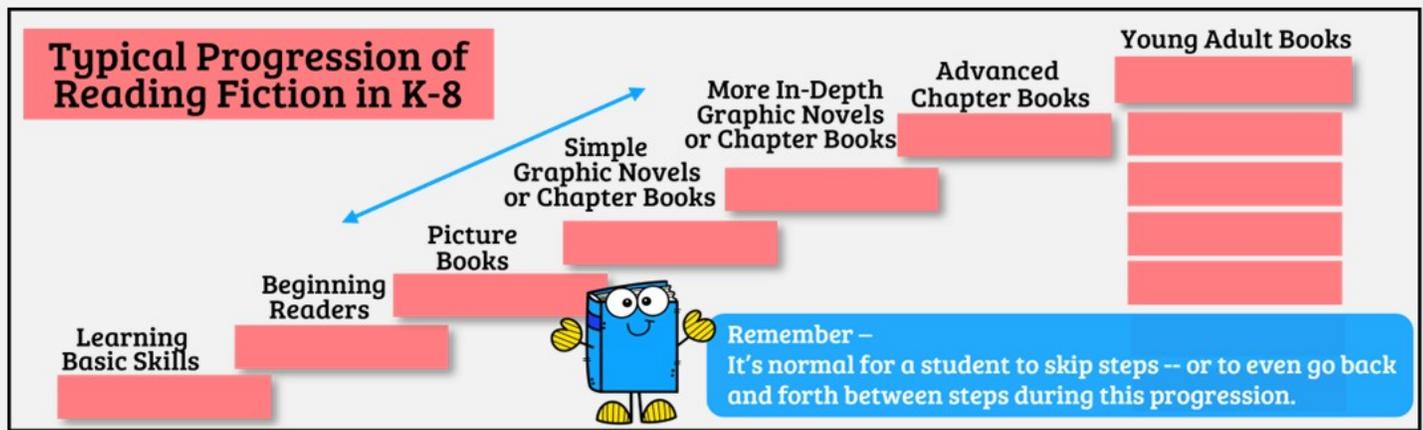




## August 2025

Hello there! In July, at our state's school library conference, I (Julie) attended a great session on how to get middle schoolers to read. I thought I'd share this nice reminder about the progression that students experience as they grow in vocabulary and comprehension skills – as well as in building stamina. The chart below affirms that kids will sometimes skip steps and even regress to old, familiar favorites as they gain new ground as readers – and THAT'S OKAY. Remember that our #1 goal as school librarians is to encourage our students to READ... everything! :)



Graphic idea from a presentation by Leslee Lay at the 2025 AAIM Conference

Laura, Sonya, and I hope that you had (or are STILL having) a WONDERFUL summer!  
Take care,  
Julie



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[The Library Patch Store](#)

## 10 "National Days" for August 2025

### World Calligraphy Day

13<sup>th</sup>



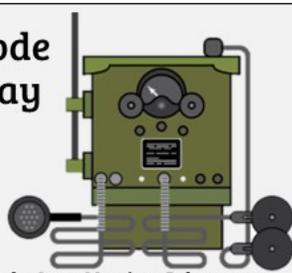
### Library Center -- Calligraphy with Kids

Need something crafty – but oh so EASY? This beginning calligraphy technique only requires some paper, two pencils, and a rubber band. (Using two colored pencils would be fun, too!) If you need an artsy center, see <https://www.wildink.co.uk/post/calligraphy-with-kids>



### Navajo Code Talkers Day

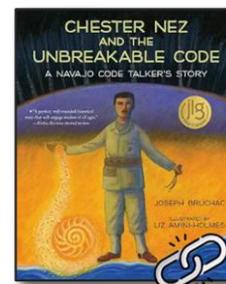
14<sup>th</sup>



Graphic by Steve Morris at Behance.net

### Honoring American Heroes

This day honors a unique group of World War II heroes who created an unbreakable code to help the U.S. military win crucial battles. It also serves as a way to honor the Navajo people and their language, which proved vital in a time of need. (YouTube link)



### World Photography Day

19<sup>th</sup>



### Teach Beginning Photography Tips

A photo can tell a story, express an emotion, and even preserve the past. This website provides a 2-minute video that could be used to teach a mini-lesson -- on how to shoot great photos.

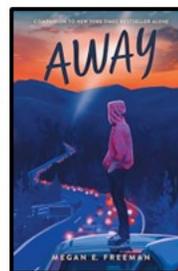


### Poet's Day

21<sup>st</sup>



New  
Novels  
in Verse  
to try  
in 2025



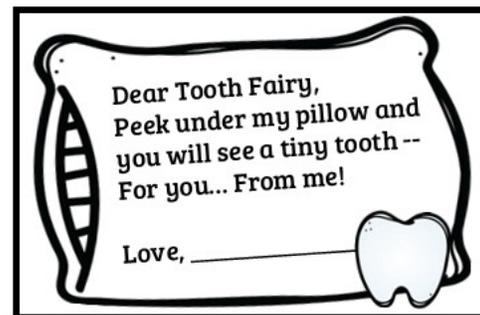
### Tooth Fairy Day

22<sup>nd</sup>



### Lost Tooth Envelopes

Why not go ahead and prep some small envelopes, or snack-sized Ziploc bags, with this fun graphic, so when a student loses a tooth in your library, you'll be ready to wrap it up safe and sound! See page 7 for a FREEBIE printable from That Library Girl.



