

Your resource for happenings at the Ventura County Library

Ventura  
County

# READER

Explore, Discover, & Connect



## IN THIS ISSUE

Career Online High School:  
Guido's Success Story - 3

Mobile Library Delivers  
Face Mask Kits - 4

Spring Reading Challenge - 5

Librarian Curated Lists  
+ Heritage Reads - 6-16

Fingerplays for Children - 17

STEAM Activities - 19 & 20

MARCH | SPRING 2021

# LIBRARY UPDATE

Nancy Schram, Library Director

In April 2021, we celebrate National Library Week! This year, following over 12 months of impact to services and the library buildings being closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our libraries are needed more than ever. Pre-COVID, the 12 library buildings were open 416 staffed hours every week, and an average of 316 in-person programs were held each month throughout the system, such as Storytimes, Teen Groups, Homework Programs, ESL classes, STEAM programs, Book Clubs, and more. Over the past year library staff has continued to meet community needs and deliver services.

Staff has produced 466 live Storytime programs on Facebook which have had 61,901 unique views. Staff created 301 YouTube videos for both adults and children which have received 18,122 total views. E-Book checkouts increased 75% over the past year, and e-audiobook checkout increased 25%. From March 16, 2020 to January 31, 2021, 25,281 people received new digital library cards online, many of whom were students accessing library resources for school. From April 2020 to February 2021, there were almost 2,000 uses by students of the Library's free online live homework help program, BrainFuse HelpNow, in both Spanish and English. From the time Walk Up Holds Pick Up service began in summer 2020 to current, there has been an average of 15,600 checkouts of physical books per month

with an average 3,880 people per month picking up items in a safe manner outside the front doors of library buildings. For 20 days in summer 2020 at the Avenue Library in Ventura, 600 nutritious lunches were distributed to children along with giveaway books to build home libraries. Hundreds of children across the system participated in an all-virtual Summer Reading Program in 2020, and came to the libraries to safely pick up STEAM activity kits to take home. The Library received approval from the Board of Supervisors to eliminate overdue fines in September 2020 which came at an ideal time to help permanently eliminate barriers to access library services by those who need them most. And lastly, up to 38% of library employees were reassigned as Disaster Services Workers, helping the community by assisting with tasks such as delivering meals to seniors, contact tracing, and working at vaccination clinics.

As the branches of the Ventura County Library gradually reopen indoor services, the safety of the public and staff remain our first priority. Library staff continues to work diligently to provide service and access to library collections, programs and resources in a well-planned manner that is safe and sustainable. We are so grateful and encouraged to hear positive comments and feedback from those we serve.



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLE

Mobile Library Delivers  
Face Mask Kits - 4



# GUIDO'S SUCCESS STORY

As a young boy growing up in El Salvador, Guido Argueta dreamed of flying. He hoped to be a pilot one day, flying all around the world. He was insatiably curious and liked mathematics.

At the time, however, El Salvador was torn by civil war. When he was 5 years old, his mother sought safety for herself and her two sons by moving in with their grandmother while hoping to eventually make their way to the United States. After many years and much effort, their visas were approved and Guido took flight with his mother and brother from El Salvador to Thousand Oaks, California.

A new arrival to the area at the age of 16, Guido enrolled in a local high school. The first few months were "okay", but homesickness and culture shock soon set in. The most difficult part of the transition was learning a new language. "I didn't even know how to say 'hi' in English!" Besides going to school and all the adjustments there, Guido also had to learn to get a job, buy a car, and become more independent. He worked hard and learned quickly.

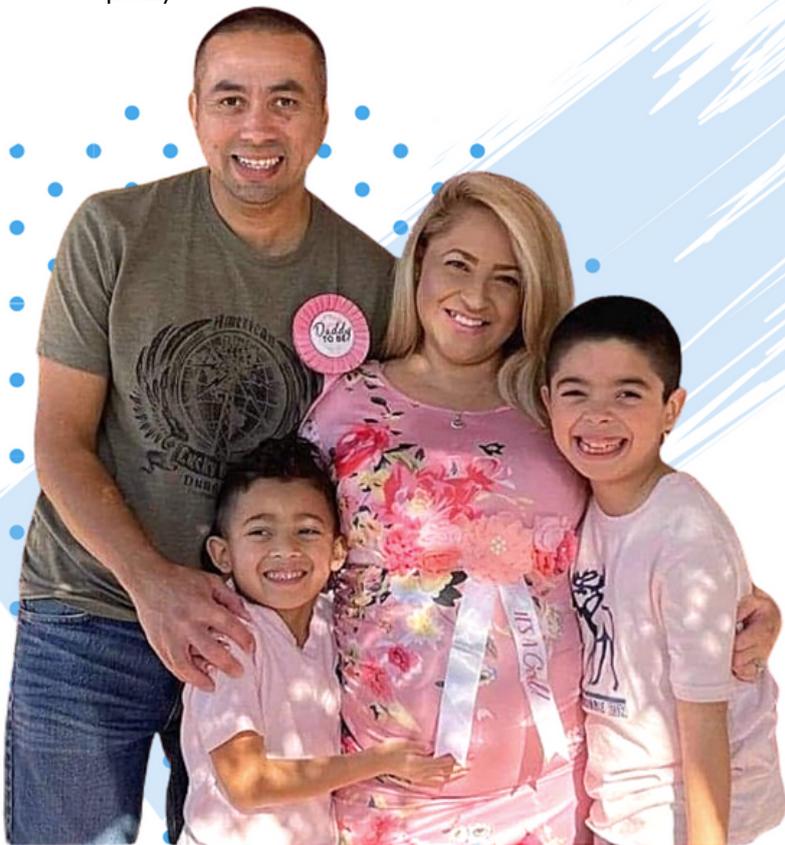
Nevertheless, when he turned 18, he was only at the sophomore level in school and was struggling with some of the subject matter due to the language. He was "aged out" of the comprehensive high school and went to work full-time as a cashier. Not long afterwards, he got a job at the nearby hospital in the central supply department. A friend later offered him an opportunity to work for better pay in the construction field, where he has been employed for the past several years.

Guido's life moved ahead. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen, married, and had children. He was successful in his job. All the time, however, he knew that he needed a high school diploma for career advancement opportunities and to be a better help and example for his children. His eldest son was diagnosed with autism. As his younger son entered kindergarten, he began to ask questions about what he was learning in school. Guido wanted to better understand and support his sons' development and education. He thought about getting a GED. Then one day he heard an advertisement on television about online education programs and decided to do some research. That led him to the Ventura County Library's Career Online High School (COHS). He completed the application process and enrolled at the age of 40. He was able to transfer the credits he earned in high school, and in just under one year earned his high school diploma along with a career certificate in Home Health Care. He would like to return to work in a hospital setting. He now plans to enroll in a program to prepare for the state board certification exam in hospital central services.

Reflecting on his COHS experience, Guido said, "It was something new. It was kind of hard, but you learn to pay attention to what you're reading. I didn't know that when you go to school you're getting ready for everything in your life. You see everything you learn in your life later." He hopes to impart that understanding to his two sons and also to his newborn daughter.

To the staff at Ventura County Library, Guido says, "Thank you for your help and support." To anyone thinking about going back to school, Guido says, "Don't think about it, just do it! The program is good. Take advantage of what's available. Everybody has time for everything in their lives. If you set your mind to it, you can do it. It doesn't matter if it takes a long time. All you have to do is organize yourself and think 'where do I have a couple of hours?' I can work 8 hours a day, but there's still time in the day."

Congratulations on your graduation, Guido! You may not be an airplane pilot, but you're flying ahead on your way to a world of new opportunities.



Guido and his family happily welcome a new baby girl

# Check out what's happening on the Mobile Library



## Face Mask Kits for Kids

by Molly Krill, Youth Services Manager

The Mobile Library has been distributing Face Mask Kits to children and families thanks to a partnership with the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging.

Kits contain face masks for children and adults, hand sanitizer, COVID safety and good hygiene information, and a resource guide for older adults in the family for coping with COVID and where to find help.

Our library staff worked together to assemble the kits and distribute them in hard to reach and underserved areas throughout the County, bringing much needed information and assistance.

The Mobile Library has limited stops at several schools throughout the County including Somis School, Briggs School, Santa Paula Headstart Preschool, and coming soon to Meiners Oaks Elementary School.



# SPRING READING CHALLENGE

Ventura County Library's 2021 Spring Reading Challenge begins April 1st!

Read books, play games, and win prizes!

[VENCOLIBRARY.BEANSTACK.ORG](http://VENCOLIBRARY.BEANSTACK.ORG)

Kids from all across the county are encouraged to read books and log reading minutes. Participants in this challenge log minutes every time they read. After reading 500 minutes, readers may collect one free book to add to their home libraries.

Good luck, and happy reading!



Adults in this challenge may submit an entry every time they read a book. Enter titles as you finish them, be they traditional books, audiobooks, or eBooks. You can log up to 100 titles throughout the duration of the challenge, and each title is a chance to win a prize.

## READING CHALLENGE

READING COLORS  
Your WORLD.

