



September 2025



Hello there!

Thankfully, we've moved past the days when school libraries were expected to be silent spaces. (Did anyone else have a "SHHHHH!!! librarian?!") Still, sometimes you still need to hear yourself think!

I've always loved soft lighting, yummy clean smells, and calming music in my libraries – with the goal of a "bookstore-conversational-noise-level" feel -- so I was tickled to find this gem.

Jazzip on YouTube recently posted 3 hours of soft jazz with two beloved book characters just sitting and reading together in a cozy spot, enjoying the day and the library vibe. Snoopy is animated as a silent reader and Woodstock is his active listener. Ahhhh.... can't beat besties and books.

Thanks, Jazzip!

Chill Jazz with Snoopy 🎵
Peaceful Mornings & Coffee Time Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T80deMiS4DI&t=43s>

May your library be filled with calm, joy, and the love of good books shared among friends!

Take care,
Julie, Laura, and Sonya



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10 "National Days" for September 2025



September
is...



Read a New Book Month!

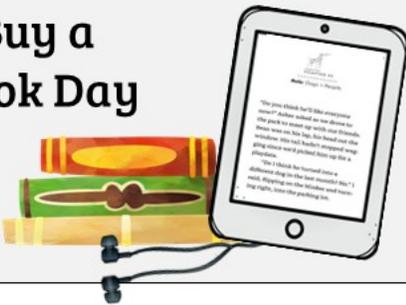
Five Tips for Book Tasting!

It's the perfect time to help your students discover something new to read, and a book tasting is a fun way to do it! Check out these 5 easy tips to set up an engaging book tasting event in your library. It's a great way to build excitement and get kids exploring new titles!



Buy a
Book Day

7



Paper, Audio, or Otherwise... Just Buy the Book!

Whether online or in person, enjoy some book browsing time as we celebrate this national day. It's set aside as a reminder of the simple joy that black letters on a white page can bring when they tickle our imaginations and transport us far, far away! (Psst! This is your sign to go ahead and BUY THE BOOK!)

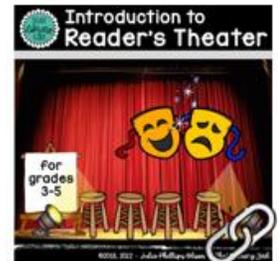
Actors' Day

8



Born for the Stage!

Want to help your students build speaking, reading, and listening skills all at once? Then teach them to perform a reader's theater production! This blog post explains how RT promotes collaboration as well... and there's more to learn on page 4 of this newsletter, too!



Play-Doh Day

16



How is Play-Doh Made?

Mmm! Just the smell of this squishy, soft dough can bring back creative memories! Share this video clip with your students... and then introduce them to your other books about fun inventions!



U.S. Constitution and
Citizenship
Day

17



Understand the U.S. Constitution

This short music video from PBS Kids explains the basics of our Constitution in a fun and engaging way. Students can tap their toes and listen as the "Constitution" answers questions about what this document means for the citizens of the U.S. It's a great way to kick off a discussion about the Constitution and why it matters today!



10 "National Days" for September 2025

Indigenous People's Day

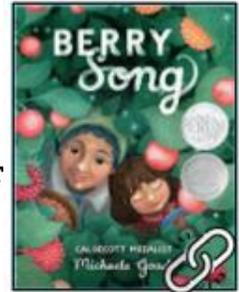
Alaska

17

NOTE: We learned that this day is celebrated on different dates, and it is called by different names, across the U.S. In Alaska, it is actually celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October.

Learn about this Caldecott Artist!

Michaela Goade is an Alaska Native, an author, an illustrator, and a member of the Tlingit and Haida tribes. Her book *Berry Song* celebrates nature, tradition, and the relationship between grandmother and granddaughter. Listen to Michaela share the inspiration behind *Berry Song* in this video!



Talk Like a Pirate Day

17



Set Sail for Adventure with Books!

This collection of carefully-curated, pirate-themed ideas includes links to age-appropriate pirate books, educational websites, videos to get kids up and moving, and free STEAM activities, too! This instant-download PDF provides everything you'll need!



Miniature Golf Day

21



Mini Golf in Your Library?

Get inspired by this YouTube video that explains how the staff of the Monroeville Public Library in Pennsylvania transformed their space into a 19-hole mini golf course for a fun and engaging community event!



