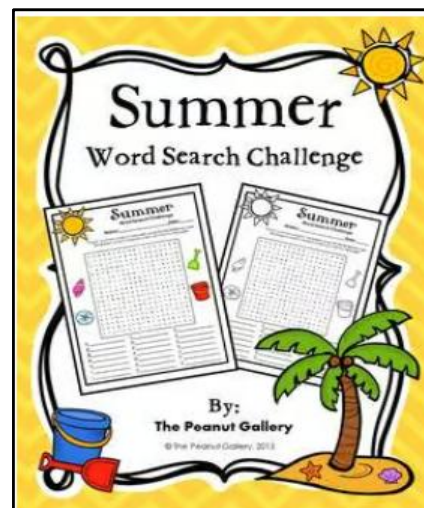
Bingo fun!



Use with stamp pads & Q-tips, too!



One for your littles...



& another for older kids!



An SVG pattern for a summer bag!



Coloring Fun!

Join us so you won't...

The Trapped Librarian



SCHOOL SUPPLIES SCAVENGER HUNT

Looking for a fun, low-prep activity to keep your students engaged? This printable scavenger hunt is perfect for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade library classes or classrooms.

Sign up below and I'll send it straight to your inbox. You'll also get helpful library lesson ideas, time-saving tips, and exclusive freebies sent right to you each week!

First name

Email address

SEND ME THE FREE GUIDE!

That Library Girl



Join my email list.

Are you interested in hearing more about school libraries, amazing books, fun learning activities, and library decor? Or, maybe you want to subscribe to our FREE "Library Helpers" newsletters? I've got you! Fill out this form to join the right email list for you.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS

Which groups will best fit your needs?

- ☒ Elementary Librarians PK-5
- ☐ Middle School Librarians
- ☒ High School Librarians
- ☐ Christian/Catholic School Librarians

SUBMIT FORM

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TPT Resources for School Librarians



Library Bulletin Boards and Displays

MISS A THING
this summer!

HAPPY SUMMER SELF-CARE

Set a few boundaries.



Stay hydrated.



Take care of you!



Enjoy the simple things.



Go on a little adventure!



Get some fresh air & sunshine.



Enjoy every minute.

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Two More Ideas for Taking Good Care of YOU!

EFT TAPPING

For Schools



Sonya's advice -- Our school counselor recently shared EFT – or Emotional Freedom Technique -- which involves regulating the body's emotions by using specific tapping techniques. If you think a program like this might be helpful for you (or your school) you can find more information by clicking the graphic.

Laura's advice -- Take a break outside! As the school year winds down, don't forget to take care of yourself too. One of my favorite habits was a quick 10–15 minute walk during my lunch break — just enough time to breathe in some fresh air, clear my head, and reset for the rest of the day. It's a simple way to add a little movement and mindfulness into your routine. Even a few minutes outside can make a big difference for your mood and energy!



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