COMING SUMMER 2021

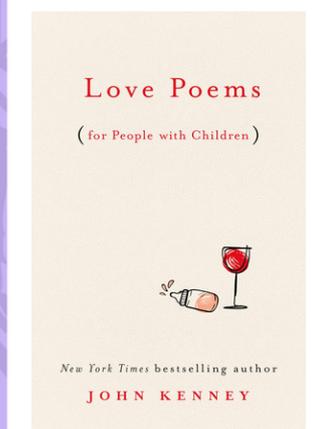
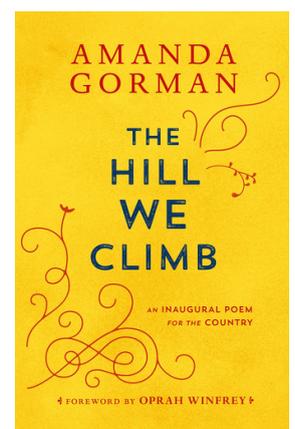
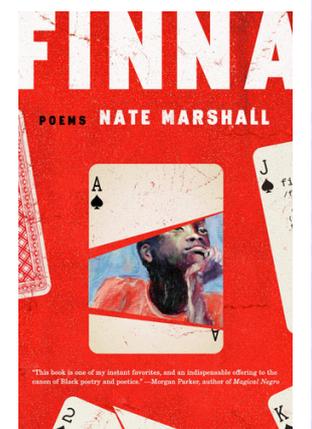
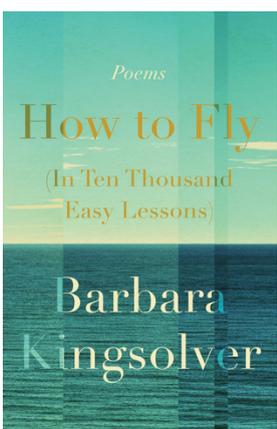
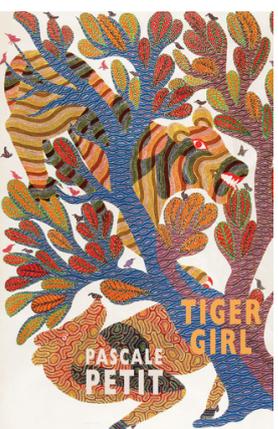
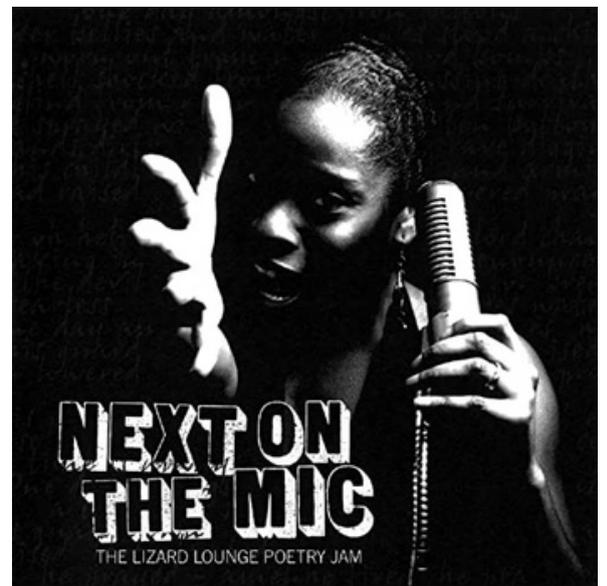
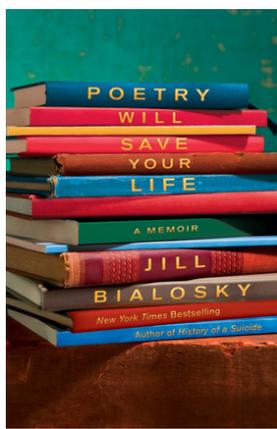
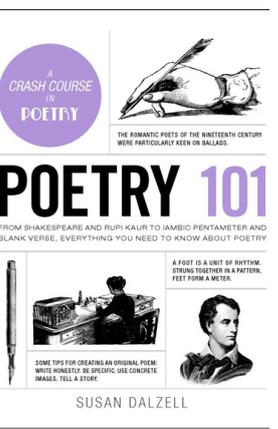
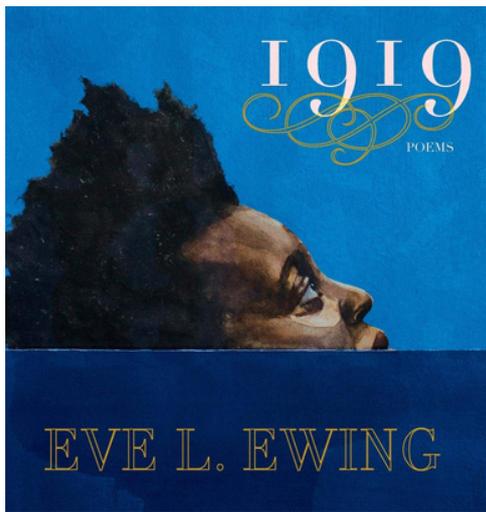


# NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April 2021

With poet Amanda Gorman capturing the country's attention at the Presidential Inauguration and the Super Bowl, poetry has gotten a huge boost. Our libraries don't lack for books about poetry, poems to read, and poetry to listen to. Here are some places to start.

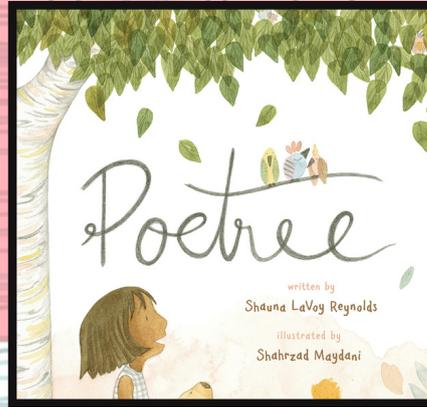
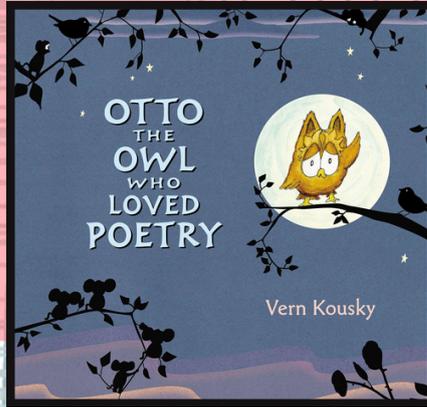
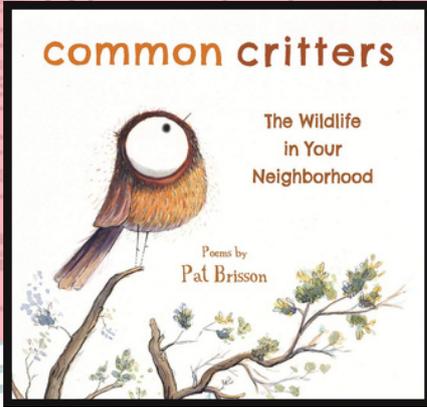
by Karen Cruze, Librarian Specialist, Adult Services



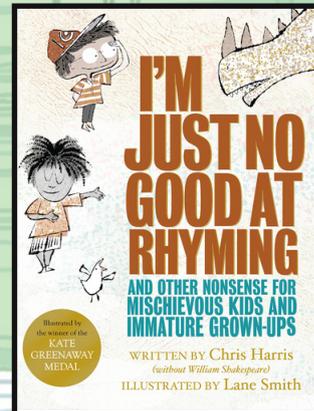
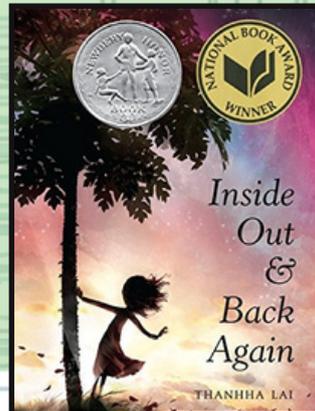
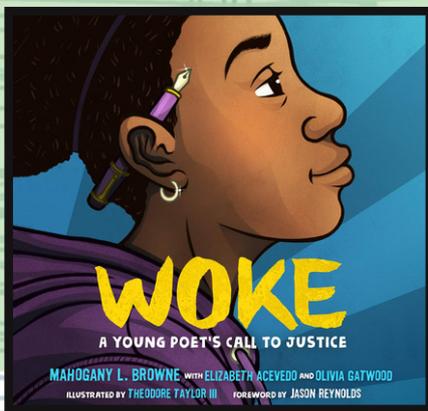
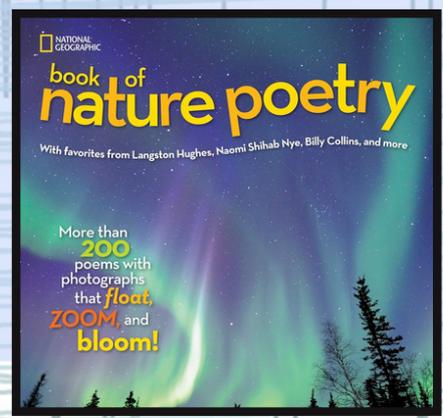
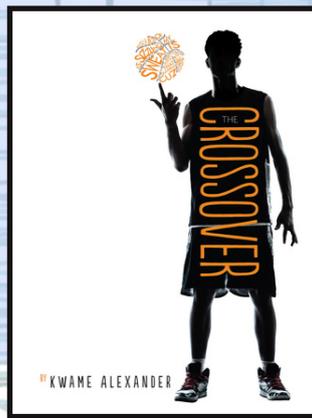
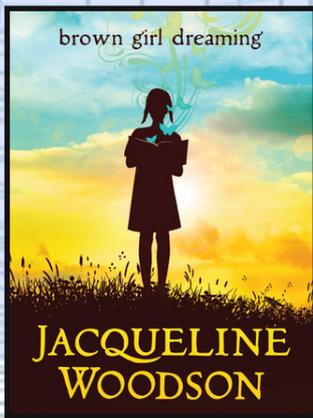
# CHILDREN'S POETRY BOOKS

April 2021

## Picture Books

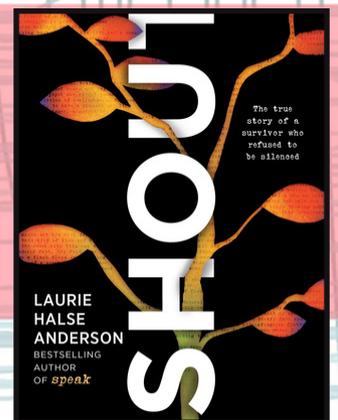
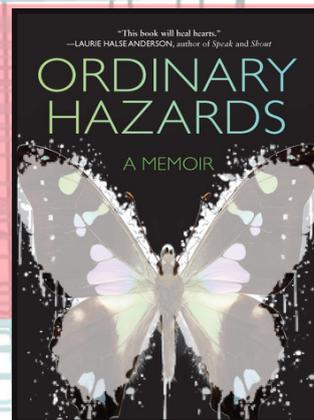
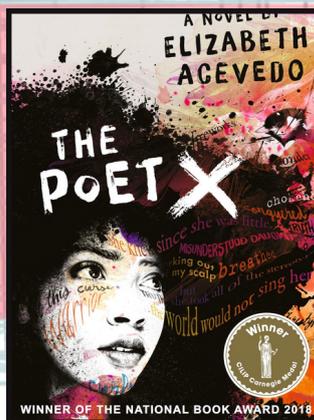
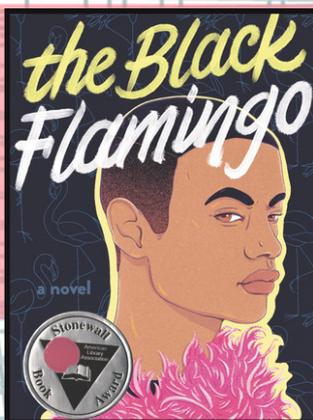


## Children's Books



## Children's Books

## Teen Books

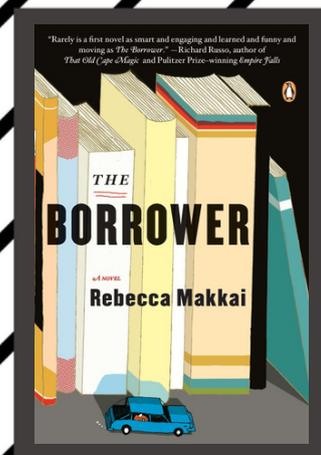
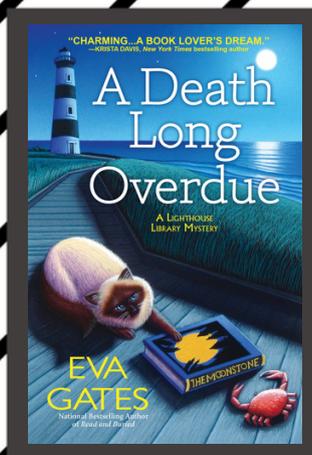
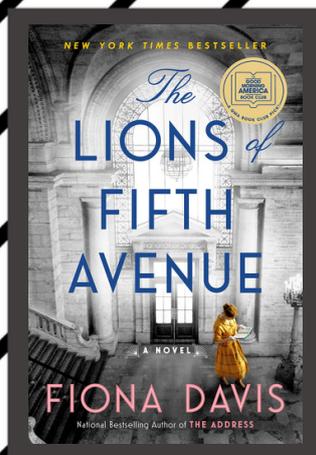
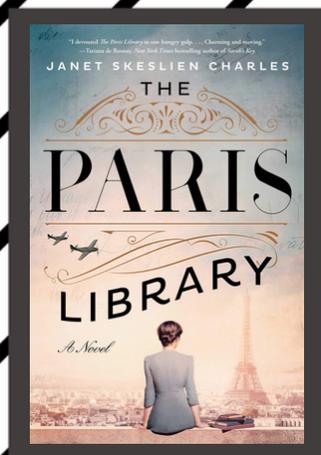


# NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

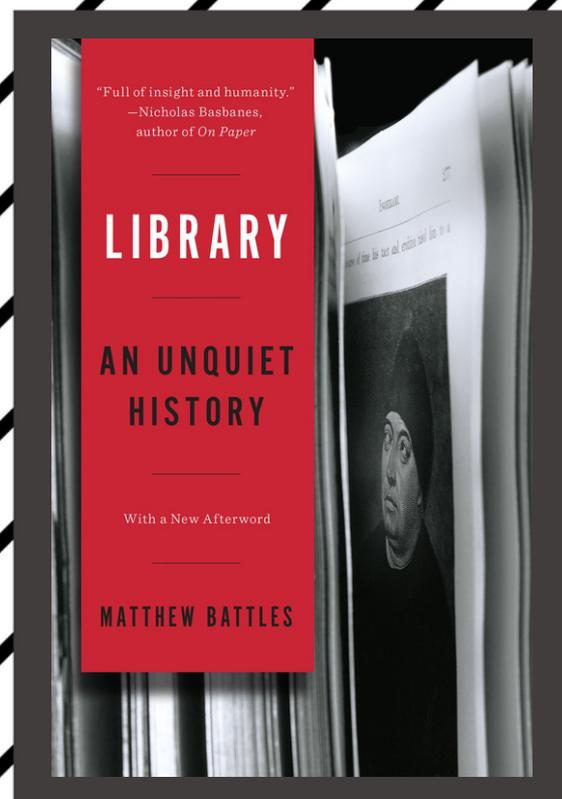
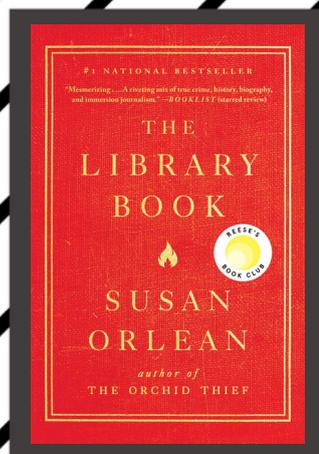
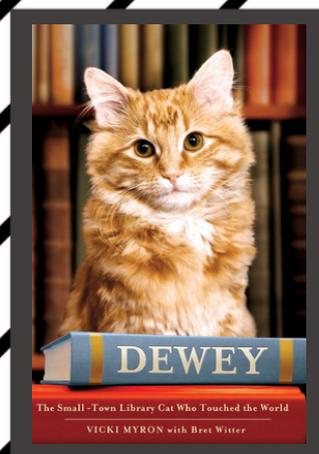
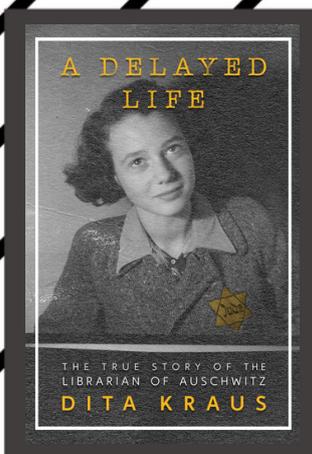
Celebrate libraries by reading fiction and nonfiction about your favorite place - ranging from romance, historical-fiction, and mystery books set in libraries, to nonfiction about horrific war experiences, the importance of books and the places we keep them, and how an adorable cat makes browsing the stacks better.

BY KAREN CRUZE, LIBRARIAN SPECIALIST, ADULT SERVICES

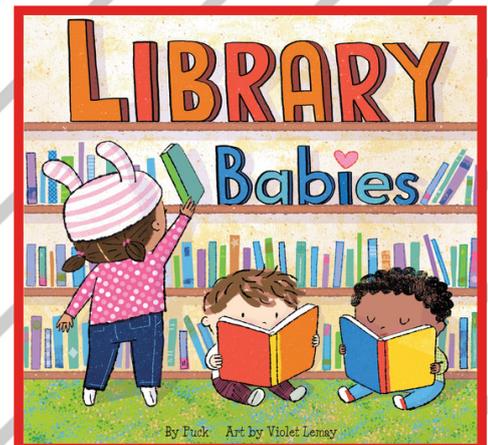
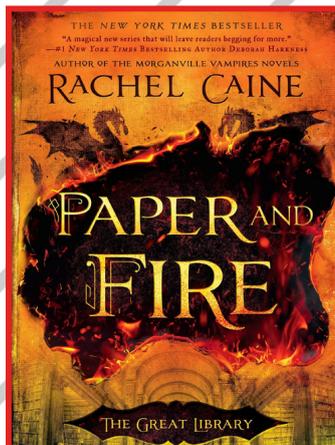
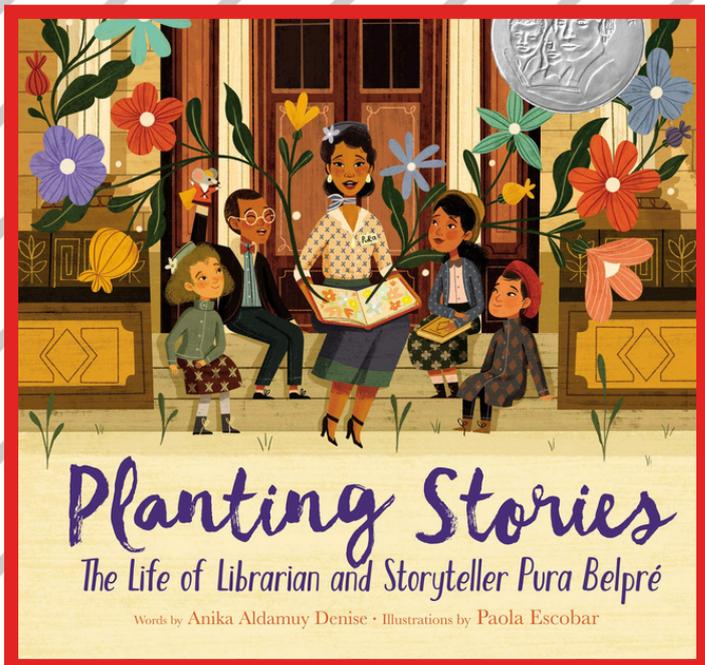
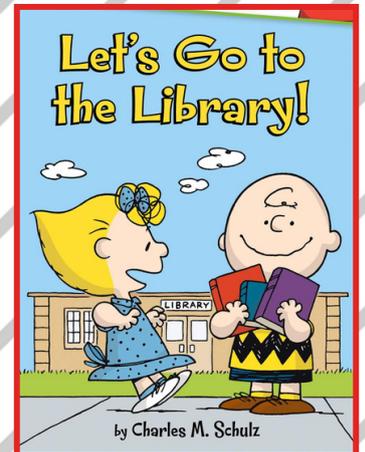
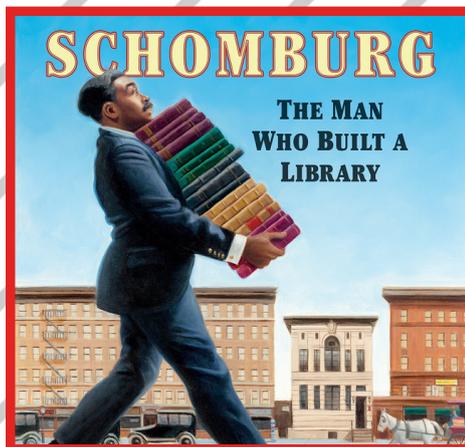
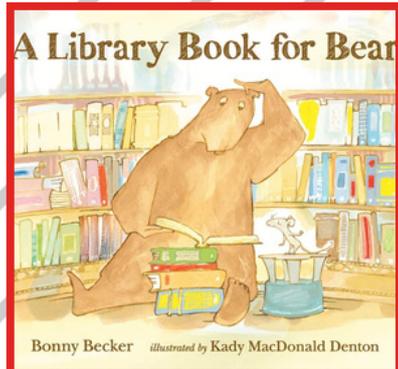
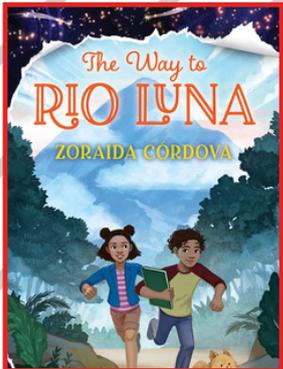
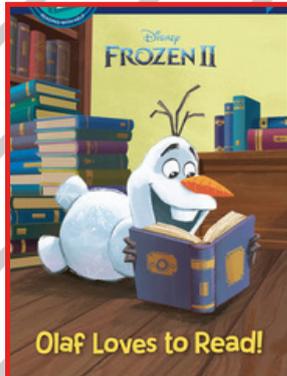
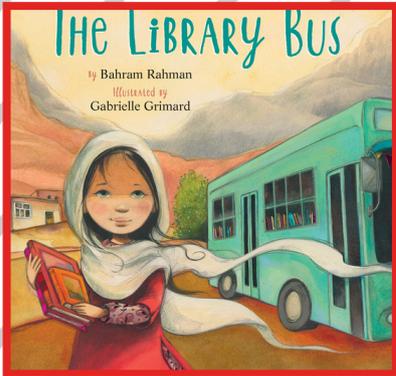
## FICTION



## NON-FICTION



# NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



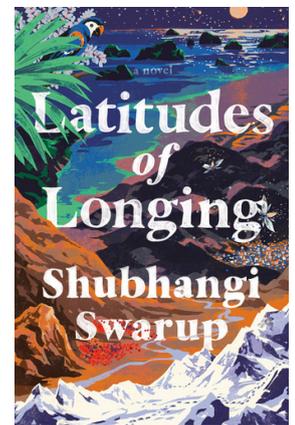
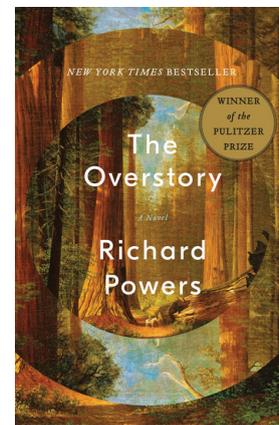
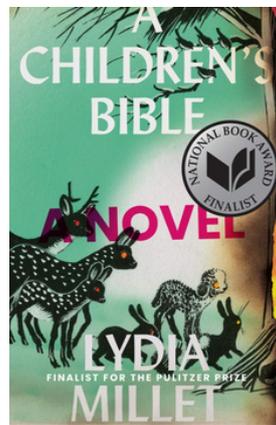
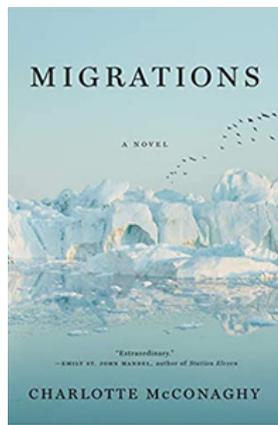
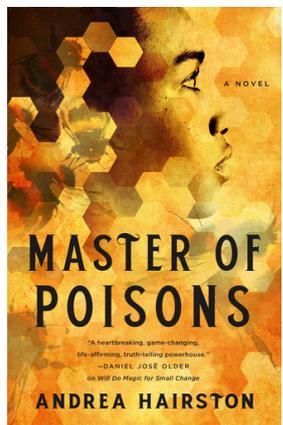
# EARTH DAY