Comic Book Day

25



Try StoryboardThat!

This digital platform creates comic strips, graphic novels, and visual narratives using drag-and-drop tools and customizable characters. There's a FREE kids' lite version—or contact the company directly to learn about special pricing for library programs!



Podcast Day

30

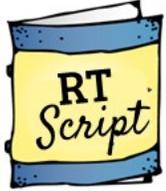


List of 7 Best Podcasts for Kids

Did you know... Research shows that listening activates the same parts of the brain as reading? It also allows children to comprehend learning at grade levels as much as 3 times higher than their reading comprehension level! Sign up for new podcast recommendations each week!



What is Reader's Theater? – That Library Girl



Performing in reader's theater (RT) involves participating in a low-pressure, group reading of a simple script. Memorization, costumes, and sets are unnecessary. Instead of relying on these, students simply work together to read aloud from their scripts, bringing stories to life by using their voices, gestures, intonation, and facial expressions.

The goal of RT is to read fluently with expression while performing in front of an audience.



Because RT is naturally collaborative, most kids love to participate. It's easy to include all students – even those who are shy, reluctant readers, second language learners, or those who struggle with fluency. Everyone gets a chance to shine!



Rationale for Introducing Reader's Theater



RT boosts fluency -- Repeated practice with a familiar script helps students develop timing, accuracy, intonation, and proper inflection.



RT improves comprehension -- Engaging deeply with a script helps students understand the story, characters, plot, and theme.



RT develops confidence – It provides a safe, low-stress way for students to practice reading aloud in front of others.



RT fosters collaboration – As students work together in small groups to prepare and perform, they are also building soft skills like teamwork, self-confidence, and the ability to support and encourage others, too.

Want to Learn More?

Blog Post – <https://thatlibrarygirl.net/2025/04/readers-theater.html>

Excellent YouTube Example -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq0Ohvo_b1U

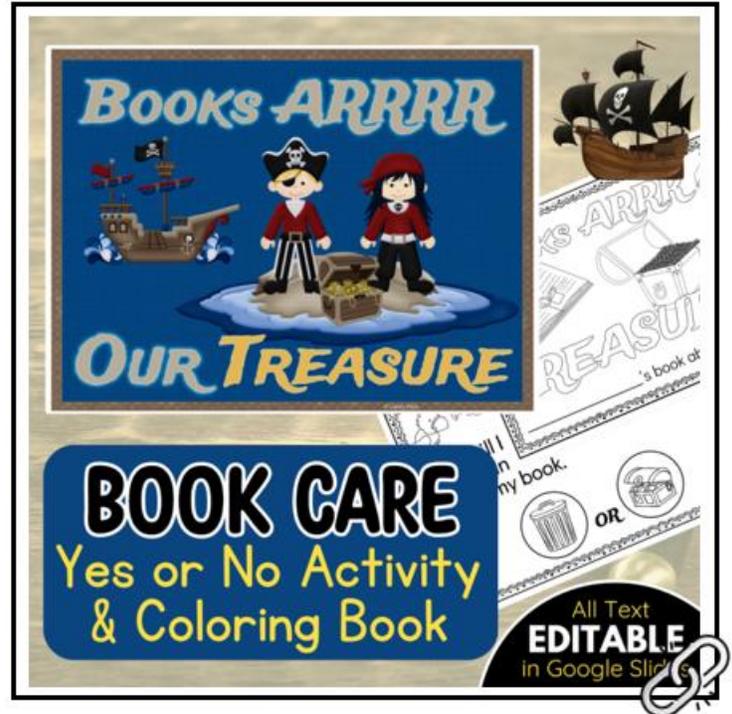
Sample Script (adapted from Margie Palatini's book *Piggie Pie*) – <https://www.thebestclass.org/uploads/5/6/2/4/56249715/piggiepie.pdf>

Resources from The Library Patch

Books ARRR Treasure!

September is the perfect time to review book care with your little ones! This pirate-themed interactive presentation and activity book will have your kids yelling "AYE" whenever they hear a statement that shows a positive book care behavior and "AVAST" when there is a negative behavior.

From The Library Patch



If the Book Fits... Read it!

This is a fun, shoe-themed PowerPoint that helps students in grades 1–4 learn how to pick "just right" books for independent reading. Using a simple I-PICK strategy, it guides kids to think about purpose, interest, comprehension, and word recognition when choosing texts. With engaging visuals and teacher notes included, this resource makes building confident, independent readers both easy and enjoyable.