## 10 "National Days" for August 2025

### Find Your Inner Nerd Day

23<sup>rd</sup>



### NERD /nɜːd/

A nerd is defined as someone who is highly enthusiastic and deeply knowledgeable about a particular niche interest. Nerds can be found spending time learning about books, travel, fitness, films, science, history, music, art, and so on! Although often painted by society as bespeckled and socially awkward... this day is for ditching those stereotypes and embracing our own areas of "nerd-joy" instead!



### National Peach Pie Day

24<sup>th</sup>



### BOOK TALK – *When Life Gives You Lemons...*

Lucy Peach and her brothers just want summer rest and recovery after losing their mom...but Dad has another idea. After discovering that one of Mom's inventions has left them a million bucks, Dad buys a used food truck and drags his crew along to live out Mom's dream of traveling the USA -- selling homemade peach pies! (This plan might have had a better chance if ANY of them knew how to bake!)



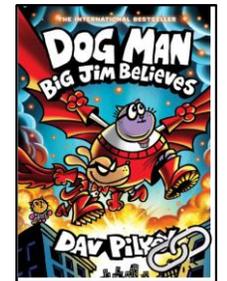
### National Dog Day

26<sup>th</sup>



### DOG MAN: *Big Jim Believes* (Book #14)

It's Dav Pilkey's 40<sup>th</sup> year of making books for kids! What better day to celebrate the upcoming publication of his 14<sup>th</sup> Dog Man? Watch for it on November 11, 2025 -- and check out the trailer by hitting the link on this book cover. →



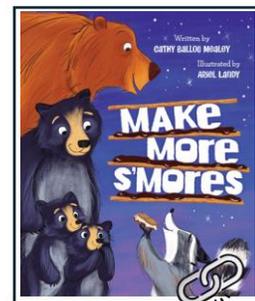
### Toasted Marshmallow Day

30<sup>th</sup>



### BOOK TALK – *Make More S'mores*

Roscoe the Raccoon has built the perfect s'more and is ready to indulge when he hears, "Is that for me?" (Sigh.) But being a nice guy, he shrugs and says, "Bon appétit" while starting to prep two more s'mores. (Spoiler... it's going to be a while before he actually gets to eat one!)



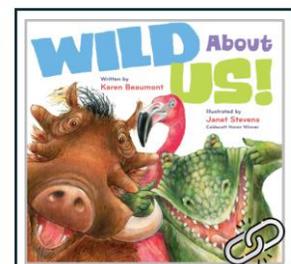
### Zoo Awareness Day

31<sup>st</sup>



### BOOK TALK – *Wild about Us!*

Warty may have warts and tusks... but he likes himself that way! He'd never tell a flamingo to stop being so pink, right? Or to criticize a crocodile's toothy grin? Would anyone make a leopard feel awkward about all those spots? No! This book celebrates the joy of unique traits that make us a world of interesting individuals! *Reading presented by the Little Rock Zoo of Arkansas.*



## THREE AWESOME FREEBIES!

### Podcast Display for Family Event Nights

From *That Library Girl*

Promote your library as the school resource hub by setting up a tasty display for your back-to-school orientation, a parent night, or an upcoming book fair event.

My free resource includes:

- a parent brochure to explain how listening to podcasts can help students become stronger readers
- a display sign with a cute banner
- and a set of popcorn tags with QR codes (plus a template)



### Free Year-Round Library Lesson Guide

From *The Trapped Librarian*

Need a little help planning your lessons across the school year? I've got you! This free guide (newly updated!) gives you monthly ideas to keep your library lessons fresh, fun, and right on track. Whether you're a planner or a last-minute scrambler (no judgment!), you'll find something helpful inside. Grab your copy and take the guesswork out of planning!

<https://the-trapped-librarian.myflodesk.com/free-guide>



### Reading Support for Parents

From *The Library Patch*

Parents are sometimes unsure of how they can best support their new readers. This free infographic explains the five finger rule, offers tips to help stuck readers, and even provides possible questions that can be asked.

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Reading-Help-for-Parents-2531040>



