

OHIOana QUARTERLY

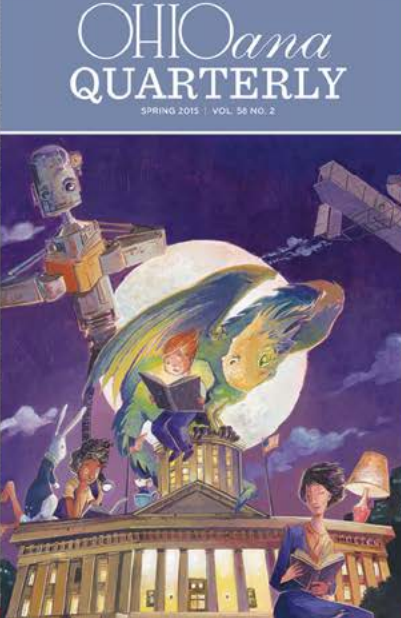
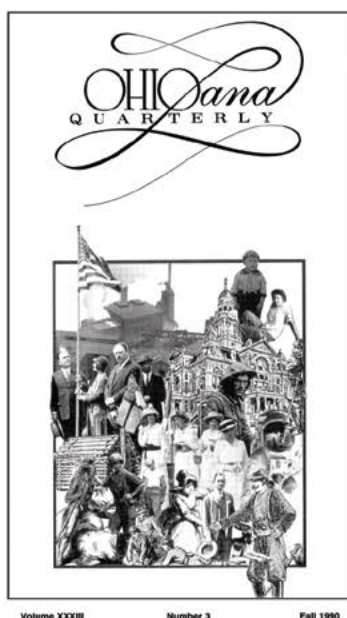
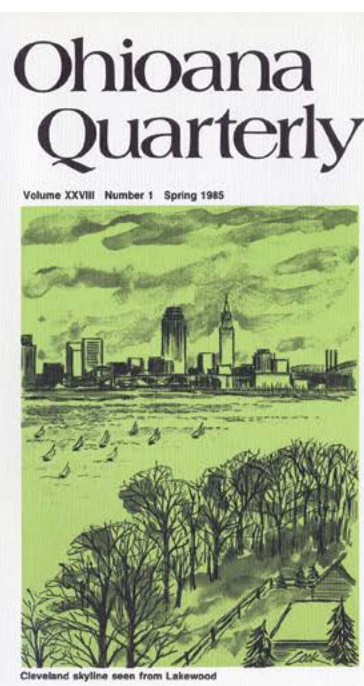
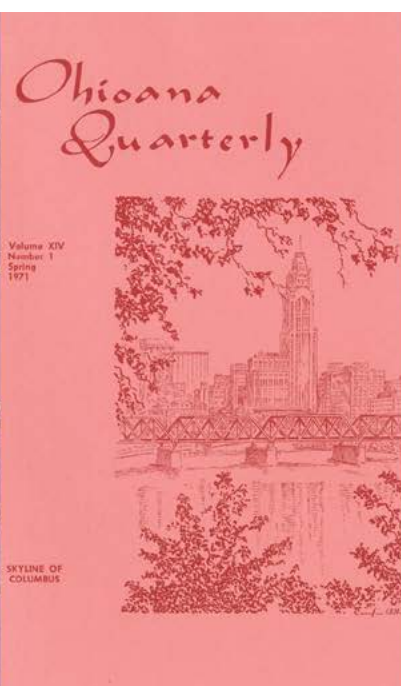
SUMMER 2022 | VOL. 65 NO. 3



In This Issue:

Lowell Thomas • W. M. Kiplinger • Joe E. Brown • Calvin Kyle
Jean Starr Untermeyer • David Dietz • Burton E. Stevenson
Russell Conwell • Steven Dickman • Judge Florence E. Allen
Milton Caniff • Jennifer Egan • Rev. Ralph W. Sockom • and many more.

FALL, 1959 — Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2022

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From the Director

Dear Friends,



"Print is dead."

We've heard that statement many times at Ohioana. The arrival of e-readers led many to predict that print books would become obsolete as people loaded their shiny, new Kindles with the latest bestsellers. Thankfully, that prediction has not come to pass. Reading books is as popular as it has ever been, as evidenced not only by annual sales figures from the publishing industry, but also the rise of indie bookstores everywhere. There's just something about the tactile feeling of holding a book or magazine in your hand that simply can't be replicated on a tablet or computer screen. I'd say the smell of a newly-minted publication is second only to the smell of a new car!

As you can imagine, Ohioana firmly believes that print is *not* dead. You clearly share that feeling, too, since you are reading this magazine at this moment! There's no better time, as we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the *Ohioana Quarterly* in our feature story. Over six decades—in print!

Speaking of great books in print, take a look at the new 2023 and 2024 list of Choose to Read Ohio titles—twenty books that encourage people of all ages to "Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life." One of the titles on the new list is the beautiful children's book, *Jenny Mei is Sad* by Tracy Subisak. This January, it was chosen as the winner of the 2022 Floyd's Pick Book Award, named in honor of the late children's librarian and advocate Floyd Dickman, and given to an outstanding picture book of the past year written or illustrated by an Ohioan. You'll meet Tracy in a conversation with Ohioana's Kathryn Powers.

As always, we have reviews of a number of recent books, and a list of titles added to our collection in the past few months. Summer is always a great time for reading!

Yes, print is NOT dead at the Ohioana Library. For 65 years, the *Ohioana Quarterly* has been at the forefront of promoting new Ohio books and authors, and all things literary in our state. We couldn't have done it without you, and we look forward to many more years to come.

Thank you and happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Weaver".

David Weaver

ON THE COVER

In celebration of the Ohioana Quarterly's 65th anniversary, Kathryn Powers traces the evolution of the publication with a cover from each of its eight decades, the 1950s to today. See the very first cover (Spring 1958) and the first full-color magazine cover (Fall 2014) on pages 4 and 5.

A Record, A Celebration: The *Ohioana Quarterly* at 65

by David Weaver

June 25, 1957.

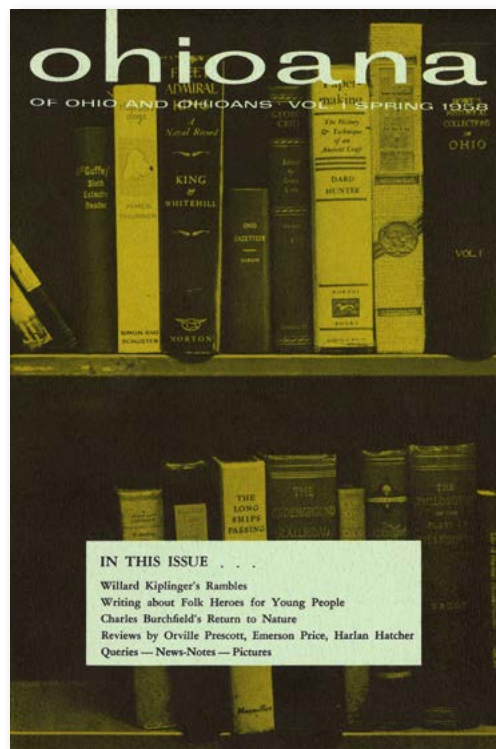
Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States. *I Love Lucy* had just finished its six-year run as the most popular series on television. The number one record on the charts was “Love Letters in the Sand,” sung by clean-cut Pat Boone. And the following announcement from the Ohioana Library appeared in the *Columbus Dispatch*:

NEW MAGAZINE TO BOOST OHIO AUTHORS AND BOOKS (Columbus, Ohio) – A new magazine, to deal with Ohio books and authors and tell Ohio’s cultural story, will be published by the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association, it was announced today. The magazine will be called *Ohioana: Of Ohio and Ohioans* and will appear quarterly. The first issue is scheduled for March 1958.