From The Library Patch

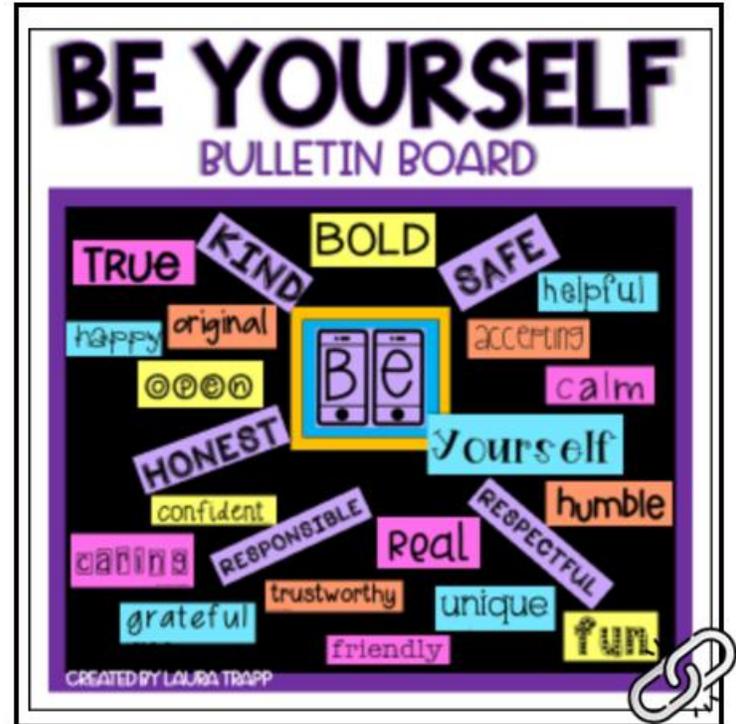


Resources from The Trapped Librarian

Be Yourself Bulletin Board

A quick and easy back-to-school bulletin board is just what you need to start your year! Target social and emotional learning with this low-prep “Be Yourself” Back to School Bulletin Board! Inspire your students, staff and entire school community to be the best they can be. Positive affirmations make this the perfect bulletin board for the beginning of the year!

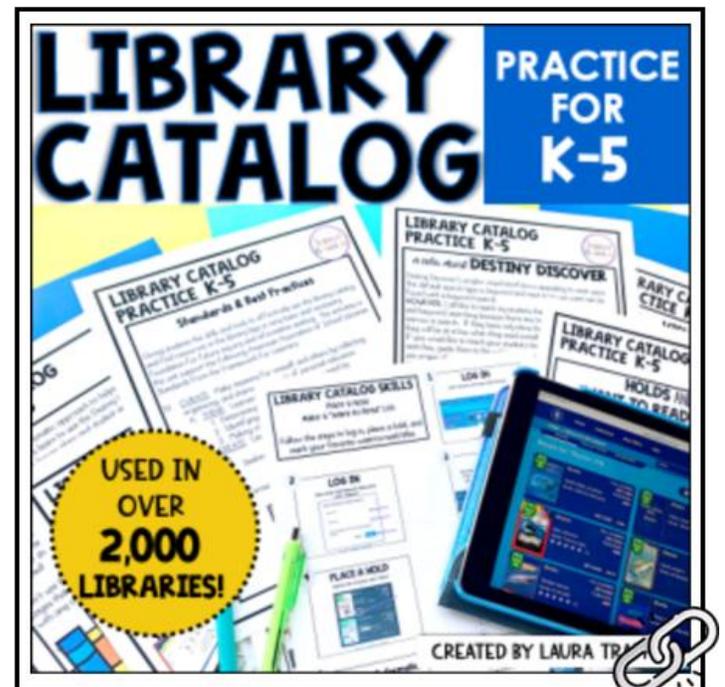
From The Trapped Librarian



Library Catalog Practice for K-5

September is the perfect time to teach, review, and practice library catalog skills. And it's easy to teach them to your K-5 students with these scaffolded lessons and activities. Help your students build independence in the library and have fun along the way! You're going to love how these library lessons build on prior learning each year, K-5. And your students will be so glad to find the library resources they want and need!