## An Easy Weeknight Recipe from Laura Trapp

### Summertime Chicken Salad

½ C. unsalted roasted almonds, roughly chopped

½ C. mayonnaise

1 T. lemon juice

2 C. cooked chicken, chopped

1 stalk celery, chopped

1 C. grapes, halved

Salt, pepper, and celery salt

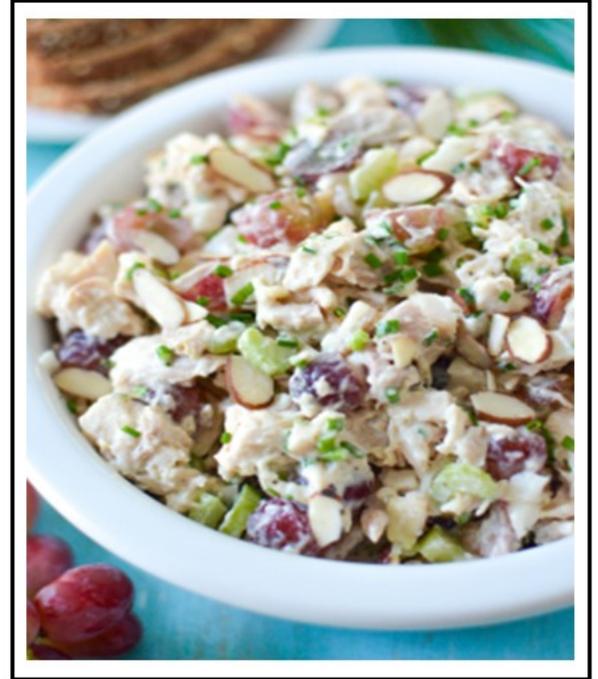
#### Directions:

Mix together mayonnaise and lemon juice in a medium bowl.

Toss with chicken, toasted almonds, grapes, and celery.

Season with salt, pepper, and celery salt to your taste.

You can chill the salad in the fridge or eat right away.



Serve with a fruit salad and your favorite soft bread for a cool summer meal!

### Lunchbox Tip

Do you tend to pack last night's leftovers for your school lunch? Try tossing a frozen water bottle into your lunch bag to help keep your food safely chilled – and to provide yourself with some refreshing afternoon hydration, too! (Make sure there's room for the water in the bottle to expand as it is freezing.)

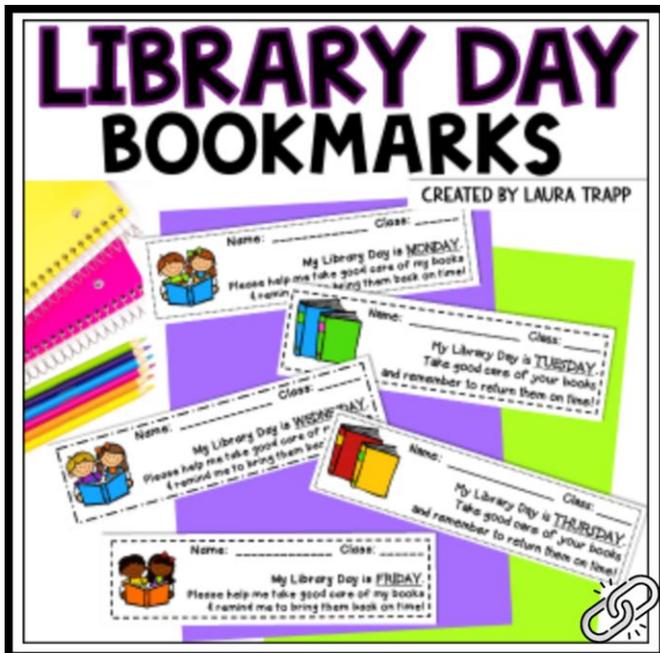
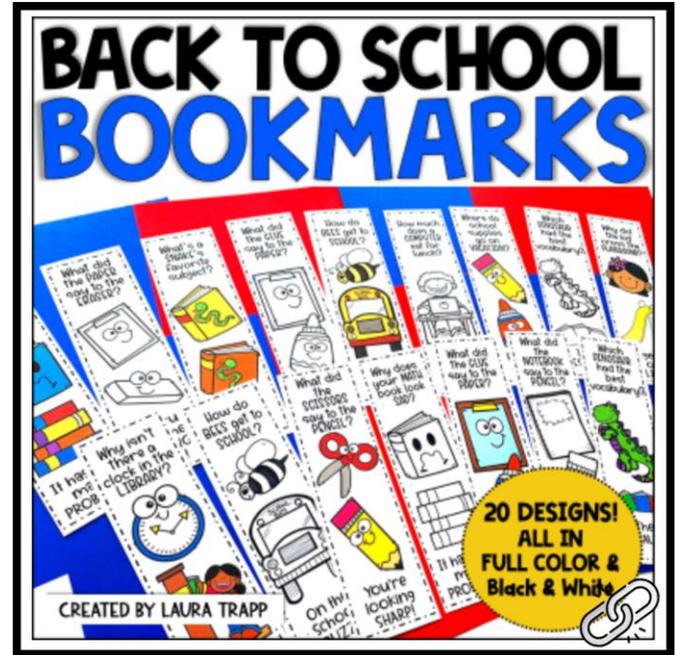


## Back-to-School Bookmarks from The Trapped Librarian

### Back to School Bookmarks with Fun School Jokes

Start the school year with a smile! These bookmarks are an easy, fun way to kick off the year. Print in black and white for a quick checkout activity or center, or use the color version as a cheerful first-week treat. Your students will love the silly jokes!