Walter Rumsey Marvin, executive director of the library, will serve as managing editor.

by Ohioans. We’ve explored Ohio Literary Landmarks and paid tribute to great Ohio authors of the past, such as James Thurber and Toni Morrison.

The *Quarterly* has also been the medium through which we have introduced the public to some of our most notable programs and events. Since 1982, the Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, named for our second director (and the *Quarterly*’s first editor), has been given to an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. Every year the winner not only receives a \$1,000 cash prize, but their winning entry is published in the fall *Quarterly*. For many readers, their first introduction to these writers is in the *Quarterly*. A number of Marvin recipients have gone on to great success and even come back as Ohioana Book Award winners and finalists: Anthony Doerr, Salvatore Scibona, Carter Sickels, Ellis Avery, Eliese Colette Goldbach, and Jeannie Vanasco, to name just a few.



Thus, the *Ohioana Quarterly* was born.

As we celebrate the *Quarterly*’s 65th anniversary, we look back at more than 250 issues, thousands of book reviews and summaries, and hundreds of features. These have included interviews with some of today’s most noted Ohio authors and illustrators, from Pulitzer Prize winners to Poet Laureates. We’ve produced articles ranging from the Harlem Renaissance to memoir to film adaptations of books

In 2007, the *Quarterly* introduced readers to what has become our best-known event. The first Ohioana Book Festival featured ten authors who had contributed to the book *Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio*. Today the Ohioana Book Festival is the single largest literary event in Ohio. Every spring *Quarterly* is devoted to the festival lineup of authors and books. Since 2015, an Ohio illustrator has been chosen to create official artwork for the festival, which is then adapted for the magazine cover.

In 2020, Ohioana launched our newest program—the Ohio Literary Trail, which shines a spotlight on Ohio’s role in shaping culture and literature worldwide. Following its introduction in the summer *Quarterly*, the Literary Trail quickly gained media attention around the state and beyond Ohio.

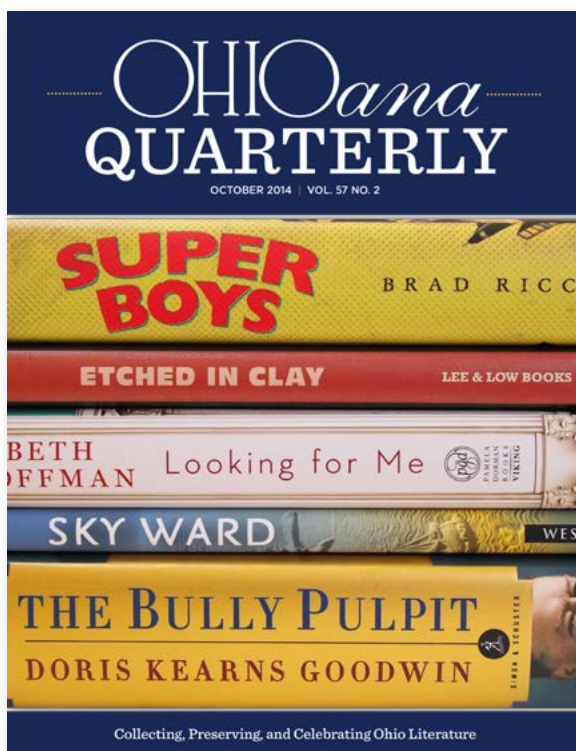
First and foremost, the *Ohioana Quarterly* is about books. Long-time Executive Director of the Ohio Arts Council Wayne Lawson remembers when the agency’s literature panel first supported funding for the publication:

I began bragging about Ohioana and the fact it was an incredible tool and should be applauded throughout the country. Advocating for the arts across the state most often highlighted the performing arts without mentioning the wealth of literature we had in Ohio. So many authors living and working in Ohio were seldom mentioned except for the *Quarterly*. Personally speaking, it gave me insight into what I was missing as an avid reader and the authors who needed to be recognized. We are a state rich in the literary arts and the *Quarterly* brings that home. Choices galore in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction—from which to select our next read.

We have been delighted to review multitudes of books over the decades, from debut authors’ first published titles to beloved authors’ bodies of work. Since the very first issue back in 1958, many, if not most, of the book reviews have been done by volunteers: librarians, educators, and enthusiastic readers. A good number have been done by professional writers,

both established and aspiring. One of those aspiring young writers, Brad Ricca, would go on to become an Ohioana Book Award winner:

I got my first assignment to write book reviews for the *Ohioana Quarterly* from my friend Elaine Arvan Andrews, who referred me to the great Kate Fox, the editor at the time. After I read the book, I chose every word carefully and worked for weeks to get under the word count. I wrote that review like it was going to be on the front page of the universe. It was some of my first published work and I remember looking at it for a very long time when it was finally printed. The author I reviewed was pretty famous and when he wrote a few weeks later to tell me how much he appreciated the review—well, that was just cool. The whole experience really pushed me to want to *be* one of those Ohio authors with a book featured in those pages, and now every time I do, I get a genuine thrill. Kate was also one of the best editors I’ve ever had. Years later, when I was utterly surprised and completely honored to win the Ohioana Book Award for *Super Boys*, Kate was at the ceremony, which absolutely made my night. I do not think I would have been there, if not for her early encouragement.



In the 65 years that have passed since that first issue appeared in March 1958, the look, size, and layout of the *Ohioana Quarterly* has undergone numerous transformations. But its purpose has never changed: to promote Ohio authors and books.

As Brad Ricca said, “The Quarterly is more than a gift to Ohio authors; it is a record, a celebration, and every time I get down about our state, I think about its radiance.”

In the Spotlight: Choose to Read Ohio

by David Weaver

In April, the State Library of Ohio announced the 2023 & 2024 Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) booklist. A joint project of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association in collaboration with the Ohio Center for the Book and the Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Council, CTRO supports libraries, schools, families, book clubs, and others in building communities of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature.

Each biennial CTRO booklist features twenty representative titles for all ages by creators born in, residing in, or associated with Ohio. The titles are selected by the CTRO Advisory Council with input from Ohio teachers, librarians, and others who champion readers and reading. CTRO spotlights books by exciting, talented creators who write across genres, explore a wide array of topics, and appeal to all age groups.

Since Choose to Read Ohio was first launched in 2009, the State Library of Ohio has announced each new biennial list in conjunction with the Ohioana Book Festival in the spring. Choose to Read Ohio plays a prominent role in each festival, with at least one panel comprised of CTRO authors. More than half of all the authors and illustrators who have been selected for Choose to Read Ohio lists since 2009 have been featured at the Ohioana Book Festival.