From The Trapped Librarian



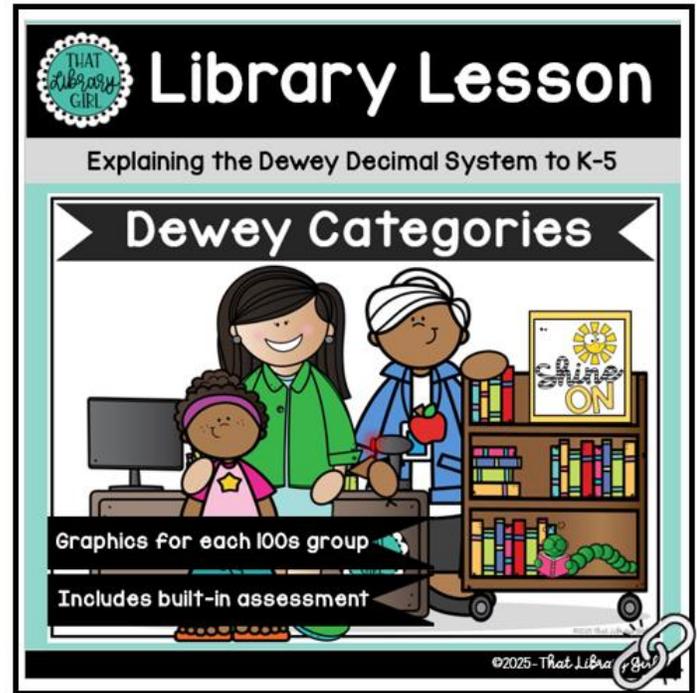
That Library Girl

NEW for 2025 -- "Dewey Categories"

In this resource, info about the Dewey Decimal System is divided up between 10 different "librarians" who take turns describing the books found in each Dewey category. The nearly 200 lesson slides display many subject examples with tons of fun graphics to help students understand each category's content. At the end of each librarian's "mini-lesson," students are informally quizzed. (They must decide whether a certain book belongs in that category or not.)

See my preview on TPT for more details!

From That Library Girl



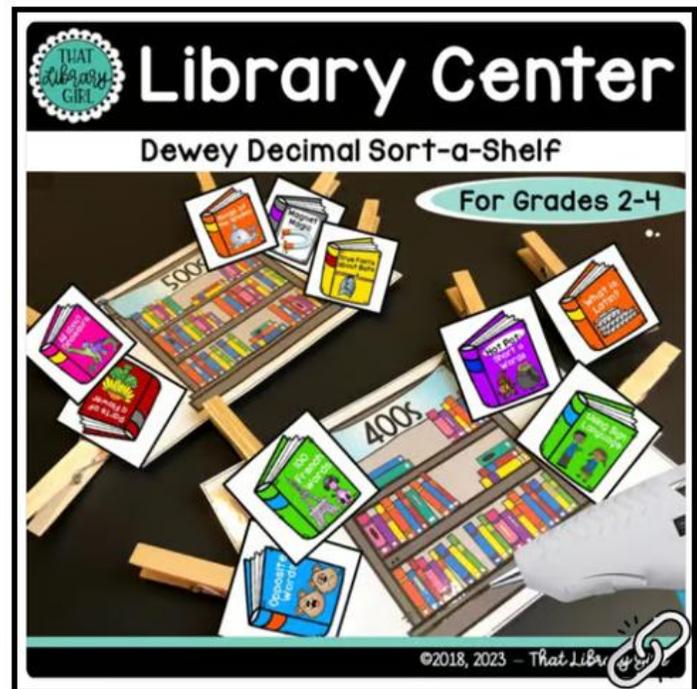
Dewey Sort-a-Shelf Center

Need a Dewey library center?

Working in small groups, your students will:

- ✓ Choose one of the little book cards and read its title.
- ✓ Look at its cover illustration.
- ✓ Try to determine the book's topic.
- ✓ The group will discuss and decide which shelf would be the best match. (I added a "Dewey cheat sheet" chart to help your students as they sort.)
- ✓ The group will continue sorting book covers and clipping them onto the shelf mats until each one has been considered. Clothespins or Velcro dots work great for this!

From That Library Girl.