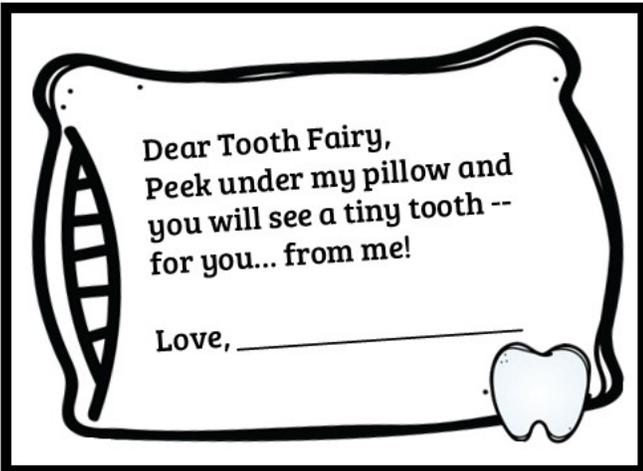
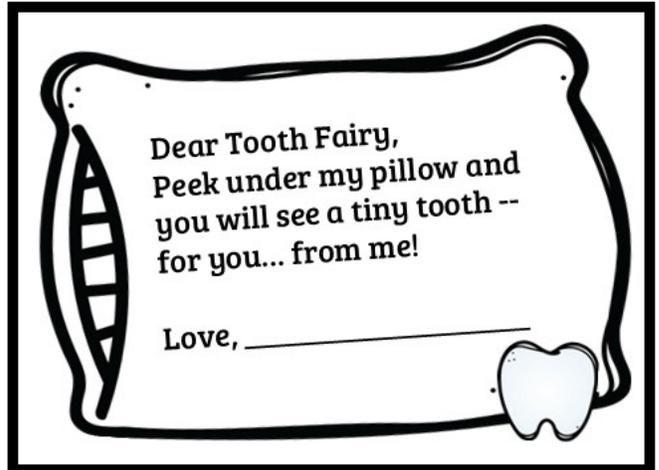
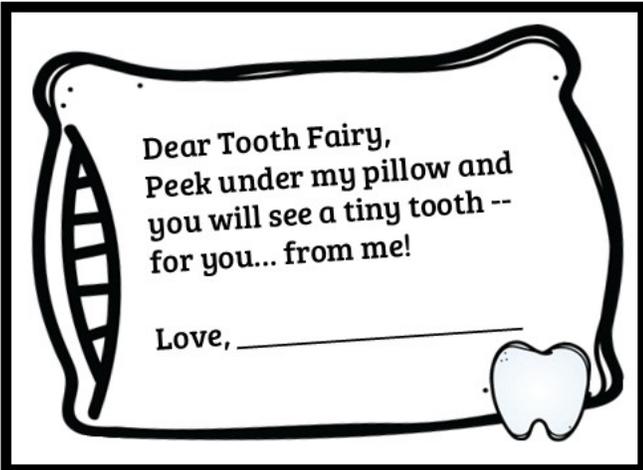
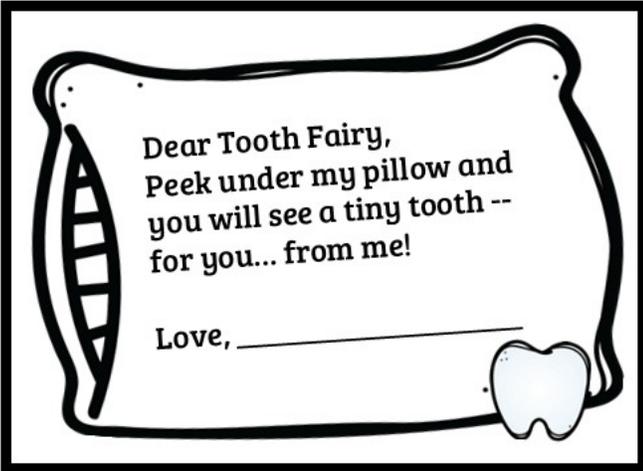
From The Trapped Librarian



### Library Day Bookmarks for Back to School Family Communication

Help families remember library day! These bookmarks are a simple, helpful tool to support home-school communication. Customize with your library contact information, then print and send home the first week of school. Parents will appreciate the reminder, and kids will feel proud to keep track of their library books!