April 22, 2021

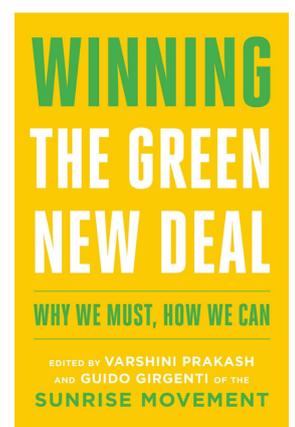
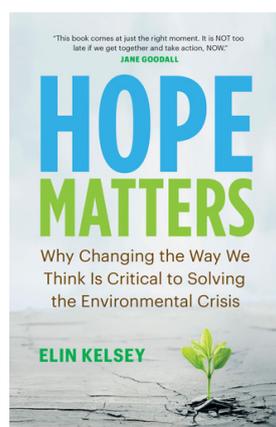
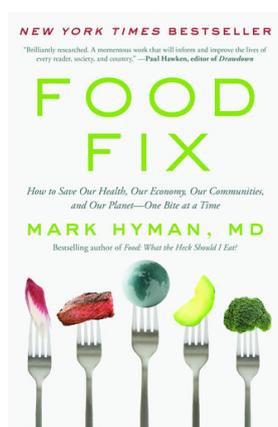
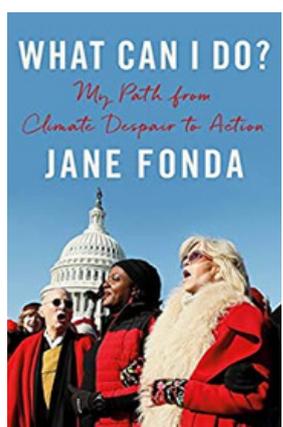
The beauty of the earth, the problems of climate change, and the ways we can help the environment, are the focus of fiction and nonfiction. These titles cover everything from visions of nature in a dystopian future to hopeful plans about being proactive.

by Karen Cruze, Librarian Specialist, Adult Services

## FICTION



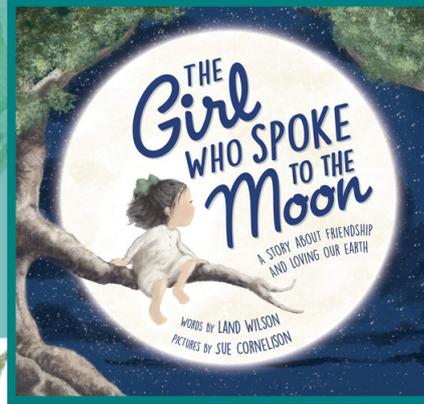
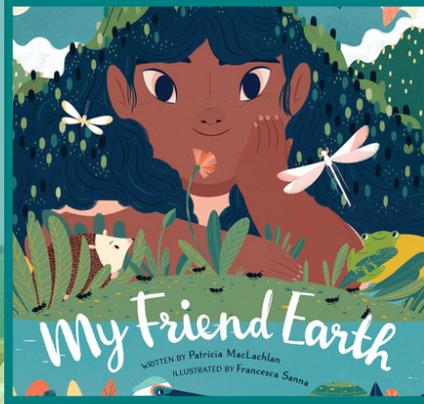
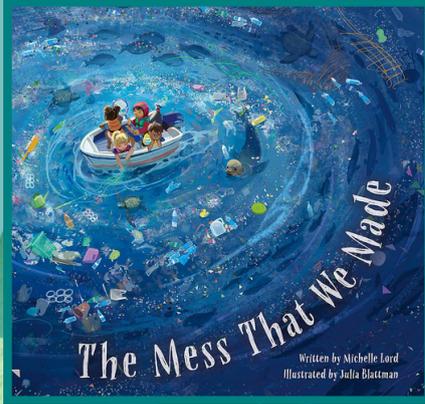
## NON-FICTION



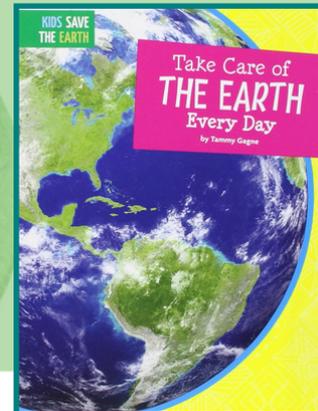
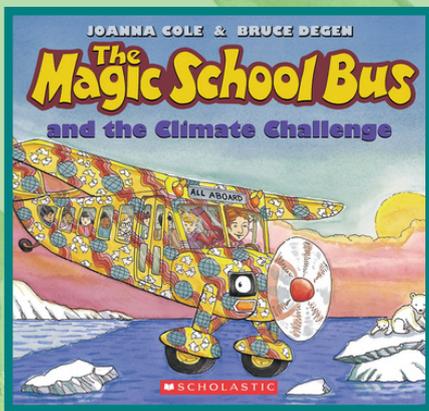
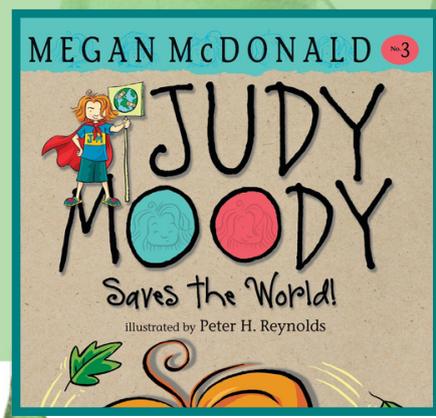
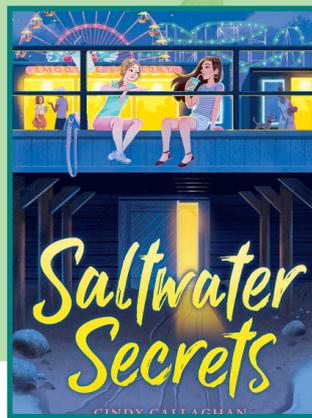
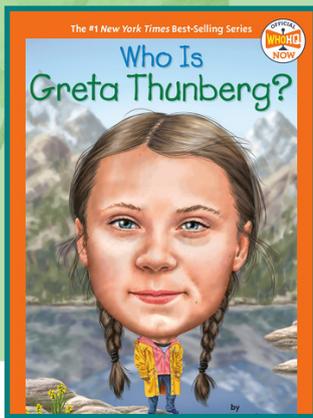
# EARTH DAY

April 22, 2021

## Picture Books

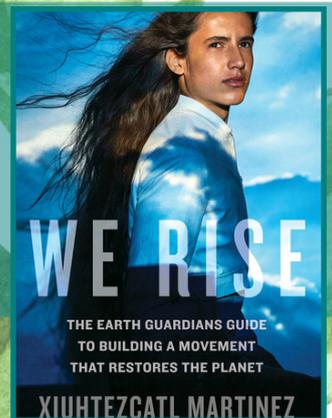
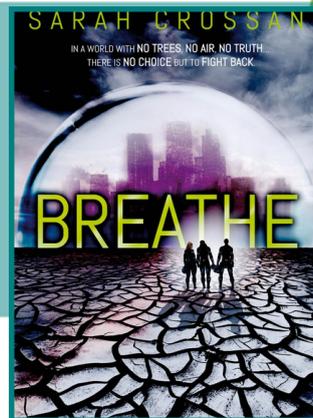
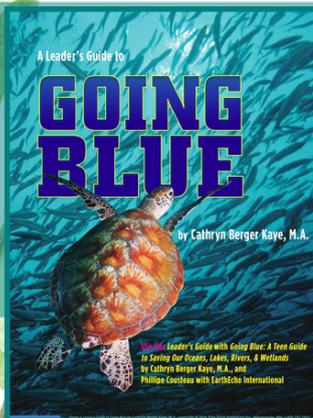


## Children's Books



## Children's Books

## Teen Books



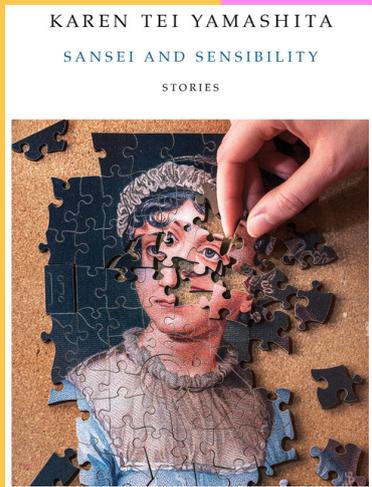
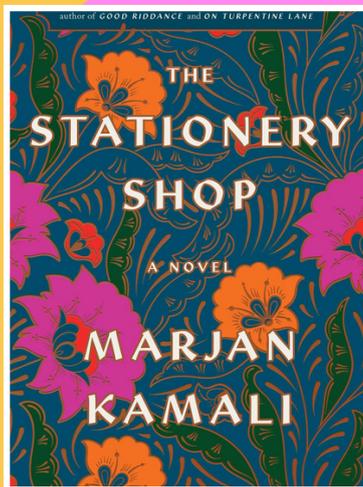
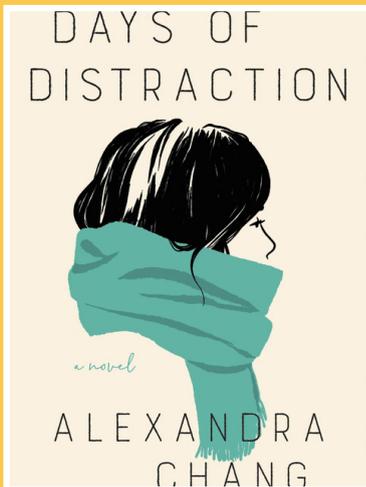
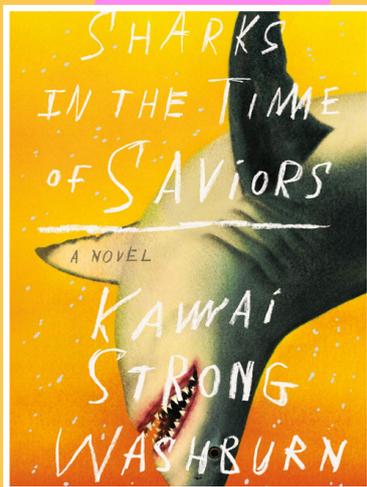
# ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May 2021