A Savory Crockpot Recipe for Fall

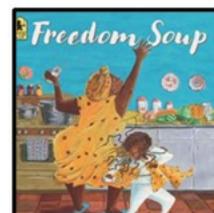
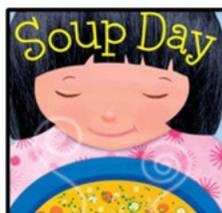
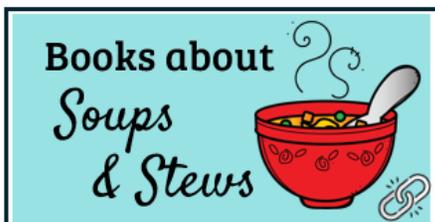
Beef Stew

- 2 lbs. lean beef, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 medium onions, cut into ½ inch slices
- 1 lb. small red potatoes, cut into ¼ inch cubes
- 2 medium apples, cut into ½ slices
- 3 medium carrots, cut into ½ slices
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 can (10 ½ oz) condensed beef broth
- 1 cup red wine or beef broth
- ½ cup Worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ⅛ tsp pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- ¼ cup water



Sonya says... "As summer slowly begins to turn to fall, and the apples ripen on the trees, I often turn to this comforting stew recipe. I can pop it into my crockpot before I head to school and have dinner ready when I get home!"

Layer beef, onions, potatoes, apples, and bay leaf in 3½ to 6 quart slow cooker. Mix wine or broth, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar, pepper and garlic; pour into cooker. Cover and cook on low heat for 8 to 10 hours or until beef is tender. Mix flour and water, stir into beef mixture. Cover and cook on high setting for about 30 minutes or until slightly thickened. Remove bay leaf before serving.



THREE FALL FREEBIES!

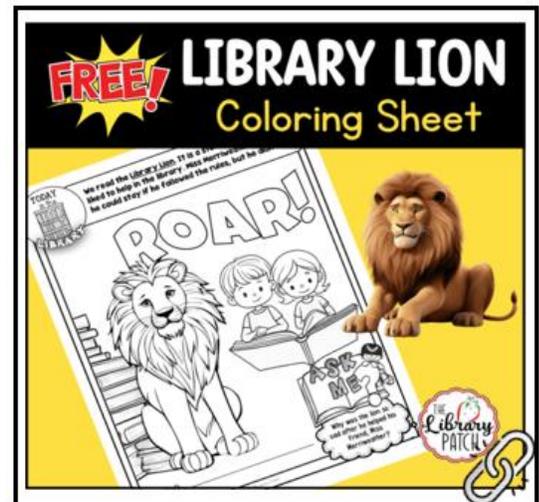
Free Bookmark Sampler

Grab this fun, limited-time freebie to start the year with a smile! These sample bookmarks from my Back-to-School Bookmarks set include kid-approved jokes and positive sayings. They're perfect as a checkout treat, coloring activity, or little giveaway. Includes black & white and color options, giving you flexible options to fit your library's needs! From The Trapped Librarian



Library Lion Coloring Sheet

Share the beloved story of The Library Lion with your students. This heartwarming tale about a gentle lion who finds his place in the library by following the rules and helping others is a perfect story for any time of the year. Then follow up with this fun coloring sheet.



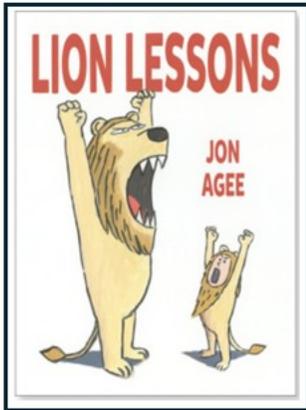
Read It! Stream It! Bulletin Board

Here's a limited-time freebie that your students and teachers will enjoy all year long. It will help you promote movies that started out as amazing books for kids!

TIP: Set up a committee of students to help you find "book to movie" matches on a variety of streaming platforms. Don't forget to include Hoopla and Kanopy, if your local library subscribes to those free services! (My set includes letters and the labels shown as well as Max Paramount+ and Kanopy.)



PreK, Kinders, and Firstie Fun – That Library Girl



Teaching littles in my library always went better when I alternated high energy activities with calming ones!