From The Trapped Librarian

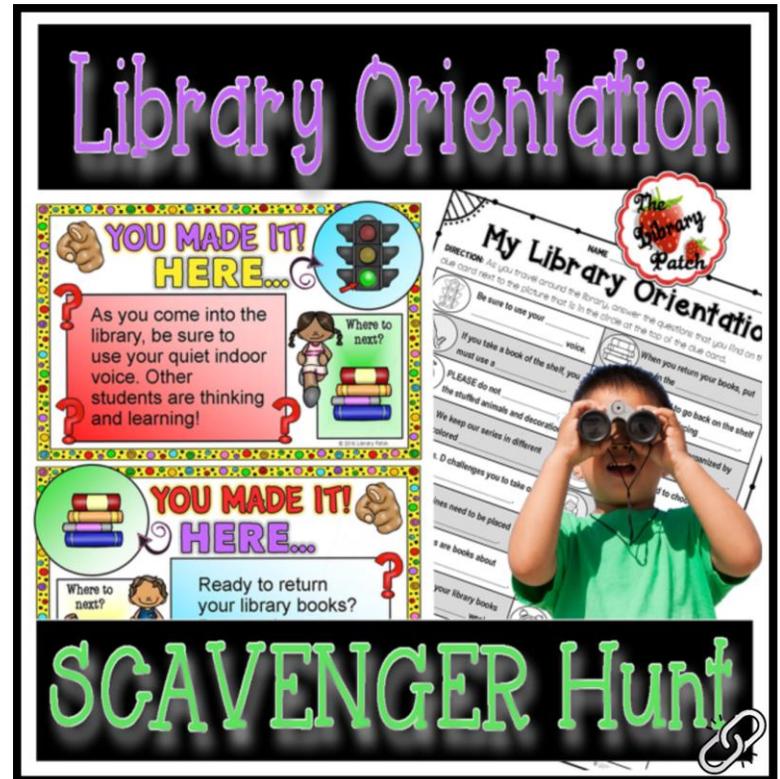


## Back-to-School with The Library Patch

### Library Orientation

#### Scavenger Hunt

Get your students up and out of their seats! Orientations can feel mundane, to both the kids and the teachers, however this scavenger hunt will feel anything but boring!



## Reading Interest Inventory

### PRIMARY & INTERMEDIATE



### Reading Interest Inventory

#### Primary and Intermediate

Let your kids know that you have a vested interest in what kinds of books that they like. An interest inventory is a great way to start a school year! After the kids have finished theirs, make a copy and keep it on hand for future visits.

## Back-to-School Resources from That Library Girl

My BIGGEST EVER Back-to-School BUNDLE of Resources

SAVE 20% OFF

**THAT LIBRARY GIRL** Library Bundle

### 12 Back-to-School Resources

- FALL Library Cheer Chains** (K-1 Positive Behavior Incentive Program)
- Hall Pass Set** (For Library, Office, Restroom, and Health Room)
- Library Helpers Club Rewards / Activities For Fall**
- Library Help Desk** (Made in Google Forms™)
- Bookmarks** (Page Peekers - 12 Designs for Bigger Kids)
- Bookmarks** (Page Peekers For Fall)
- Bulletin Board** (Kids Who Read Become Smarties!)
- Library Lesson** (Woody Bookworm Takes Care of Books)
- Library Game** (Book Care TIC TAC TOE)
- Library Game** (Taking Care of Library Resources)
- Library Lesson** (12 Computer Care Tips For Students)
- Library Lesson** (Teaching "Just Right" Book Selection)

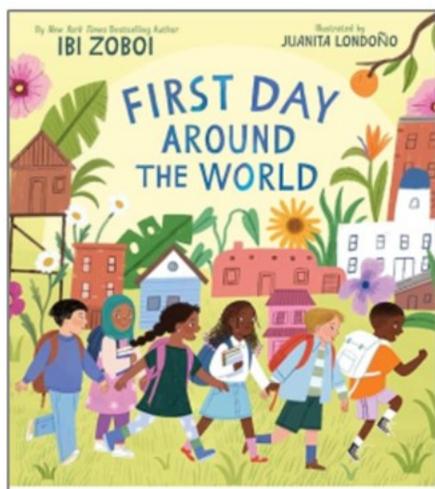
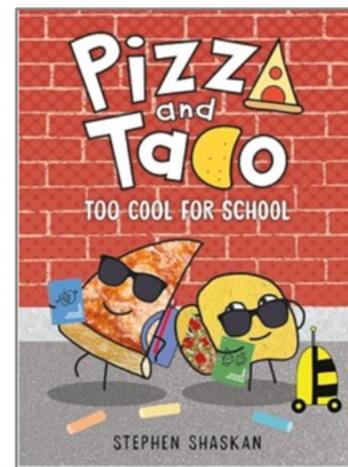
©2025 - That Library Girl

This set of 12 resources will help with behavior management, setting up a library helpers club, making hall passes, and establishing a help desk! You'll also get five of my favorite library lessons, two sets of bookmarks, and a bulletin board, too! See my preview at That Library Girl on TPT.

## The Trapped Librarian's Recommendations

***Pizza and Taco: Too Cool for School* by Stephen Shaskan | Random House, ©2022 | Recommended for grades K-2**

This fun graphic novel is perfect for early readers. When the cool BLT arrives for the new school year, BFFs Pizza and Taco struggle to fit in. Lots of food puns, bright illustrations and a sweet message make this a great back to school read!

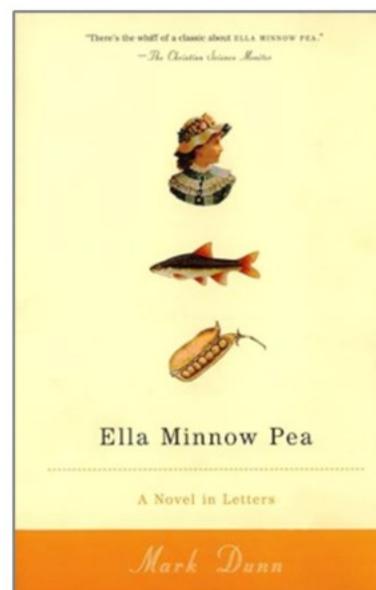


***First Day Around the World* by Ibi Zoboi | Versify, ©2025 | Recommended for ages 4-8**

Learn about the morning to nighttime back-to-school routines of children around the world in this beautiful picture book. Feel like you're on a multicultural journey as the author and illustrator highlight our shared experiences and differences. A wonderful back-to-school addition for elementary collections!

***Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn | Vintage, ©2002 | Adult | Recommended as a great book for librarians!**

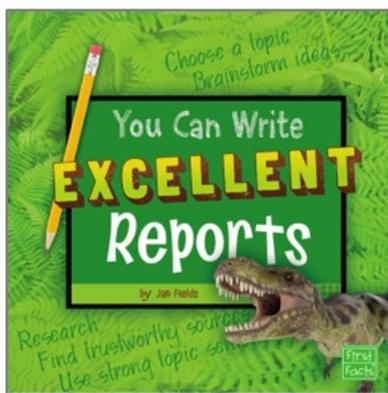
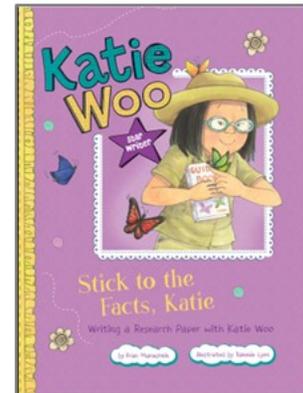
This is one of the most clever books I've ever read. Told entirely through letters between characters, it's a playful yet powerful story about censorship, freedom of speech, and the slippery slope of limiting expression. If you love epistolary novels and appreciate a creative take on serious issues librarians care deeply about—this one's for you.



## Helpful Research Resources

***Katie Woo: Stick to the Facts, Katie!*** by Fran Manuskin and illustrated by Tammie Lyon | Published by Picture Window Books © 2014 | Recommended for Ages 5-7 (FREE on Kindle Unlimited)

Katie Woo needs to write a research paper and this illustrated story breaks down her process step-by-step -- from brainstorming and narrowing down a topic to revising the final draft!

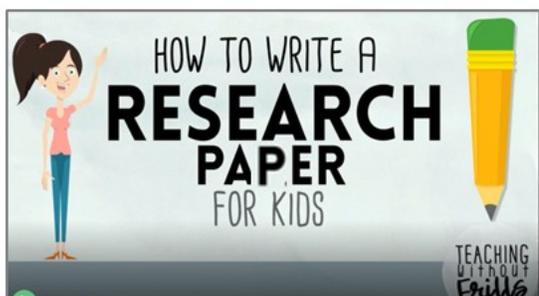
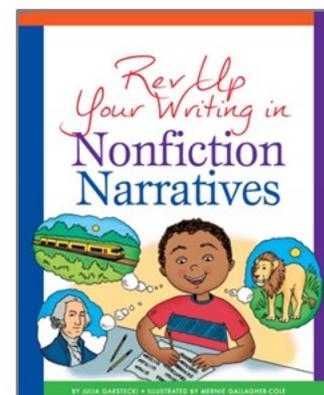


***You Can Write Excellent Reports*** by Jan Fields | Published by Capstone Press, ©2012 | Recommended for ages 6-9 | (FREE on Kindle Unlimited)

This nonfiction book goes a bit more in-depth and teaches students to utilize note cards, making an outline, and creating a bibliography. It also touches on website evaluation.

***Rev Up Your Writing in Nonfiction Narratives*** by Julia Garstecki and illustrated by Mernie Gallagher-Cole | Published by Child's World, ©2016 | Recommended for ages 9-12 (EPIC e-books)

This book explains the genre of narrative nonfiction and offers tips for writing a research paper about topics involving history or science with examples. This series includes writing informational texts and opinion pieces.



***HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PAPER*** (Video mini-series available on EPIC e-books site)

**Episodes include:**

1. *Brainstorming*
2. *Planning*
3. *Researching*
4. *Writing*
5. *Revising*

## Exploring Free Resources

# TEACHFLIX



Have you tried Teachflix? It's still in the growing stages, but its website houses several collections of videos – sorted into categories – that can be accessed during library lessons. Content is both staff-chosen and curated through suggestions from website users. (You will need a school email address to access most of it.)

The home screen opens to a keyword search bar as well as four age-level category buttons : Junior, Elementary, Middle School, and High School. You can also browse by content areas which include:

- Digital Citizenship
- English Language Arts
- Read Alouds
- Social Emotional Learning
- Virtual Field Trips

During a quick 30 minute review of the site, I found several video clips that I thought would be helpful to share. They are:

- *Avoiding Plagiarism : Bibliographies*
- *Boolean Logic*
- *Can You Spot Fake News?*
- *Ethics and AI series (by Hour of Code)*
- *Growth Mindset*
- *What is Digital Citizenship?*
- *What is Fake News?*

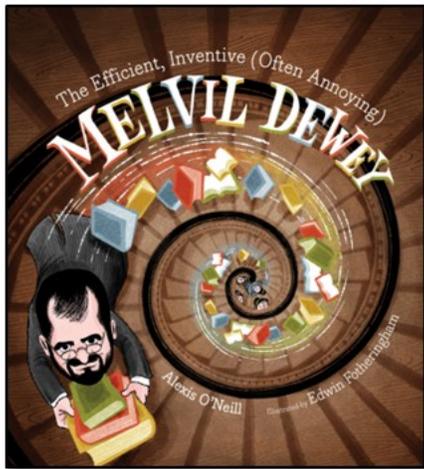
Although a lot of the same clips can be found on YouTube (for example, selections by National Geographic Kids, Scholastic/Weston Woods, Storyline Online, Sci Show Kids, etc.,) the “firehose” of information seems much less overwhelming – and all of the videos are education-based (and vetted by teachers) rather than the mix you get on YouTube. Plus... no ads! All in all, we think it's worth a look – if your school's tech department will approve it, of course.