The new booklist includes some of the most acclaimed titles of recent years. Six authors and illustrators have

been on at least one prior list: Will Hillenbrand, Loren Long, Mindy McGinnis, Susan Orlean, Shelley Pearsall, and Mildred D. Taylor. Appearing on a CTRO booklist for the first time are Jashar Awan, John “Derf” Backderf, Harmony Becker, Jenn Bishop, Marcy Campbell, Eliese Colette Goldbach, Ellen Klages, Kristen Lepionka, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Debbie Rigaud, Phil Stamper, Tracy Subisak, and Andrea Wang. Ten of these authors and illustrators have been winners or finalists for the Ohioana Book Awards.



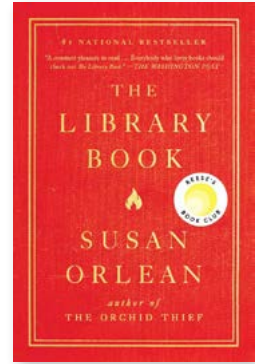
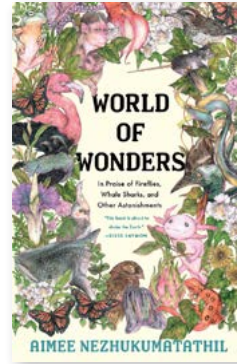
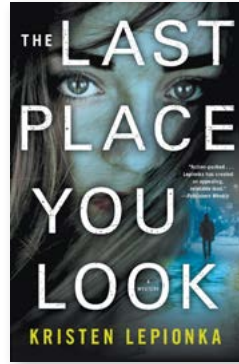
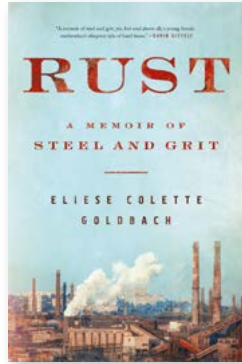
CTRO booklists follow a two-calendar-year program cycle, but readers are encouraged to read and share any current or past CTRO book at any time. Each CTRO book features a free downloadable readers’ toolkit packed with ideas and resources, including an author biography, discussion questions, activities, and links for further exploration of the book’s themes.

Toolkits for all CTRO titles through the 2021 & 2022 booklist (135 books in all!) are available online; toolkits for the 2023 & 2024 titles will be published starting in fall 2022.

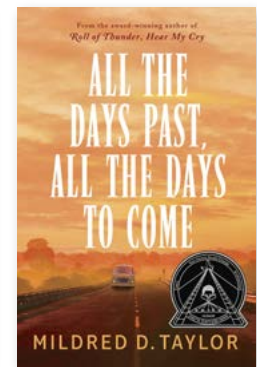
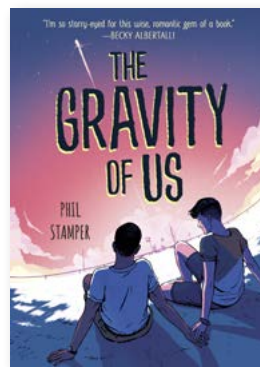
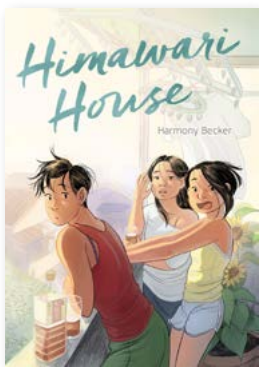
To learn more about Choose to Read Ohio, go to www.library.ohio.gov/ctro.

Special thanks to the State Library of Ohio’s Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Public Information Officer and Director, Marketing & Communications; and Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Library Consultant and CTRO Coordinator, for their help with this article.

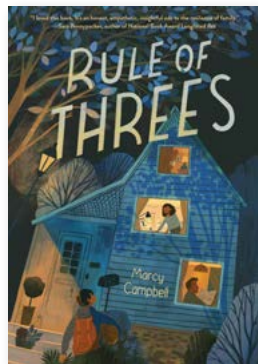
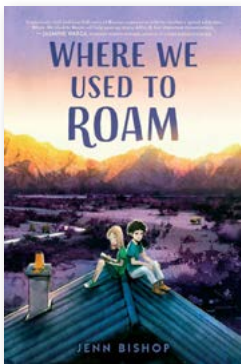
BOOKS FOR ADULTS



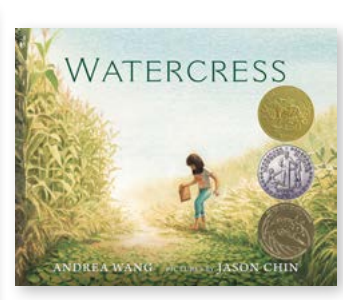
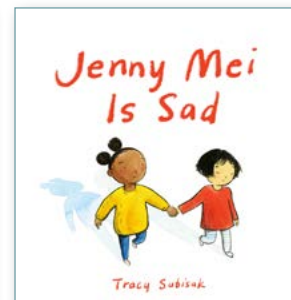
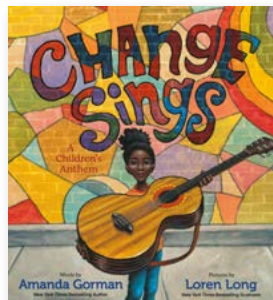
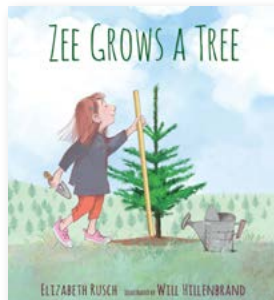
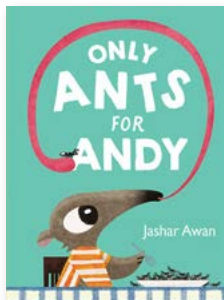
BOOKS FOR TEENS



BOOKS FOR TWEENS/MIDDLE GRADES



BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



A Conversation with Tracy Subisak: 2022 Floyd's Pick

by Kathryn Powers



Photo credit: Matthew Gendron

Tracy Subisak is a Taiwanese and Polish American author-illustrator. She has illustrated many books, including *This Book Is Not For You!* by bestselling author Shannon Hale and *Amah Faraway* by Margaret Chiu Greanias. Subisak grew up in Ohio and currently lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband, her dog Lala, and many, many plants. You can visit her online at tracysubisak.com and on Instagram at [@tracysubisak](https://www.instagram.com/tracysubisak).

Subisak's heartwarming book, *Jenny Mei is Sad*, is the winner of the 2022 Floyd's Pick Book Award. Created in 2015 to celebrate the legacy of children's librarian and advocate Floyd Dickman, Floyd's Pick is given annually to a book written or illustrated by an Ohioan that is representative of high-quality literature for children. Read on to learn more about the story behind *Jenny Mei is Sad*, as well as Subisak's artistic process, inspirations, and why she loves creating books for young children.

Q Your book, *Jenny Mei is Sad*, is the 2022 Floyd's Pick award winner. How did the concept for this story come to you?

A I began writing *Jenny Mei Is Sad* a month after my mother passed away from a heartbreaking battle with cancer. I was sad. And the feelings of grief were so confusing and came out in so many different forms, like anger. When I sat down to write, I was thinking about the friendships that were gently carrying me through that rough time and all the ways I felt supported. It's hard to know what to say or how to help a friend who is going through loss or deep sadness, and I wanted to share some ways to do that in this story.

Q *Jenny Mei is Sad* is the first book you have both authored and illustrated. How does the process of creating both the words and art differ from books where you've illustrated another author's text?