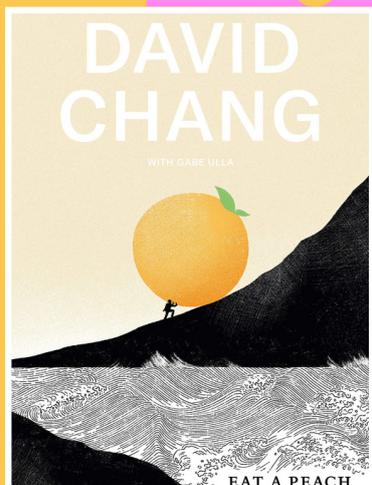
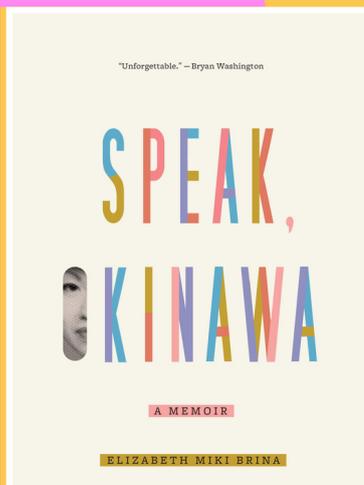
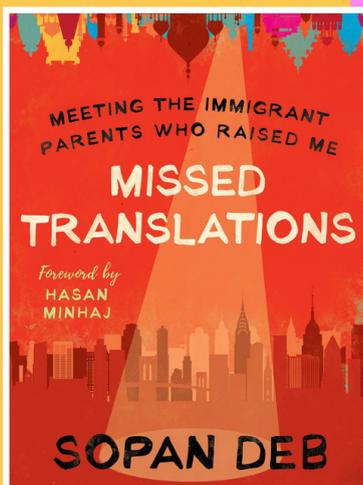
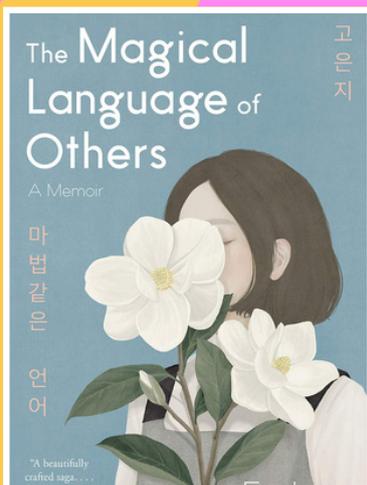
There's a large area to cover here - from Japan and Iran to India and Hawaii. Our fiction selections honoring Asian/Pacific Americans deal with characters confronting their heritage, and for nonfiction, we have a selection of memoirs centered around recent immigration. For more Own Voices suggestions try [Novelist Plus](#) in our eLibrary.

by Karen Cruze, Librarian Specialist, Adult Services

## FICTION

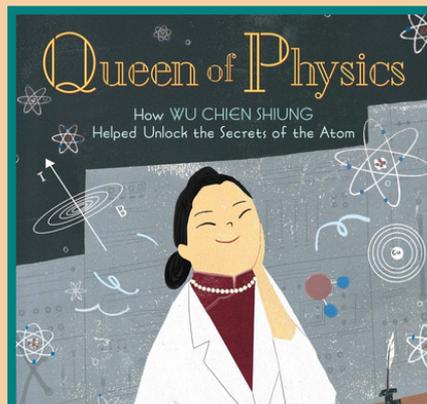
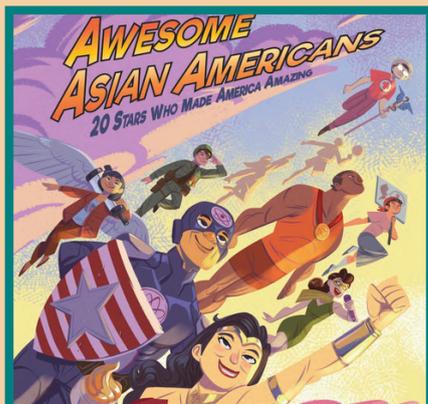
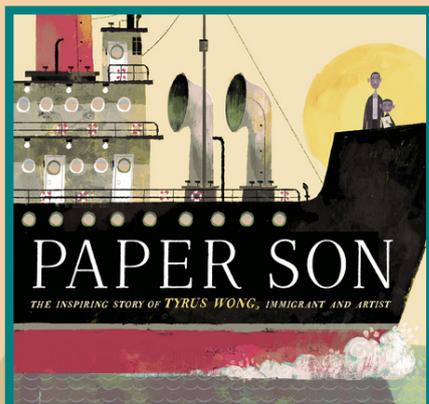


## NON-FICTION



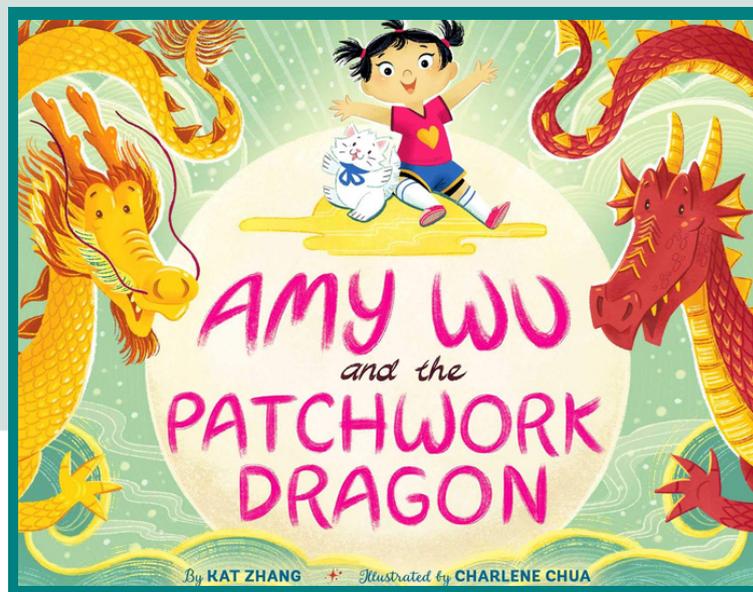
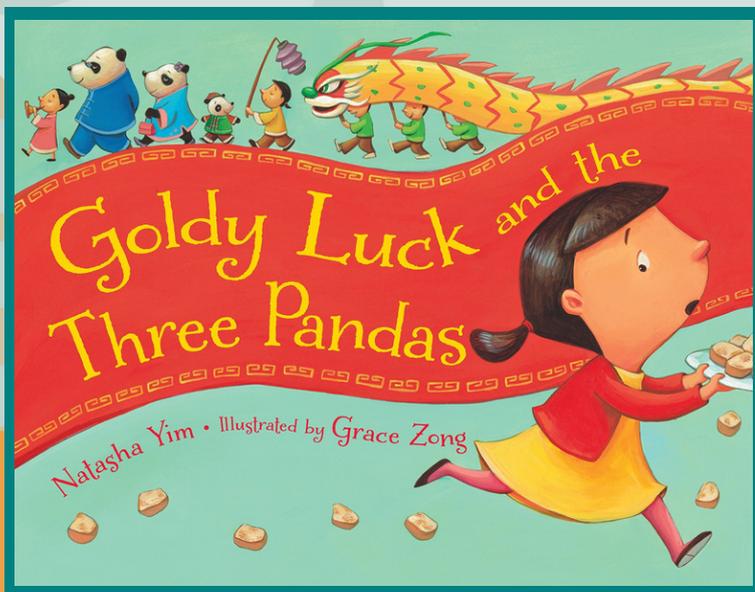
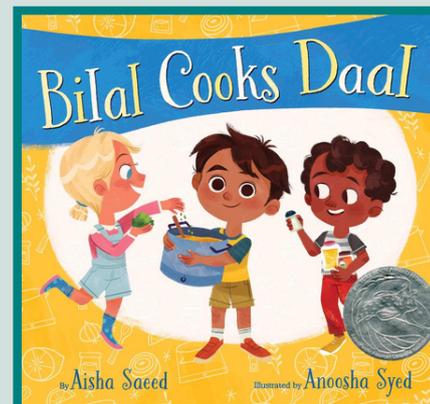
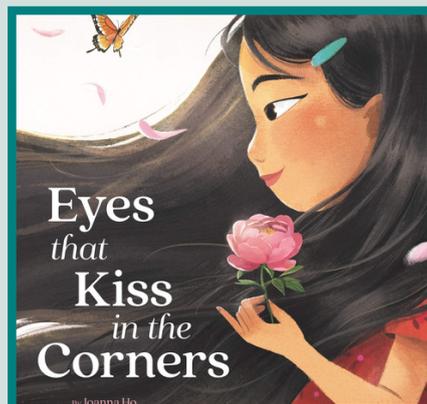
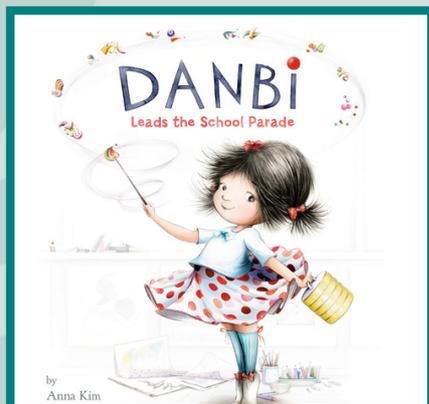
# ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May 2021