## 1½ Minute Review by

# TECH UP TEACHERS

## That Library Girl Just Read...

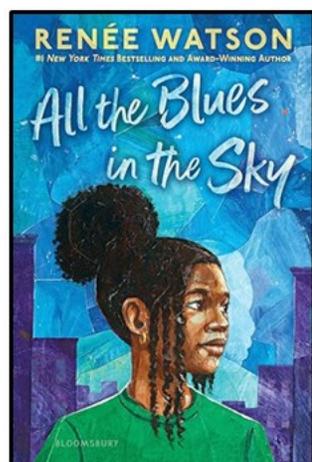
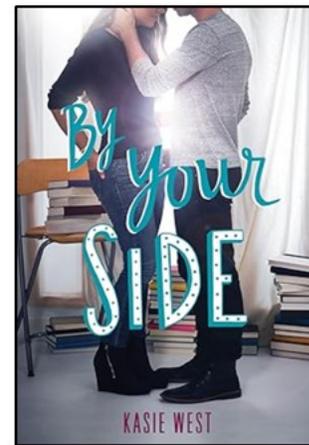


*The Efficient, Inventive (Often Annoying) Melvil Dewey* written by Alexis O'Neill and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham | Published by Calkins Creek, ©2020 | Recommended for ages 7-10

This biography details the highly-organized and often controlling personality of one of our most famous American librarians – Melvil Dewey. (The illustrations make the book!) Be sure to read the author's note, too, so kids will know the whole, sordid story about this odd, but influential character in library history.

*By Your Side* by Kasie West | Published by HarperTeen, ©2017 | Recommended for ages 13 and up

Since the library was closing, Autumn and her friends stashed their homework and headed out to divide up into cars, looking forward to a wintery bonfire. Then, at the last minute, Autumn tossed her backpack into one of the cars and ran back in to use the restroom. When the library lights went out... she thought she was being pranked, but no, she had been locked in the library -- for a long, holiday weekend! With no phone, food, heat, meds, or way to escape, Autumn's anxiety disorder was headed for an all-time high. Then, she discovered she wasn't the only one locked in!



*All the Blues in the Sky* by Renée Watson | Published by Bloomsbury, ©2025 | Recommended for grades 5-9

In this combo novel of verse and prose, Sage is grieving the loss of her best friend, who died on her way to Sage's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Without her bestie, Sage feels suffocated by sadness, loneliness, anger, and guilt. As part of a school counseling group, she learns that grief is experienced differently depending on a survivor's circumstances, and that while healing doesn't have a timeline or a manual... slow progress is possible.

## Pick of the Patch by Sonya

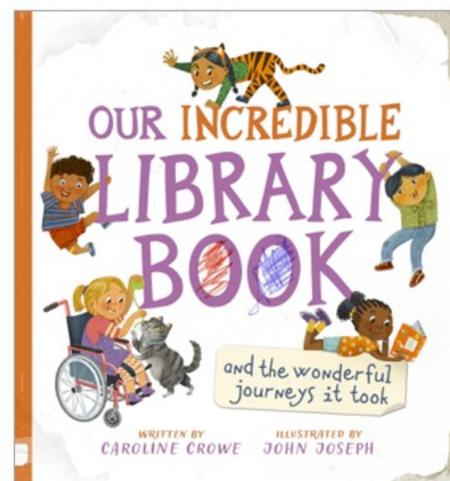


***Overdue : the Misadventure of Bob the Book*** written by Gloria Koster and illustrated by Pawel Gierlinski | Published by Capstone, ©2024 | Recommended for grades K-2

This hilarious tale, told from a book's point of view, is the perfect read aloud for a lesson on book care.

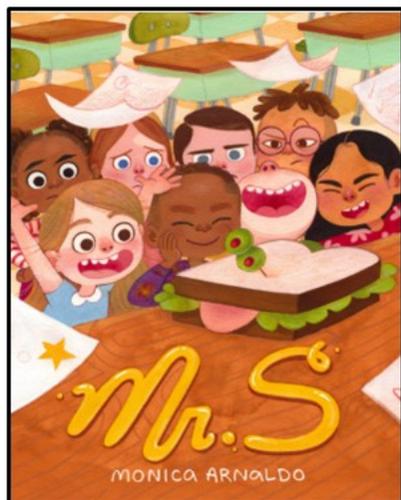
***Our Incredible Library Book and the Wonderful Journeys It Took*** by Caroline Crow and illustrated by John Joseph | Published by Floris Books, ©2022 | Recommended for grades K-2

Books about libraries and reading are always sure-fire winners as we head back to school. This book highlights how a single book can live dozens of lives, all based on who borrowed them!