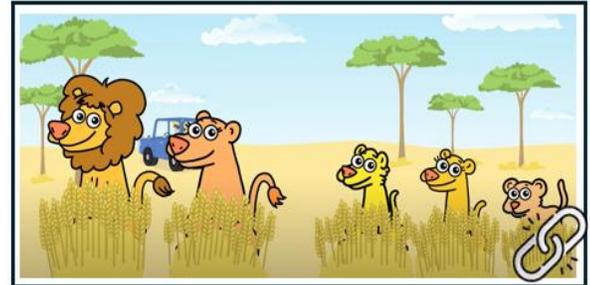
For example, *Lion Lessons* by Jon Agee is a great beginning-of-the-year book. Your students will certainly relate to the student lion who needs to master seven very important steps – they’ve been learning a lot of new things, too! As the boy tries and fails... and finally succeeds, let your students giggle and wiggle! As you read each page, stop and let your students act out each step along with the boy.

After the story, share the calming YouTube song shown below... followed by the fun action game! Then help them calm down again by teaching a simple fingerplay. Each week, plan predictable lessons, so they’ll learn your routine... active - quiet – repeat!

YOUTUBE SONG

Action songs and fingerplays are the perfect fillers to increase your students vocabulary and fine motor skills.

The “Mother Goose Club Finger Family” channel on YouTube shares MANY versions of the old “Where is Thumbkin?” nursery rhyme. *Lion Finger Family* has friendly graphics and its easy lyrics will encourage students to sing along!



WE’RE GOING ON A LION HUNT GAME

It’s always fun to pretend to take a field trip and my beautiful safari photos set the scene! They illustrate each phase of the traditional “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” game (but our goal was simply to snap a photo of a lion, rather than “hunting” one!)

Your students will love to play along – and the more animated you are... the more they will enjoy it, too! (I used this game as a behavior reward for years!)

See my preview on TPT for all the details.

FIVE LITTLE LIONS

As you have your students repeat the words to the fingerplay below, model putting one finger down each time another lion leaves...until you are holding up a closed fist.

*FIVE little lions all in a row. (Start with 5 fingers up.)
One raced away across the valley low.*

*FOUR little lions began to play.
One wandered home for she could not stay.*

*THREE little lions chasing one another.
One ran to the jungle, tattling to his mother.*

*TWO little lions loudly roaring.
One fell asleep... and now he’s snoring.*

*ONE little lion, missing all her friends,
Decided to head on back to the den.*

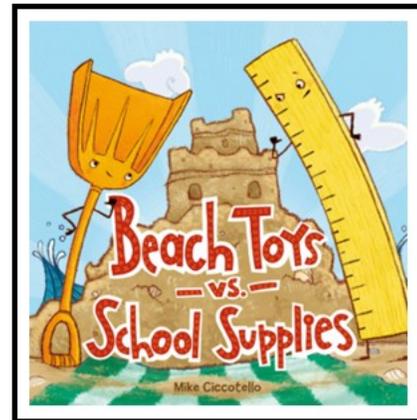
*ZERO little lions are left today, but
Check back tomorrow, and they will play.*

Book Recommendations

Beach Toys VS. School Supplies by Mike Ciccotello | Farrar, Straus and Giroux, ©2021 | Recommended for grades K-2

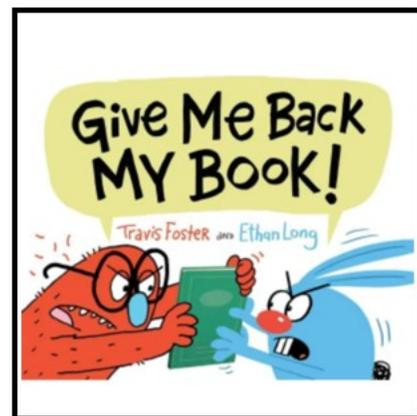
When sand shovel and the other beach toys saw ruler and his gang approaching, they weren't happy! (What in the world?! School supplies ALREADY? It wasn't even Labor Day yet!)

So... in trying to solve that age-old question of WORK VS FUN... the two groups decided to have a sand-building contest to decide which team was the best – once and for all!



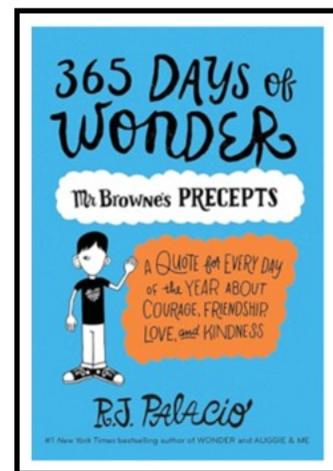
Give Me Back My Book by Travis Foster and Ethan Long | Chronicle Books, ©2017 | Recommended for grades K-2

Redd and Bloo fight over who owns a green book until Bookworm steals it. They work together to make a new book to trade for it back. Everyone ends up happy - the friends share their book and Bookworm keeps the new one.