Children's  
Picture  
Books

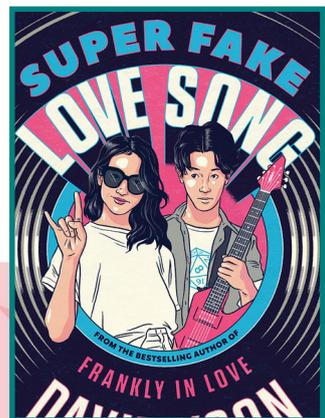
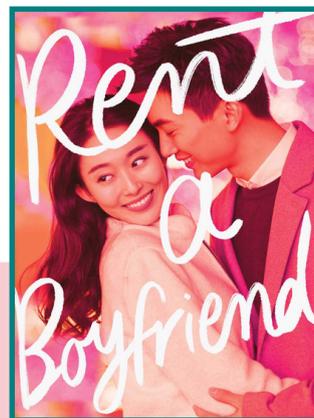
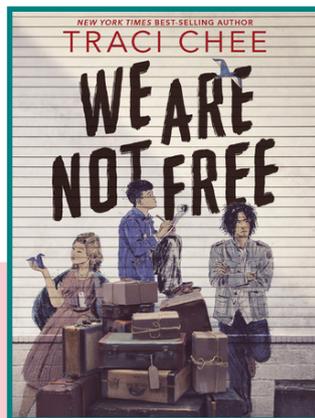
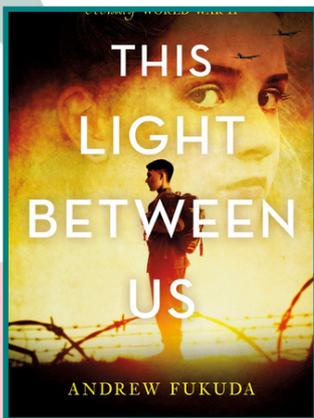
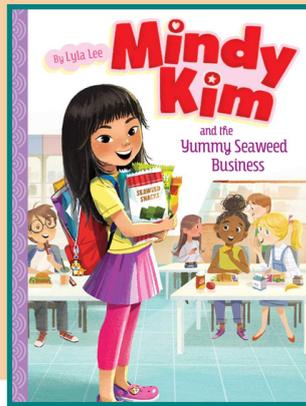
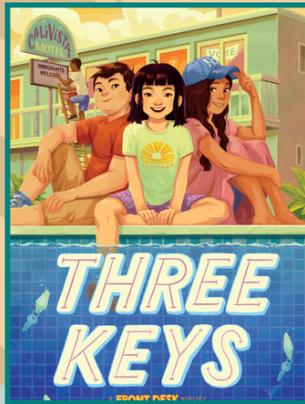
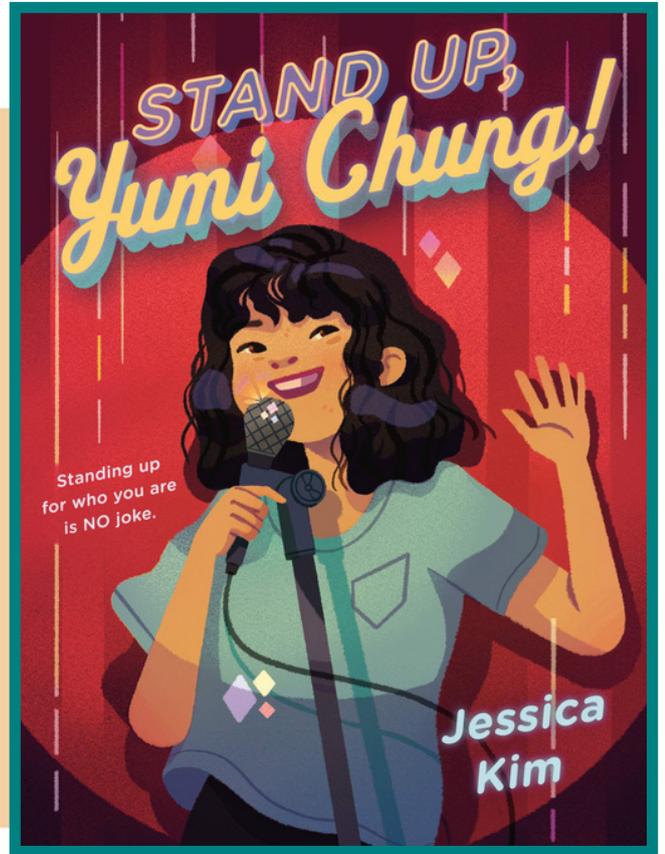
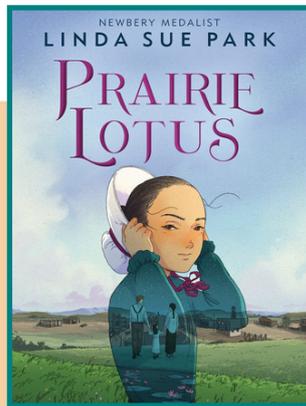
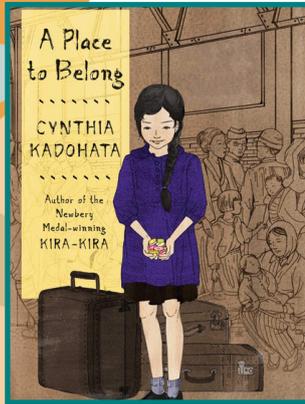
Children's  
Non-fiction  
Books



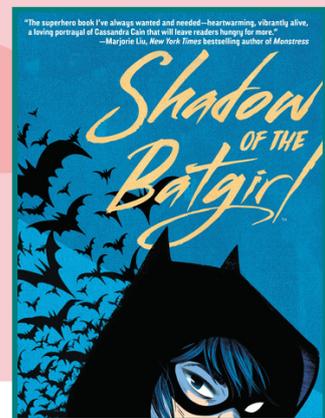
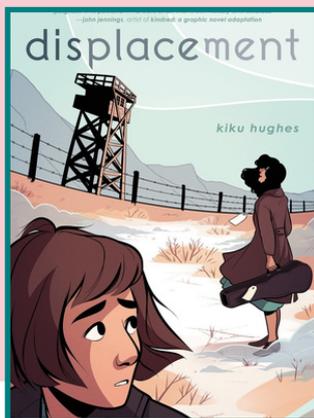
# ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May 2021

## Children's Fiction



## Teen Books



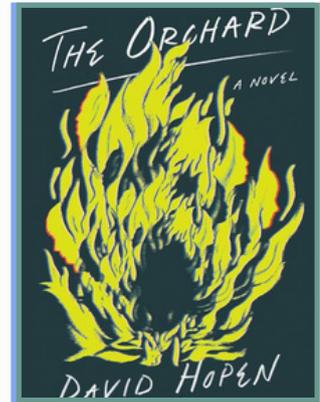
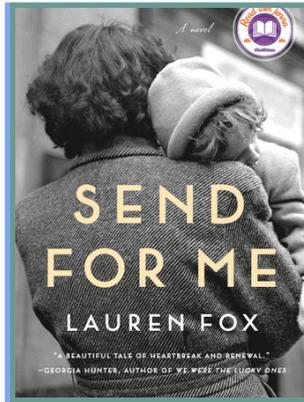
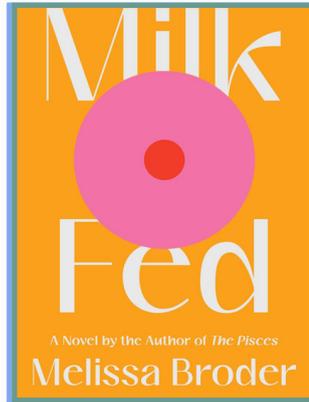
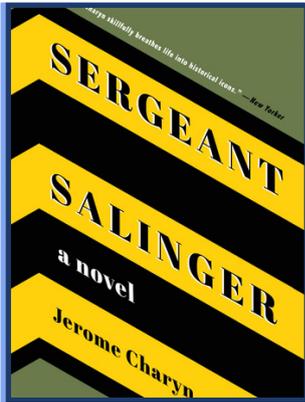
# JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May 2021

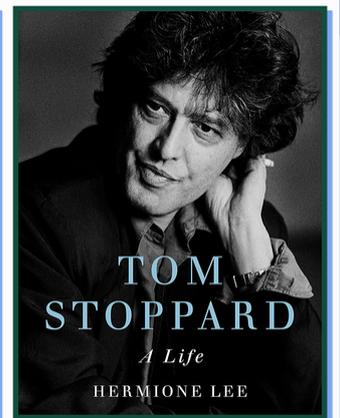
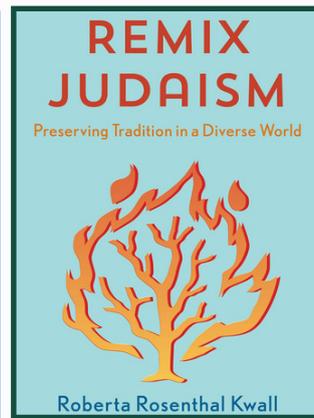
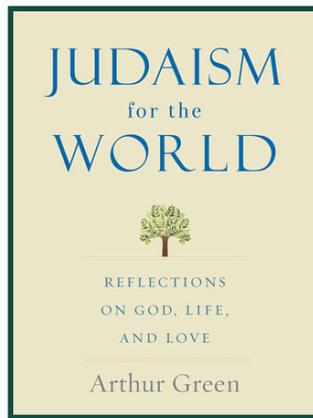
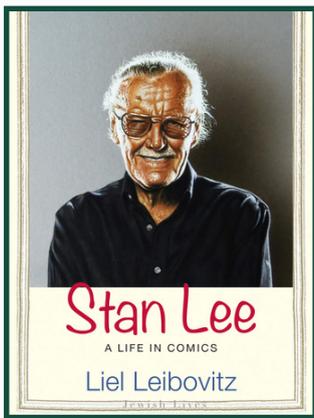
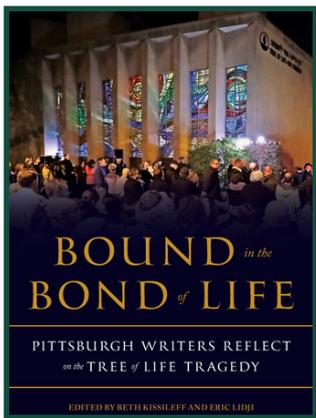
Judaism's main branches - juxtaposing tradition and modernism- feature in these books exploring everything from orthodoxy to mainstream culture. There is something here for everyone, from the serious, the thought-provoking, and the informative, to the more lighthearted.