A I will start off by saying that I love illustrating other authors' texts. It's like there's a box provided for me (aka the manuscript), and I think to myself, "How can I color that box? Can I make the box a little longer? How can I enhance this box and make it shine?" Whereas authoring and illustrating my own story requires me to make the box from a tiny little idea. I need to gather all my tools and decide the shape, the materials, the way that I will construct the box, the color . . . all from scratch! There's a lot more freedom, but also a lot more work to be done!

Q What is your favorite part about creating books for children?

A My favorite part is to make readers happy—to help readers feel seen and to connect readers with a story in some way.

Q You have lived all over the world—Taiwan, South Korea, New York, San Francisco, and now Portland, OR—but started out in Ohio, where you were born and raised. Do you get back to Ohio often, and do you think your childhood in the Buckeye state helped inspire you to pursue a career in creating children's books?



Artwork in progress for *Jenny Mei Is Sad*.
(Photo credit: Tracy Subisak)

A My immediate family is in Ohio, so I visit quite often! I grew up drawing all the time and was lucky to take classes from places like CCAD and Thurber House, and to publish a collection of authored and illustrated books in my early years at the “publishing house” at High Point Elementary. Beyond that, my childhood core memories are a huge part of how I got into creating children’s books!

Q Floyd Dickman was a passionate advocate for children’s literature. How does it feel to be a representation of his legacy in supporting literacy for children and families?

A Oh goodness! It’s an honor! I am truly honored to represent any librarian’s legacy, let alone Floyd Dickman, in the pursuit of supporting literacy for children and families!

Q Representation is so important in children’s books. As the daughter of a Taiwanese mother and an American father who was the son of Polish and Slovakian immigrant parents, do you feel the publishing industry is making strides in uplifting AAPI and other diverse voices and ensuring books are “mirrors and windows” for children? What message (or messages) do you hope your books share with young readers?

A I started to pursue my career in children’s books just when the call to action for diverse books began. I love that publishing houses have stepped up and made

moves to advocate and represent AAPI and other diverse voices. I very much hope my readers can see themselves and their community in my books, and for others to gain more understanding of those communities.

Q 2022 has already been a busy year for you! Can you tell us about the two new books you illustrated that have been released this year, *Amah Faraway* written by Margaret Chiu Greanias, and *This Book is Not for You* by Shannon Hale?

A Yes, of course! *Amah Faraway*, written by Margaret Chiu Greanias, is about a girl, Kylie, who visits her Amah (Taiwanese for ‘grandma’) in Taiwan for the first time. She faces a lot of new experiences in Taipei with apprehension and nothing feels familiar to her, until one day when she visits the hot springs with her Amah—then everything changes! This book is a great read for anyone who has a loved one far away. I have a lot of personal connection to this story, since my Waipo (Mandarin for ‘grandma’) lives in Taiwan. It was such a joy to illustrate and put little details and memories from my time with my family in beautiful Taiwan.

This Book Is Not for You! by Shannon Hale addresses, in a rather clever and hilarious way, gender-normative stereotypes of who can read what books—that books with girls shouldn’t be limited to being read by girls, books with cats shouldn’t be limited to being read by cats, etc. Anyone can read any book they please! This is such a great read-aloud with an important message, and I still chuckle whenever I think of certain scenes in this book.

Q Can you share anything with us about book projects you are currently working on?

A I just wrapped up my next author-illustrated book, *Sorry, Snail*. It’s a very silly story about a girl who takes her anger out on a snail to discover that the snail demands a sincere apology. This book was so much fun to write and illustrate! It’s coming out in May 2023 with Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. I am also set to illustrate *Mixed Up Mooncakes* by Erica Lyons and Christina Matula with Quill Tree—a biracial holiday story where a girl gets ready for both Sukkot and the Mid-Autumn Festival by baking a unique treat to celebrate her Jewish and Chinese heritage. It is slated to publish in fall 2024.

Book Reviews

NONFICTION

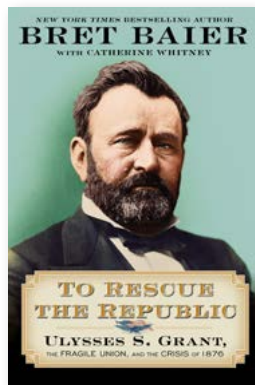
Baier, Bret, and Catherine Whitney. *To Rescue the Republic: Ulysses S. Grant, the Fragile Union, and the Crisis of 1876*.

New York, NY: Custom House, 2021.

As we continue to commemorate the bicentennial of Ulysses S. Grant's birth (see *Ohioana Quarterly*, Vol. 65, No. 1, Winter 2022, for more about Grant), Bret Baier's *To Rescue the Republic* jumps to the top of the list of required reading for both academic scholars and casual historians alike. A quick read, this book takes the reader from Grant's boyhood struggles in Ohio, moving up through the ranks in the military, tribulations of the politics of the era, his presidency, and his eventual declining health where one last battle is fought.

Pursuing a narrative about such a towering figure in American military and political life is a daunting task, indeed; yet Baier and his co-author Catherine Whitney have done us the great service of distilling many facets of Grant's life into well-footnoted chapters that can be readily absorbed.

As so much has been written about the Civil War actions of General Grant, I am focusing more upon the second half of the book dealing with post-Civil War politics. Grant, a fixture of the Union Army, was pressed into postwar civil duties and found himself having to contend with the realities of Reconstruction and his opinion that the federal government was not doing enough to "protect the rights of Southern Blacks." Grant's disdain for President Andrew Johnson, coupled with his belief in the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause, set him on a course to transition from a military to a political leader. As the Radical Republican movement faded away—a movement that had thwarted President Johnson's Reconstruction



bill vetoes with overrides—it was replaced by what was called “moderate Republicanism,” and Grant was viewed as a principled moderate who “fit the national mood.” Grant was nominated as the Republican candidate for president and was elected in 1868. His first political speech upon learning of his nomination ended with “... in whatever position I may be called by your will, I shall endeavor to discharge its duties with fidelity and honesty of purpose.” “Let us have peace” became a campaign slogan. (Notably, Grant's old friend and fellow Ohioan General Sherman warned Grant's wife Julia of the politicking to come: “It is not what he has done, but what they will say he has done, and they will prove too that Grant is a very bad man indeed. The fact is, you will be astonished to find what a bad man you have for a husband.”)

Grant was sworn in by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase on March 4, 1869. Grant's mother chose not to attend as the hoopla was unseemly. His speech focused on the national debt, voting rights, and preserving the Union. Grant made mention in his speech of “the proper treatment of the original occupants of this land—the Indians—is one deserving of careful study.” Topics raised by President Grant regarding fair, or at least better, treatment of people living in the United States of America are quite prescient. Baier's comparison of Grant to Eisenhower, in terms of the military man ascending to the presidency as an anti-politician, is fascinating.