365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne's Precepts by R.J. Palacio | Knopf, ©2014 | Recommended for grades 3-8

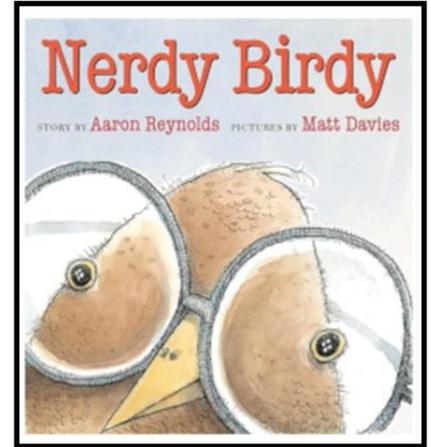
Clever, thoughtful, and written in Mr. Browne's own voice, this companion to *Wonder* offers a precept, or quote, for every day of the year. The short monthly chapters allow a glimpse into this special teacher's heart and even cleverly give short updates on the characters from the original novel. Plus, the inspiring messages about kindness, courage, and character make it a great addition to elementary and middle school libraries. You might want more than one copy so you can keep it close for sharing inspiration throughout the school year!



More Book Recommendations

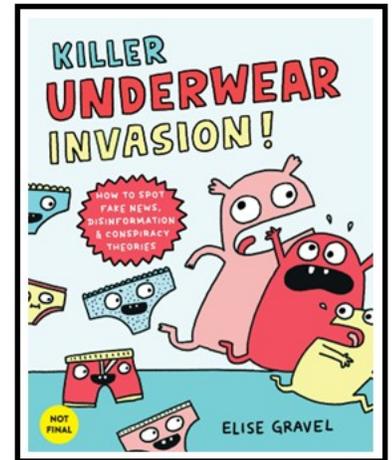
Nerdy Birdy by Aaron Reynolds | Roaring Book Press, ©2015 |
Recommended for grades 2-5

It can be lonely when you are different from the “cool birds.” Can Nerdy Birdy find a place where he belongs? This fun, relatable story is a great way to spark conversations about friendship and kindness. Nerdy Birdy reminds us that there are more “nerdy” birds than “cool” ones... and that we don’t have to be just alike to get along. A perfect read-aloud for talking about how we treat others and how to celebrate our differences!



Killer Underwear Invasion! : How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation, and Conspiracy Theories | By Elise Gravel | Chronicle Kids, ©2022 |
Recommended for grades 3 and Up

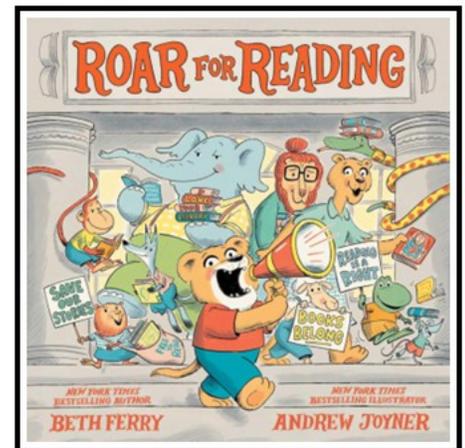
So... you heard that eating peanuts provides super strength to humans, huh? And... unicorns were recently discovered on the moon?! Hmmm...this funny, yet informative book about media literacy helps breaks down what the terms fake news and disinformation mean, why people spread stories that are untrue, and how to decide for yourself what is true and what isn't.



Roar for Reading by Beth Ferry and Andrew Joyner | Simon and Schuster, ©2024 | Recommended for grades PreK-3

A brave little lion named Julius learns to stand up against book banning and speak out for stories. Using the acronym R.O.A.R. (Recognize, Organize, Act, Respect), the story teaches children how to protect their freedom to read.

It's an empowering tale that encourages young readers to use their voices to defend their favorite books and libraries.