by Karen Cruze, Librarian Specialist, Adult Services

## FICTION



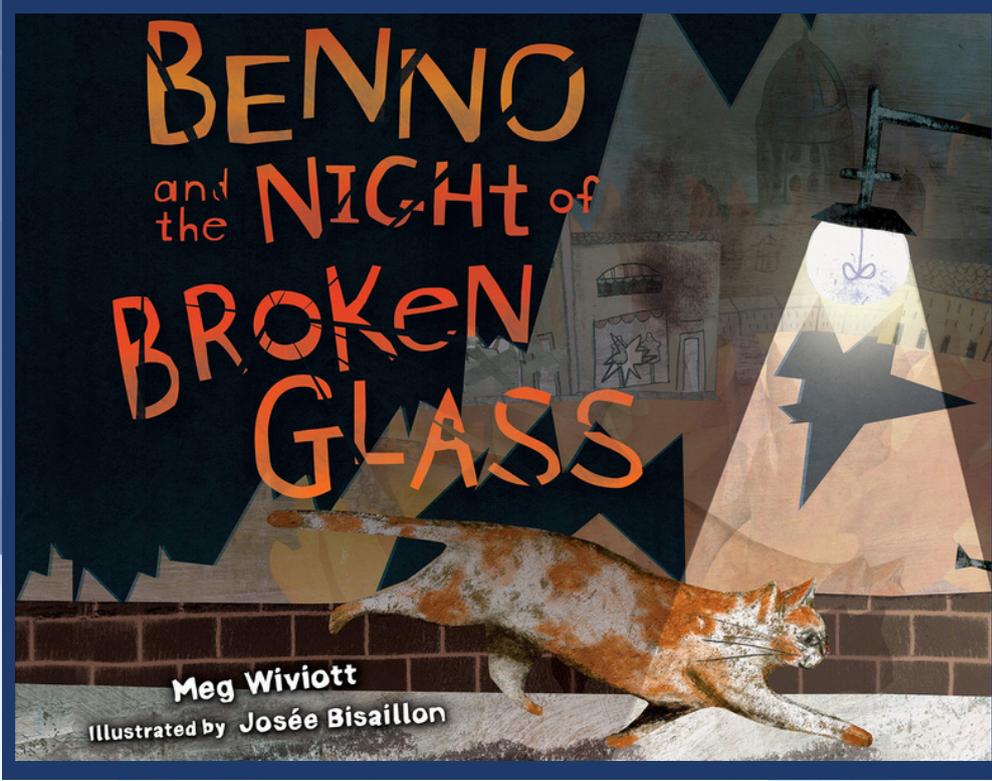
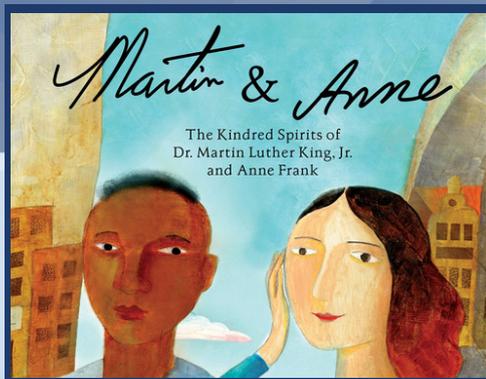
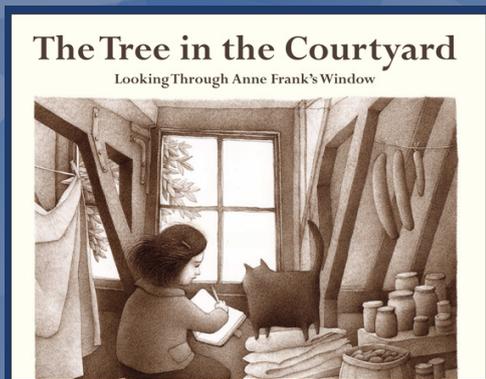
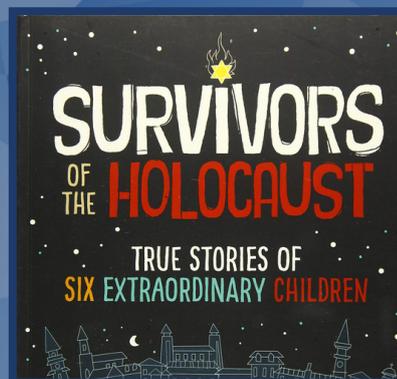
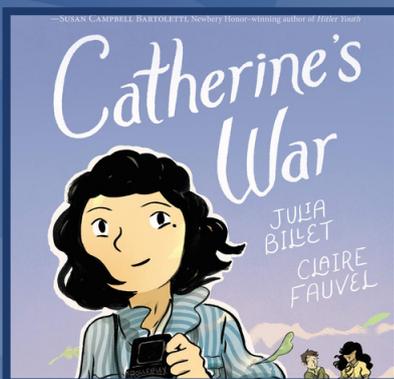
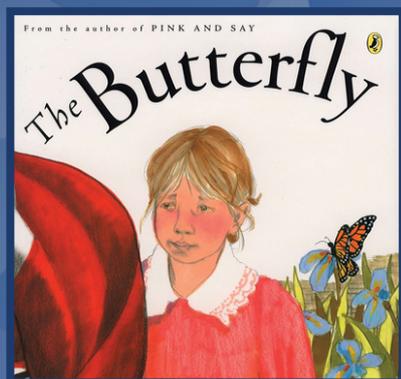
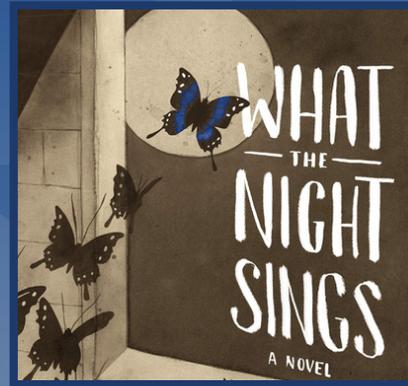
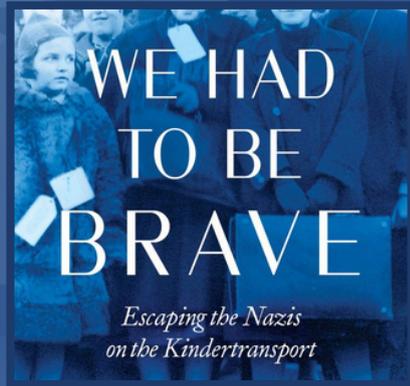
## NON-FICTION



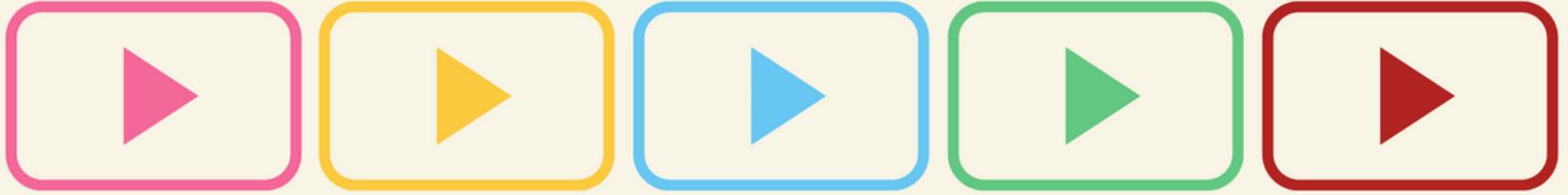
# JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May 2021

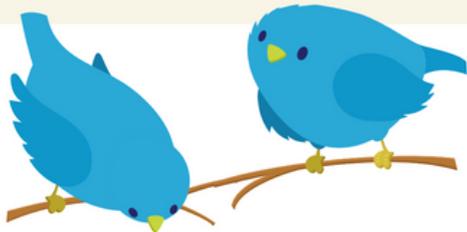
## Remembering the holocaust



# FINGERPLAYS



Visit our YouTube playlist for this song and more  
at [bit.ly/VCLsongs](https://bit.ly/VCLsongs)



## TWO LITTLE BLUE BIRDS

This fingerplay is a great way to start a conversation about opposites. Your two little bluebirds are your two index fingers that 'fly away' behind your back and 'come back' to your front for the song.

Two little bluebirds sitting on a cloud  
One named quiet and one named loud  
Fly away quiet, fly away loud  
Come back quiet, come back loud  
Two little bluebirds sitting on a lily  
One named serious and one named silly  
Fly away serious, fly away silly  
Come back serious, come back silly

Make your most serious face for the second part -  
the giggles will be so fun!



## HERE IS A BEEHIVE

Here is the beehive, where are the bees?  
(Hold your fist up in the air)  
Hidden away where nobody sees.  
(Move the other hand around your fist)  
Here they come, out of their hive.  
(Bend your head close to the fist, and "look"  
inside it!)

One...two...three...four...five!  
(Count on your fingers)  
Buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz...buzz.  
(Tickle baby gently.)

## BUBBLE BUBBLE POP

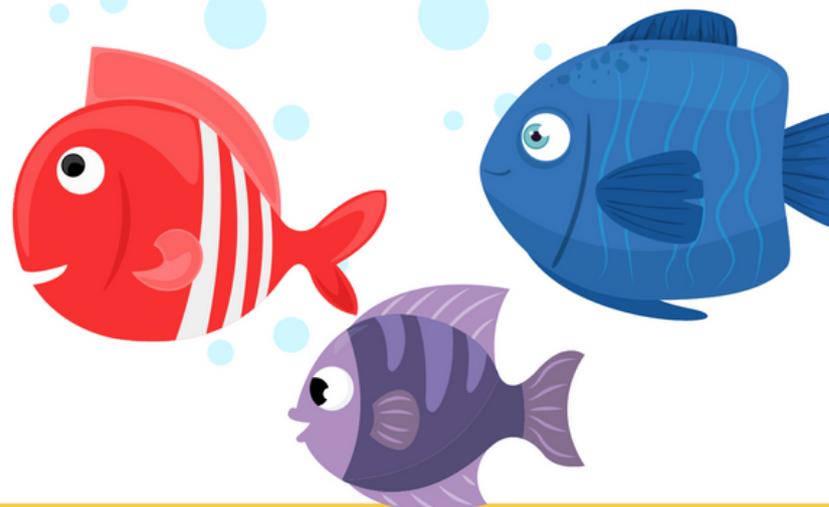
This is a fun song to do to introduce counting and color theory, try mixing different colors!

Hands make fish motion of swimming in the water, make bubbles that float to the top, clap hands above head

One little red fish swimming in the water,  
swimming in the water, swimming in the water.  
One little red fish swimming in the water,  
bubble, bubble, pop.

Two little blue fish swimming in the water,  
swimming in the water, swimming in the water.  
Two little blue fish swimming in the water,  
bubble, bubble, pop.

Three little purple fish swimming in the water,  
swimming in the water, swimming in the water.  
Three little purple fish swimming in the water,  
bubble, bubble, pop.



# VIRTUAL

# SPRING EVENTS

**APR 24** **DISCOVER SCIENCE**



**for grades K-5**  
A group of Foothill Tech high school students teaching physics and science concepts on Zoom.

**MINECRAFT MONDAYS**



**4 - 5:30pm**

Must have access to Java PC/Mac or Bedrock App/Win10 Editions  
[vencolib.minecraft@gmail.com](mailto:vencolib.minecraft@gmail.com)  
to be Allow Listed



**GLOBETROTTING MONDAYS**



Dive into other cultures at 10:30am

Take a trip around the world through stories and songs.