After his two terms as president, Baier notes Grant considered, but rejected, seeking a third term. At that time, the two-term limitation was a precedent set by George Washington rather than a Constitutional provision, which was adopted after FDR's four elections to the presidency. The contentious election of 1876 found Ohioan Rutherford B. Hayes taking the White House by a vote of the US House, as no candidates secured the majority of the Electoral College. Baier's detour into Hayes' background is warranted. The charges of election stealing and allegations of fraud are quite familiar to modern citizens, as it was to those in our nation's centennial year. Grant feared the result of this tumultuous election process would be a massive

lack of trust in the very institutions maintaining our Republic. The compromise allowing Hayes to take the White House over Democratic candidate Samuel Tilden led to the end of the Reconstruction Era as President Grant pulled the federal troops out of much of the American South. Grant's belief in Reconstruction was edged out by his belief in preserving the Union. The actions taken in 1876 have repercussions, especially for Black Americans, to this day. The Bitter Divide chapter should be required reading for all students of American political history—it informs of times past, present, and future. The cost of compromise, viewed through Baier's lens, is instructive.

BRIAN M. PERERA'S CAREER IN GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION SPANS OVER THIRTY YEARS. AN AVID READER AND LIBRARY SUPPORTER, HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE OHIOANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN 2018.

Butcher, Amy. *Mothertrucker: Finding Joy on the Loneliest Road in America*.

Seattle, WA: Little A, 2021.

On first glance, Ohio journalist and professor Amy Butcher had very little in common with Joy “Mothertrucker” Wiebe, the only female truck driver on Alaska's Dalton Highway, the most dangerous road in the United States. But Instagram posts (@alaskamothertrucker) featuring the beauty of the Alaskan landscape alongside photos of Joy's family, beloved animals, and her frank comments about her love of God, intrigued and delighted Amy enough to contact her.

Gradually, a friendship blossomed. Amy was privately suffering, entangled in an abusive relationship that had such a hold on her that she felt consumed by it, losing her sense of self and identity to the point that she felt herself crumbling into despair. She was also haunted by the vicious murder of a friend by the friend's partner (recounted in detail in Amy's book *Visiting Hours*). When Amy found out that Joy, too, had been a victim of domestic violence, their friendship deepened to the point that Amy found it almost spiritual.



When Amy proposes an article all about Joy and her job, entailing an in-person visit from Amy, Joy doesn't hesitate to say “yes.” So Amy flees her abusive boyfriend, who really doesn't want her to go on the trip, and meets up with Joy in Alaska. She meets Joy's husband and children, and finally gets to see, in-person, those beautiful landscapes and all the animals Joy loves. They make plans to travel the Dalton Highway together.

Most of the book is Amy and Joy in Joy's pickup truck, traveling down the highway and ruminating on life. Joy is insightful and kind; the friendship quickly deepens between the two, despite the initial misgivings they both had about befriending someone from the internet. Having begun all of my own most important, lasting friendships initially online, this felt completely normal to me, and I empathized with how quickly these two very different people found common ground.

Mothertrucker, a 2022 Ohioana Book Award finalist in the nonfiction category, is not an easy read. Amy is frank about her abusive domestic relationship. (Thankfully, she has since broken up with the man she refers to with the pseudonym “Dave” in the book.) She and Joy discuss the sexism and hardship Joy faces as the only woman on her perilous truck route. The specters of violence and abusive men haunt all of their conversations and Amy's thoughts, as she tries to consider the advice from Joy and what she should do at home.

Amy points out: “The year I met Joy was a consistently dangerous year for women in America. We were killed in public parks and parking lots, on sidewalks, and in our cars. We were killed, too, in basements and back bedrooms and on front porches while babies slept.” Violence against women, and domestic violence in particular, still makes people uncomfortable when it is discussed. However, this is an important and necessary discussion, and stories like Joy's and Amy's make it easier for other women to come forward, as well as help those who have never experienced domestic violence to better understand it.

Sadly, fifty-year-old Joy passed away on August 23, 2018. She was on the last part of a solo trip on the Dalton Highway, when her truck overturned and crushed her. The last photo she took, a blurry sunset shot from behind her truck window, can be seen on her Instagram page; the caption below it announces her death. Amy traveled back to Alaska for Joy's funeral, witnessing

one of the largest trucker funerals ever held: over eighty trucks, twenty-six pilot cars, and a tour bus with people who wanted to show their support all paraded down the highway, honking at even more people who gathered on the side of the road to wave and hold signs in support of Joy and her surviving family.

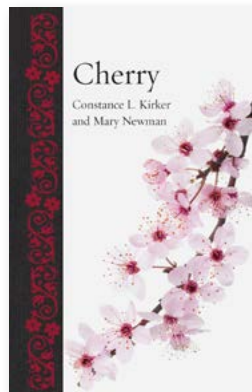
Though this is a sad book, it also feels like a necessary one. Friendships still seem to take a backseat to romantic relationships, both in popular culture and in real life. A beautiful friendship between two women who didn't know they needed each other was a refreshing and inspirational read. Despite all the hardships faced by both Amy and Joy, and Joy's sad death, I came out of this book with a sense of hope, uplifted by the whole story and by Amy's incredible, honest writing.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA LIBRARIAN

Kirker, Constance L., and Mary Newman.
Cherry.

London, UK: Reaktion Books Ltd., 2021.

Kirker and Newman's *Cherry* introduces the reader to a plethora of information about the cherry tree. From cherry blossoms and cherry products to cherry history and culture, the reader comes away with a well-rounded knowledge about the important and valuable part this tree plays in our world. Detailed descriptions and facts allow the reader to realize the cherry tree's significant role in many cultures and communities including festivals, foods, furniture, art, folklore, literature, and nature. With its cozy book size, creative cover, and end pages, *Cherry* is a delight to read.



Kirker and Newman's thorough research in *Cherry* presents information in a very readable and interesting format. Each chapter focuses on a specific aspect of the cherry tree, with the facts further supported through photographs and artwork. For example, Kirker and Newman take the famous cherry trees of Washington, DC—known and admired for their beautiful spring display—a step further, explaining the historical

background such as why these trees were established in our US capital, and how they are maintained today. While reading *Cherry*, I found each chapter fascinating and was intrigued by the many art connections, especially with the cherry as a theme in paintings and creations made from its wood. When seeing various art forms that include the cherry, either as a symbol or a main theme, it is easy to appreciate the widespread influence the cherry has had on different cultures throughout history. At the end of the book, many useful resources are provided to encourage the reader to learn more, whether it is a festival date, a museum website, a YouTube video, a timeline, or a recipe.

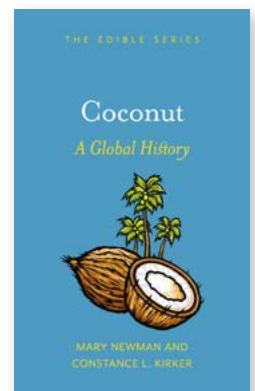
Cherry is a delightful, informative book. It is the perfect way to discover more about the cherry tree and its fruit, while understanding the many remarkable ways the cherry impacts our world.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

Kirker, Constance L., and Mary Newman.
Coconut: A Global History (The Edible Series).

London, UK: Reaktion Books Ltd., 2022.

Kirker and Newman's *Coconut: A Global History* is an amazing book filled with history and facts about the coconut. It is a very readable, user-friendly book with informative photos to further explain and show the many food options and uses of the coconut.