Looking Ahead to October

Bat Research Report

Turn your youngest students into confident researchers with this comprehensive 11-page bat research project designed specifically for early elementary learners! This engaging, scaffolded resource makes teaching Common Core research standards accessible and fun, even for your most reluctant writers.

From The Library Patch



Identifying Text Features

This SCOOT card game will get your students moving as they review 14 text features that everyone should know:

- ▶ a Glossary
- ▶ a Map
- ▶ a Photograph
- ▶ a Diagram with Labels
- ▶ Headings and Subheadings
- ▶ a Chart
- ▶ a Graph
- ▶ a Caption
- ▶ Text changes
- ▶ a List with Bullet Points
- ▶ a Sidebar or Text Box
- ▶ a Timeline
- ▶ a Table of Contents
- ▶ and an Index

From That Library Girl



Fire Safety Activities and Bulletin Board Bundle

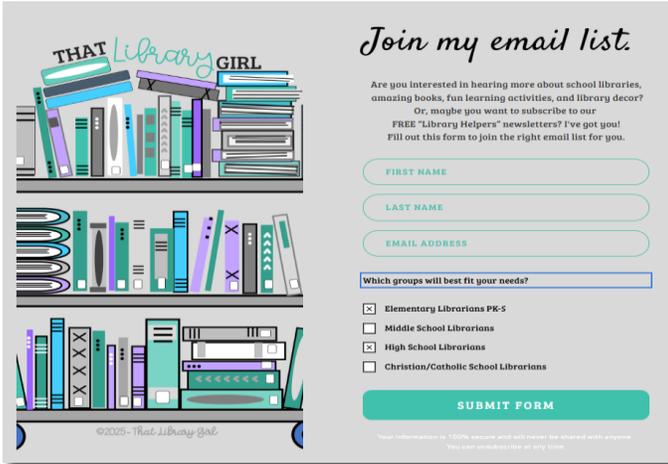
Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11 this year. Plan ahead with this ready-to-use Fire Safety Bundle. It includes a colorful interactive bulletin board, printable student booklets & worksheets, a home safety checklist and escape plan, fire engine craft, sticky note template, bookmarks and MORE! A great way to support important life skills while keeping things fun and manageable in the library!

From The Trapped Librarian



Get More Resources from Your Library Helpers!

That Library Girl



That Library Girl



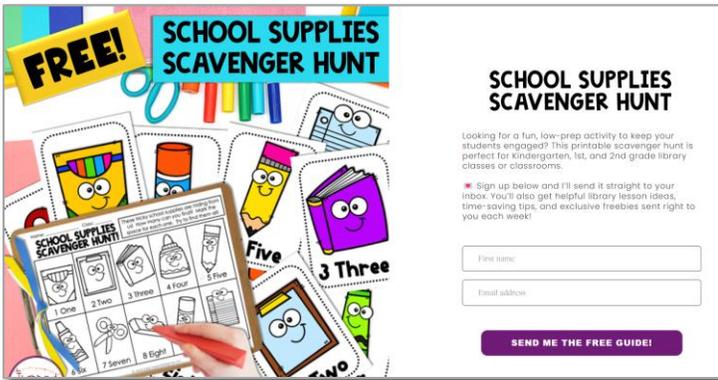
@that.library.girl

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

TPT Resources for School Librarians

Library Bulletin Boards & Displays

The Trapped Librarian

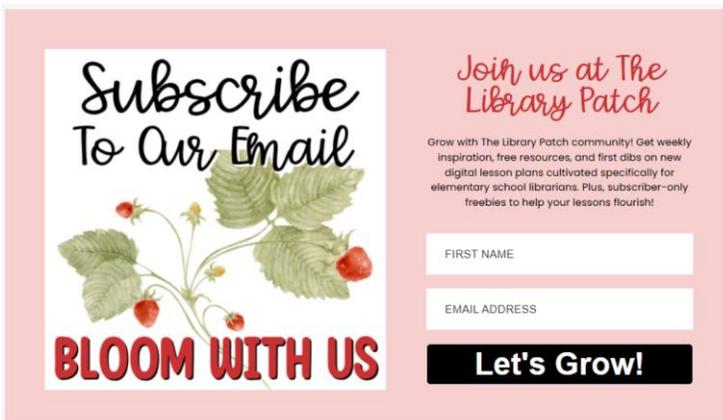


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The Library Patch

Reading Essentials for Fall



Credits:



The book covers are from



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