## Virtual Storytime On Facebook!

**MON**

**10:30 am**

Globetrotting Storytime on Facebook

**TUE**

**10:30 am**

Storytime on Facebook

**WED**

**10:30 am**

Storytime on Facebook

**3:30 pm**

Art Lessons on Facebook

**7:00 pm**

Bilingual Stories on Facebook

**THUR**

**10:30 am**

STEAM Storytime on Facebook

**7:00 pm**

Bedtime Stories on Facebook

**FRI**

**10:30 am**

Storytime on Facebook

**SAT**

**10:30 am**

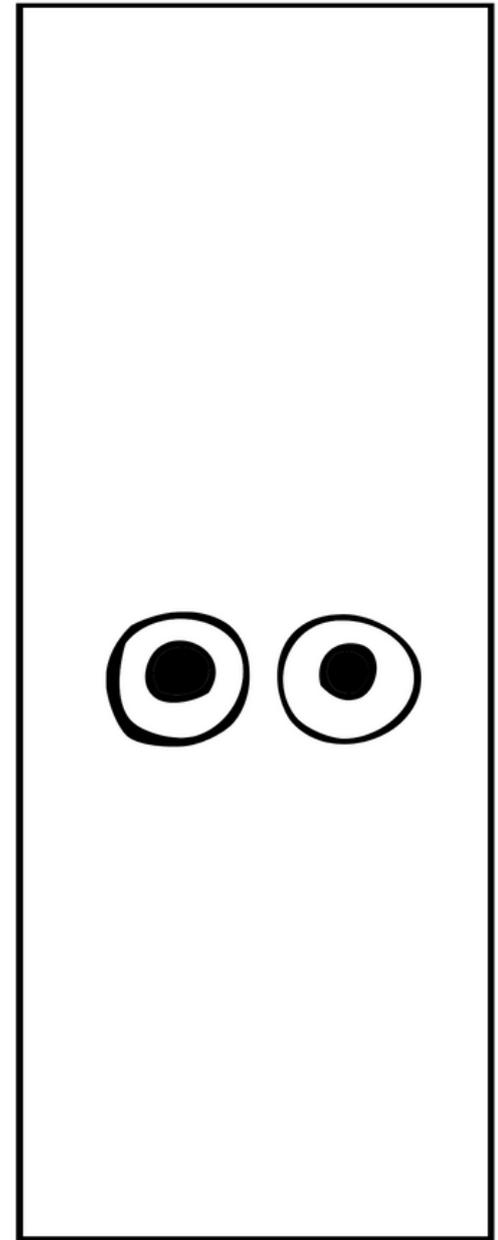
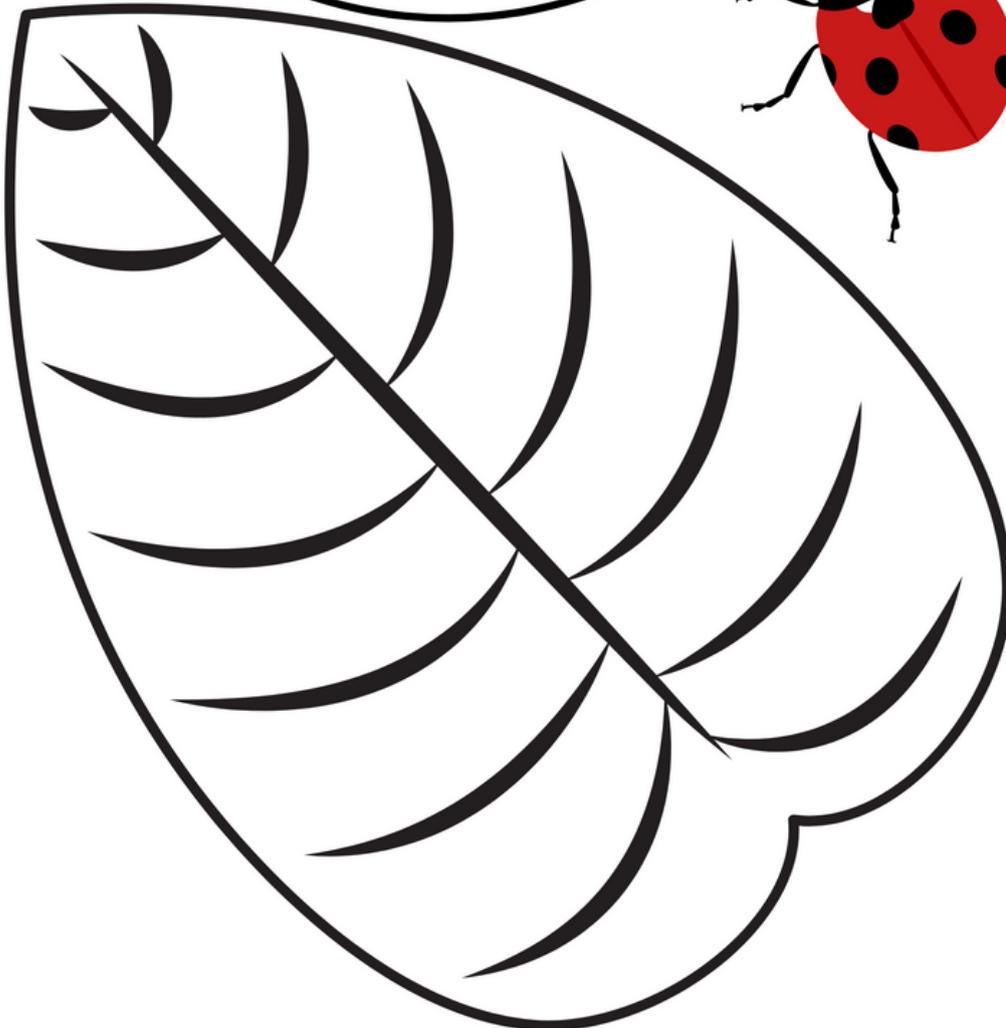
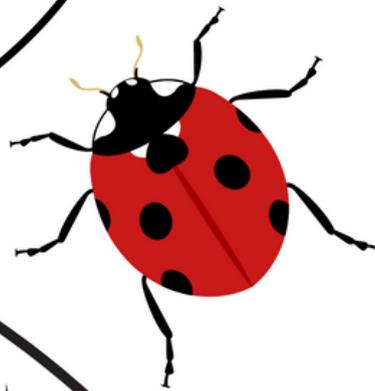
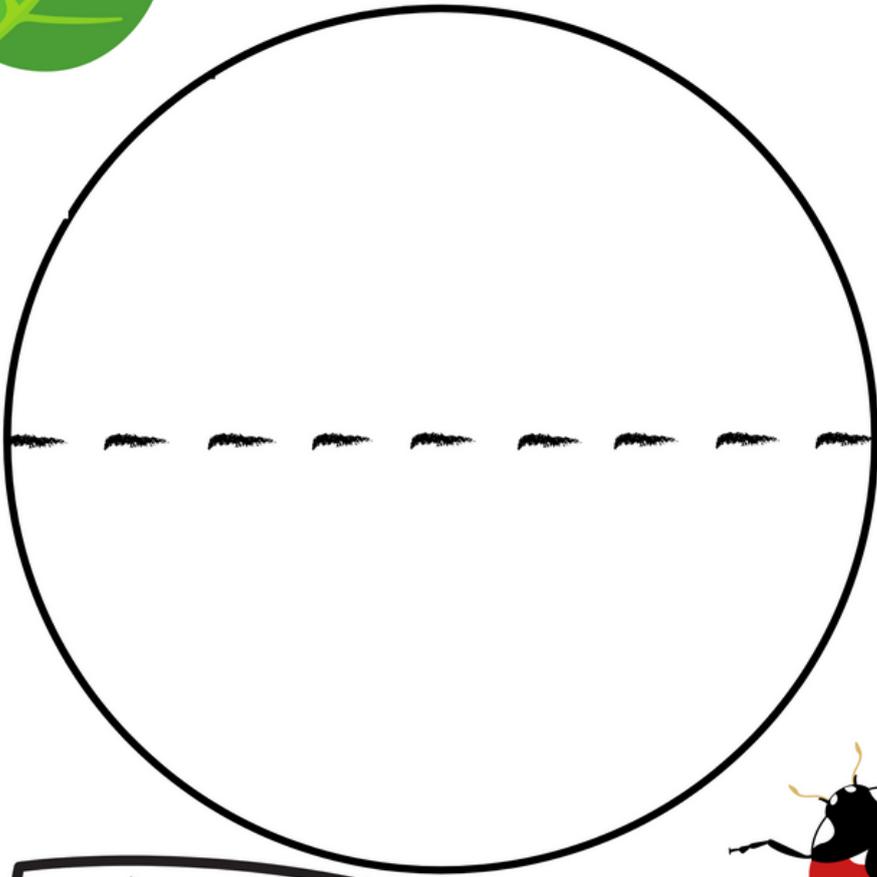
Storytime on Facebook





# CRAFT A LADYBUG

Color & cut out all,  
roll rectangle and glue ends  
together to make ladybug body.  
Draw and color ladybug dots.  
Glue ladybug wings to body and  
glue to leaf.



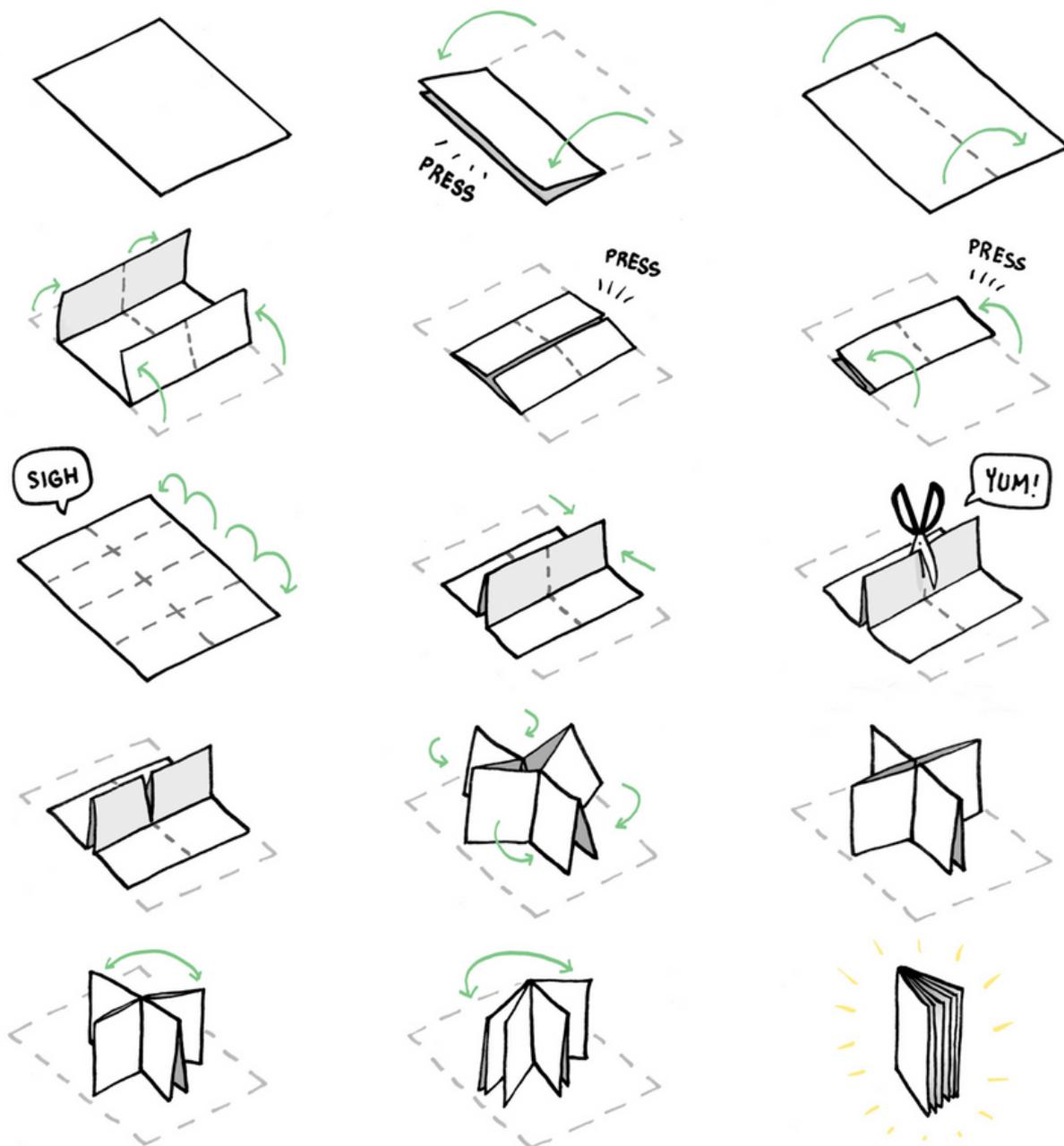
# CRAFT YOUR OWN ZINE

HOW TO FOLD A

## SHEET-O-PAPER

INTO A

## 8-PAGE ZINE



used with permission from umamidesign



Stay connected @vencolibrary