Coconut: A Global History recounts the history of the coconut from its botanical information, to its cultural history and folklore, to geographical importance, and to its role in the future. The coconut provides many everyday products and foods that we take for granted. It is a natural resource with all parts used to create a variety of products—oil, milk, edible flower, meat, sugar, flour, rope, bowls, hearts of palm, and more. Kirker and Newman explain how the various cultures that grow and produce coconuts value this plant and include it in foods served at special celebrations, as well as at daily meals. The photographs throughout the book add to the descriptions. Included at the end of the book are many

valuable resources including websites, associations, a bibliography, reference notes, coconut-themed menus, and recipes. I found the recipes especially interesting, since they vary in time period, country of origin, and food group. Whether choosing Mrs. Beeton's Coconut Soup recipe from 1861 or Michelle Obama's Crustless Coconut Pie, each recipe offers a coconut culinary delight.

After reading this book, my appreciation for and understanding of the coconut and its many uses has grown. Now when I bake with coconut palm sugar or coconut flour, I am aware of their background and significance. For anyone interested in the cultural history and value of foods, *Coconut: A Global History* is a worthwhile read and an ideal book to include in a cookbook collection.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

Kuron, Frank E. *Sketches of Intriguing People and the Curious Events They Suffered While Living in the Wilderness of the Northwest Territory.*

Toledo, OH: Kuron Publishing, 2020.

In the preface to Frank E. Kuron's collection of adventure stories of the Northwest Territory, the author suggests that his sketches will help readers decide whether frontier families were really that emotionally and morally different from us today. Even though the exploits of the frontier folk he discovered in diaries, letters, memoirs, newspaper accounts, and military reports may seem unimaginable to us, they were also regarded as exceptional in their own time. These vignettes reveal that the hardy pioneers of the wilderness—whether settlers, soldiers, traders, devout Christians, or indomitable Indigenous American fighters—were just as morally flawed and emotionally vulnerable as people today, although Kuron obviously admires them.

Certainly, these little-known dramas transport us to a time and place where ever-present danger vivified human experience. The author wanted “to spotlight

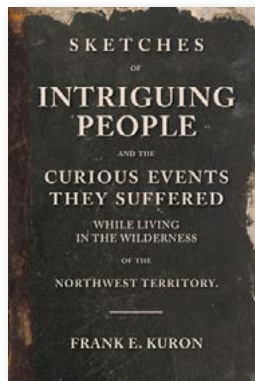
the qualities of people—bravery, cowardice, heroism, philosophy, and even humor,” not write definitive biography. But there is a great deal of detailed history in the book, especially of Northwest Ohio, since Kuron lives in Toledo. The seventeen sketches portrayed in this 323-page book also contain many eyewitness accounts that enliven the text with the voices of people who actually experienced the curious events recounted. Kuron wrote, “People spoke differently back then. Some were uneducated and hard to understand, but others had a wit and romanticism in their words. Either way, it's fascinating to hear centuries-old stories in the first person.” Sixty illustrations complement the stories, as well as numerous little anecdotes that add humor.

The book begins with the story of Isaac Hamblin, an American expatriate who had been living as a prosperous farmer in what is now southern Ontario, Canada. Although “a man of deep faith,” Hamblin was drawn into the War of 1812 after thwarting a plot by General Henry Proctor, commander of the British and Canadian forces, to massacre all Americans in Hamblin's community. Proctor retaliated by imprisoning Hamblin at Fort Malden, tying him in a torturous manner, and commandeering his fine horses and prized wagon in preparation for the attack on Fort Meigs at the Maumee River.

When General William Henry Harrison defeated Proctor at Fort Meigs and pursued his forces into Canada, he encountered Isaac Hamblin—still bound—near the now-deserted Fort Malden. Proctor had “wound him up in a large rope like scythe blades are usually wound up, commencing at his feet, and passing the rope around his body, arms, and legs, up to his neck. In this condition, he lay seventeen days and nights.” Hamblin also testified that the general and his ally, the Shawnee war chief Tecumseh, kicked and taunted him daily.

Although unsteady from his ordeal (and also a civilian), the resolute captive asked to join Harrison's forces. Harrison allowed this because Hamblin was the only one among his company that could identify Tecumseh. In the ensuing Battle of the Thames, Hamblin fought among the forefront of men and was nearby when the war chief was killed. He later wrote a thrilling eyewitness account of the event.

Frank Kuron's first book *Thus Fell Tecumseh* (2011) documents and analyzes the many conflicting



accounts of Tecumseh's death. Included in his *Sketches of Intriguing People* is a long chapter entitled "The Brothers Clairvoyant" about Tecumseh and his brother called The Prophet. In this chapter, he explores the spiritual beliefs of the famous pair; an aspect, he says, that noted historians frequently gloss over.

Most, but not all, of the sketches involve military conflict. The author states that friendships and business relationships were common among the opposing factions of the frontier and the "discovery of good traits would reward those who took the time to develop one-on-one relationships with each other."

Thus, he ends with the lengthy story of the life of Eleanor Lytle, who was abducted by Indigenous Americans in 1779 when she was nine years old. Her parents repeatedly offered a ransom for her return, but the little girl had been adopted by the prominent Chief Cornplanter whose Seneca tribesmen treated her like royalty. No matter what the Lytles offered to pay for her recovery, Cornplanter replied that his "little sister" was dear to him and that he would not part with her. After four years, however, Cornplanter relented and reunited the girl with her mother; Eleanor never forgot her adoring Seneca friend.

True to Kuron's words on the back cover of *Sketches of Intriguing People*, the fascinating episodes retold in this book really do give readers a "rare and raw glimpse into some of the most daring lives lived on the frontier."

For more information on Frank E. Kuron and his nonfiction work, visit www.kuronpublishing.com.

REVIEWED BY CARROLL MCCUNE, FREELANCE WRITER, HASKINS, OH

FICTION

Beard, Janet. *The Ballad of Laurel Springs*. New York, NY: Gallery Books, 2021.

The Ballad of Laurel Springs is a family story that touches more than seven generations of women living in the backcountry of Appalachia. The book begins in the present when Grace is asked to write a family history, then jumps back to 1907 and the life of Pearl, Grace's 4th-great-grandmother. The narrative follows the

generations of women and their trials, tribulations, and turbulent marriages, ultimately circling back to Grace.

Woven throughout the different generations and stories is the ballad "Pretty Polly"—a tragic folksong about a teenage girl murdered by her lover. According to Grace's family's lore, the song is about Pearl. The lives of the women who follow Pearl are eerily similar. Each one is touched by death and haunted by love, always pointing back to "Pretty Polly."

Each compelling story throughout *The Ballad of Laurel Springs* draws the reader in. The book is a puzzle wrapped around a string of tragic tales and intergenerational trauma. Armed with the knowledge of the past, can Grace somehow escape the fate of the women in her family and their men? You'll have to read this deliciously crafted mystery with a touch of thriller, and laced with ghostly echoes, to find out.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

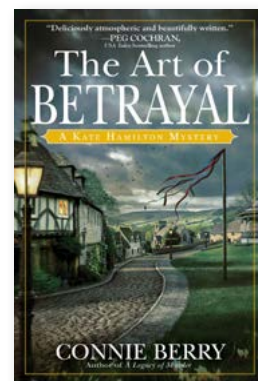
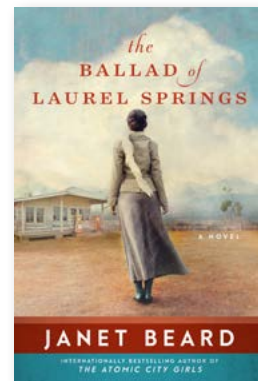
Berry, Connie. *The Art of Betrayal: A Kate Hamilton Mystery #3*.