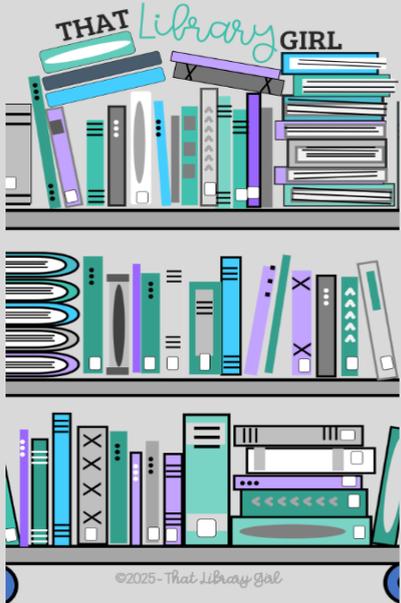
***Mr. S.*** written and illustrated by Monica Arnaldo | Published by HarperCollins, ©2023 | Recommended for ages 4-7

On the first day of school, even a kindergarten kid could tell something was wrong... where was the teacher and why was a delicious-looking sandwich sitting on the desk? There was only one clue – and it was written on the chalkboard – “Mr. S!”



Keep in touch! (clickable graphics)

## 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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That Library Girl



@that.library.girl

Julie and Laura collaborate on these two groups for school librarians.



TPT Resources for School Librarians

Library Bulletin Boards & Displays

## The Trapped Librarian



**FREE! SCHOOL SUPPLIES SCAVENGER HUNT**

**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!**



The Trapped Librarian



The Trapped Librarian

## Looking Ahead to September

### September Library Bundle - Save 30%!

Make your library the place to be this September! This bundle is packed with fun activities to teach routines and library skills—without adding to your to-do list. It's everything you need for a smooth, engaging start to the year—and you'll save 30% when you grab the bundle!

From The Trapped Librarian



### Fiction or Nonfiction

One of the first concepts that we teach our youngest library learners is the difference between fiction and nonfiction. This explanatory PPT slideshow comes with a printable sorting activity. Everything you need for one of your first library lessons!

From The Library Patch

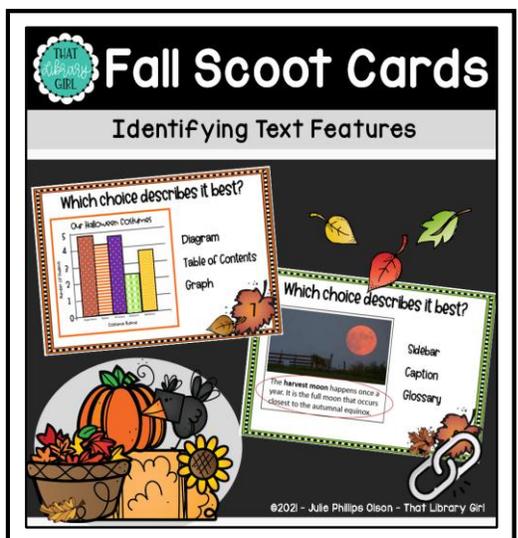


### Fall SCOOT Game

This fall-themed SCOOT game will help your students enjoy some meaningful movement around your library as they're reviewing common text features like graphs, maps, table of contents, and more.

The resource includes the game cards and a recording sheet, as well as instructions and tips for playing SCOOT during your library lesson time.

From That Library Girl

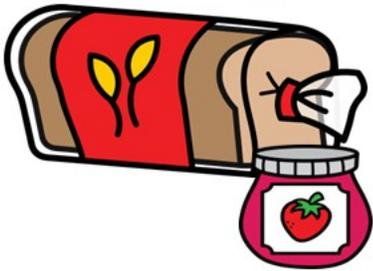


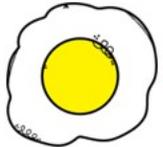
## Food for Thought :)

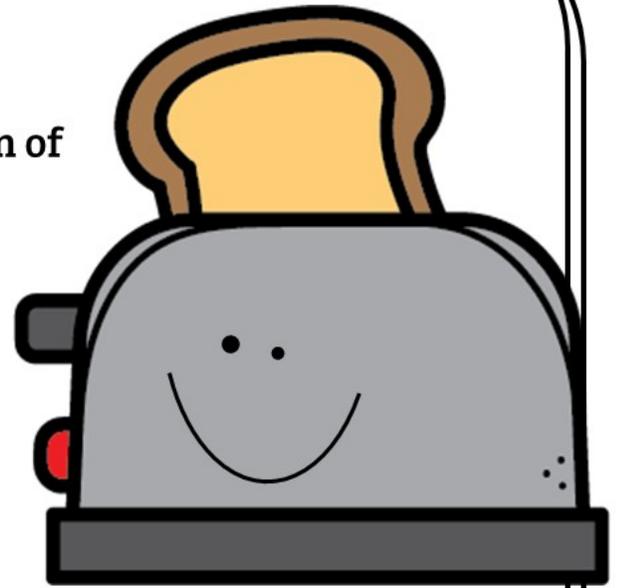
A  to school librarians!

May you become an even  version of  
who YOU want to become this year!

*You are kind... smart... important...*  
*and* you are

-y to face whatever  
-s may come your way  
in 2025-2026.

*You're simply* -cellent... & don't you forget it!



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