New York, NY: Crooked Lane Books, 2021.

It's May in England, a month when the weather is sometimes sunny and life is fairly quiet. Antiques dealer Kate Hamilton is in the idyllic Suffolk town of Long Barston, helping Ivor Tweedy with his Cabinet of Curiosities Antiques store while he's recovering from hip surgery.

Kate has come to Long Barston for a second reason—to visit with Detective Inspector Tom Mallory and explore their deepening relationship. Right now, DI Mallory has been working to break up a drug smuggling ring.

On a quiet afternoon, Evelyn Villiers comes to the store with a Húnpíng Chinese stoneware jar from the Han dynasty period. It's quite beautiful and very rare, but



Kate recognizes the type of stoneware immediately. When Villiers says she wants to sell it privately and quietly at a discrete auction, Kate suspects there might be more to the story, but Villiers is secretive and jittery. In the end, Kate puts the jar in a safe place in the shop's storeroom and Villiers heads back to her home in Little Gosling.

That night is the local May Fair, the annual pageant based on a well-known Anglo-Saxon folktale of the Green Maiden. The legend is older than *Beowulf*. During the pageant, Villiers is killed, and her Chinese jar goes missing from the shop.

Now Kate's on the hunt for the jar, Villiers' suspicious and missing daughter, Lucy, and the motive behind the murder and robbery. DI Mallory is no slouch in the detection department, and his attention is split between the murder, the theft, and his drug smuggling case. It won't surprise readers to learn that Kate uses her wealth of antiques knowledge, along with her keen perception for falsehoods, to discover just what's been going on in Long Barston under the noses of its residents and the local police.

Connie Berry crafts a complex mystery filled with antiques, family ties, misdirection, and quirky characters. The mystery starts on the very first page and doesn't let go until the very last. Readers new to the series can either read the books in order or just jump in with this third title; Berry provides plenty of backstory, so you won't get lost.

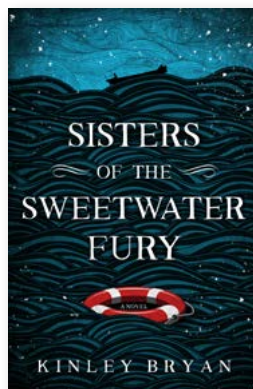
REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

Bryan, Kinley. *Sisters of the Sweetwater Fury*.

Hilton Head Island, SC: Blue Mug Press, 2021.

One storm on the Great Lakes in November 1913, two freighters, and three sisters are the focus of this tale of a devastating blizzard on the "high seas" of the inland waters.

Sunny Colvin is a cook on the *Titus Brown*, a freighter on its last voyage of the season. She serves on the ship along with her husband, Herb, who is a steward.



Cordelia Blythe, newly married to Edmund (captain of his freighter), is on her first voyage on the Great Lakes. She'd hoped for a romantic honeymoon journey, but realizes the Great Lakes may have something else in store for her.

Agnes Inby, a widow of three years, lives with—and cares for—their mother. She's adrift since her husband, a brave US Life-Saving Serviceman, died in an accident at sea. She's become fascinated with the lighthouse that serves the coast of Lake Huron and wishes for her unsatisfying life to change.

When the storm hits the Great Lakes, all three sisters are caught in the blizzard. The seas are treacherous; the freighters struggle against the waves and hurricane-force winds. Sunny, Cordelia, their husbands, and the freighters are all caught in the teeth of the howling storm and must fight their way back to safety. On land, Agnes is trapped by the ice and snow that has blanketed the shoreline, preventing her safe return to her mother's house.

Kinley Bryan whips up a storm of a thriller featuring danger on the inland waters of the Great Lakes. The tension increases slowly over the first fourth of the book. Once the storm hits, Bryan raises the stakes with intense depictions of the storm that each sister experiences and must endure. Told in chapters separated by sister, the tension builds as the water rises and waves lash the ships and shore. Chapter breaks echo the calm between breaking waves, disrupting the tension and testing the reader's need to know what happens to each sister.

Bryan's debut novel draws from real events of November 8, 1913, crafting a thriller about the terror of the storm and the resiliency of ships, their crews, and the stalwart communities who reside on the Great Lakes.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, MLS, COLUMBUS, OH

Scalzi, John. *The Kaiju Preservation Society*.

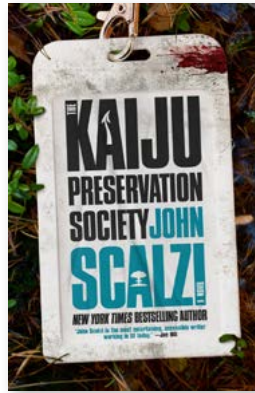
New York, NY: Tor Books, 2022.

John Scalzi, award-winning author, world-famous Internet celebrity, and long-time resident of Bradford, Ohio, has written a new science fiction novel that is a treat for both longtime fans and new readers.

It's 2020 and Jamie has just been laid off from start-up fűdműd (pronounced "Food Mood"), a blatant Uber Eats and Grubhub rip-off run by billionaire Rob Sanders. Sanders doesn't care much about Jamie's predicament—living with two also-broke roommates in a terrible apartment, as a pandemic rages the planet. Jamie is humiliated to accept a job as a food delivery person at the company, rather than the executive position Sanders had previously promised. Jamie goes through the motions, miserable and depressed, masked and paranoid, just like the rest of the world has been in the real-life pandemic.

Then a streak of unexpected luck hits Jamie like lightning. A frequent food delivery customer, Tom, mentions that he can get Jamie a job at the "animal rights organization" he works for. Jamie, though vastly underqualified and clueless as to what this secret organization actually does, decides to accept. (The promises of a HUGE sign-on bonus and salary, plus early access to the COVID vaccine, are too tempting to resist.)

The animals Tom and his team care for aren't normal animals. Nor are they on Earth—at least, not our Earth. They are kaiju—enormous, terrifying behemoths named after kaiju-eiga, monsters from iconic Japanese movies like *Godzilla* and Hollywood blockbusters like *Pacific Rim*. Jamie and the other newbies recruited by Tom—Niamh, Kahurangi, and Aperna—are transported to a parallel Earth through a portal, where these creatures live. They are so big that the biologists studying them refer to them as "biological systems" rather than "animals." The kaiju fight, mate, brood, endure parasites as big as cows—oh, and some of them die, releasing nuclear energy in a blast so large it is like one thousand Hiroshimas. It's this nuclear energy that



enabled scientists to discover the parallel Earth and the creatures, as well as develop the technology to travel there to study them. It is this energy that fuels a lot of the plot.

The Kaiju Preservation Society is a blast to read. It evokes many 1980s and 1990s-era adventure novels, particularly those of Michael Crichton, which feature a "regular" person like Jamie surrounded by ultra-intelligent scientists, engineers, and other extremely smart people who patiently explain things to that character—and to the reading audience. However, the book is seasoned with Scalzi's signature humor; it is absurd, occasionally vulgar, and laugh-out-loud funny. Even when people are in peril, the friendship and humor of the characters is evident, often infusing extremely intense action sequences with a bit of brevity that never feels out of place. Scalzi's books are always filled with diverse, interesting characters who the reader cares about and roots for, and villains so outrageous that the reader doesn't mind when they get (possibly) stomped by a giant monster.

This is a stand-alone novel, which is truly refreshing in a world where every book seems to be part of a series, but I would definitely read more about Jamie and friends, and I hope this becomes a TV series. Scalzi describes this book as a "pop song" rather than "a brooding symphony of a novel." This is by design. It's the perfect book to read after living through our dire, real-world events of the past few years. This funny, engaging book is a great escape for an afternoon, and you'll probably read it straight through, as I did.

REVIEWED BY COURTNEY BROWN, OHIOANA LIBRARIAN

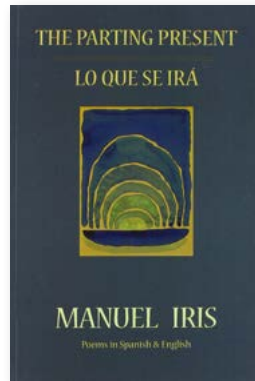
POETRY

Iris, Manuel. *The Parting Present / Lo que se irá*.

Loveland, OH: Dos Madres Press, 2022.

As I finished Manuel Iris' book, *The Parting Present / Lo que se irá*, for the second time, I found myself thoroughly considering the relationship between silence, writing, and poetry. If the silence is "not on the blank page, but behind the ink," I now understand why blank space on the page is so integral to poetry (Iris 93). We

must allow space for the ultimate muse that is silence. The blank spaces on the page of a poetry book allow me to digest and interpret the content more readily. If a page is completely covered in words, one would likely just turn the page rather than stopping to pause and reflect. This is why readers approach poetry books differently—knowing that the weight of each word matters in a distinct way.



This book turned my confused idea of poetry on its head. I had never felt so confronted by a book before. *The Parting Present / Lo que se irá* reads like a roadmap to reimagine what poetry can be. I stopped writing after I took a poetry class because I wanted to fully immerse myself in reading poetry before writing more. However, the more poetry books I read, the more I became frustrated and discouraged with how “off” my original idea of poetry seemed. I finally realized that I was searching for a book to tell me what poetry is. Luckily, I stumbled upon *The Parting Present / Lo que se irá*. Reading this book reminded me that poetry is not only about one’s choice of words, but it is also about timing and letting different muses call out to you. Sometimes we simply need to hear or read a common word or concept described in a novel way to foster a fresh perspective. This is why poetry is such a dynamic and powerful form of expression.

There was a point for me in the pandemic where I stopped letting any “muses” call out to me. Somehow, with so much tragedy and chaos in the world, I stopped paying attention to the mundanities of life that used to inspire me. I didn’t do it on purpose, but I rarely ever felt inspired by my own life. I forgot how to be open-minded and curious. Thankfully, I wasn’t too far gone to be transformed by this magical poetry book!

The poet acknowledges some tragedy and suffering in this book, but his words ultimately inspire hope and urge the reader to take action when their own muses beckon. I know Manuel Iris dedicated this book to his daughter, but I believe the poet knew many others would benefit from hearing these poems. This book exemplifies a core truth of poetry. Iris demonstrates the concept of “translating silence . . . which becomes poetry.” In all my

studies, I have never heard someone describe the act of writing poetry so poignantly and accurately. While some poets seem to write in a way that assumes authority, Iris speaks directly to the heart. The author knows he must work to gain authority with each poetic revelation—exalting human miracles and speaking of mystery concretely, rather than only alluding to it.

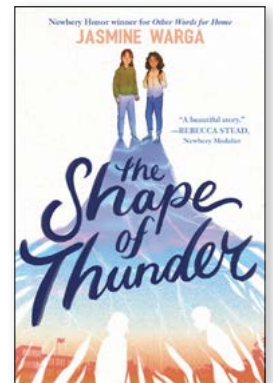
While I read these poems in English, this book would be perfect for bilingual readers who speak Spanish and English. Every poem in the book includes an English version and a Spanish version. I find this feature of his work very pertinent because multilingual writers often receive inquiry concerning the language they write in. From the perspective of accessibility and inclusiveness, it is admirable for Iris to write in both languages—expanding his audience to speakers and readers of both English and Spanish.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM NORDINE, OHIOANA LIBRARY ASSISTANT

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Warga, Jasmine. *The Shape of Thunder*. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2021.

Cora and Quinn have been next door neighbors and best friends for their entire lives, until tragedy tears them apart: Mabel, Cora’s sister, is shot and killed by Parker, Quinn’s brother, in a school shooting. The book takes place one year later, and grieving Cora hasn’t spoken to Quinn since the terrible incident, blaming her in part for her brother’s actions. Shouldn’t Quinn have realized what Parker was going to do and stopped him? But on Cora’s twelfth birthday, she receives a box with a note from Quinn—and a promise that if they work together, the former friends can go back in time and fix everything.



Science and fact-obsessed Cora is skeptical but finds herself drawn to the research she reads on wormholes and the fabric of the universe. A spark of hope ignites that she can’t resist, even if it means letting Quinn back into her life—which she feels betrays Mabel’s memory.

As the two girls work together—blending Cora’s scientific method of problem solving with Quinn’s intuition and creative thinking—traces of their support and love for one another slowly return. But will either of them be able to move forward if they can’t figure out how to change the past?

The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga is equal parts heartwarming and heart-wrenching. Told in alternating chapters from each girl’s point of view, the reader sees both sides of the complicated story, intimately experiencing how Cora and Quinn cope with the loss of their siblings through a tumult of emotion: grief, guilt, anger, sadness, disbelief, and desperation. Quinn’s chapters are particularly poignant, featuring letters she writes to Parker as she processes her feelings and memories. The letters tell the tale of a brother who turned into a stranger, and a world that shares in the blame. Warga presents the powerful, difficult subjects in this book in a way that is approachable to a younger audience, ultimately leading readers to a message of love and hope for a better future.

This is the perfect book to start conversations on the challenging, important issues facing our world today. These issues affect readers young and old, but all can work together towards positive change.

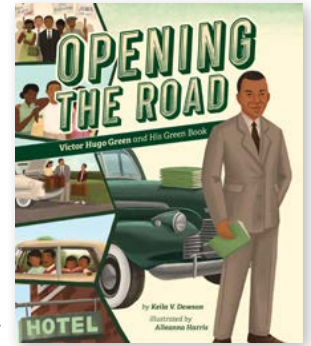
REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS, OHIOANA LIBRARY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND SCBWI REGIONAL ADVISOR

JUVENILE

Dawson, Keila V. *Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book*. Illus. by Alleanna Harris.

Minneapolis, MN: Beaming Books, 2021.

Like millions of Americans in the 1930s, Victor Hugo Green wanted to take his family on vacation, but as an African American, he knew that the trip might not be so easy. Many hotels, restaurants, and gas stations were not equally available to Black people at the time, and it was difficult to know where one might be turned away, or worse. But then, Green had an idea: a guidebook of places open and welcoming to African American travelers and their families. He called the guidebook *The Negro Motorist Green Book*.



In this thought-provoking and inspiring true story set during the era of racial segregation and unjust Jim Crow laws, Dawson takes readers of all ages on a journey with Victor Hugo Green as he creates what would become a best-selling and (unfortunately) needed travelers’ guide for Black Americans in the mid-twentieth century.

Beautiful and evocative illustrations by Alleanna Harris perfectly accompany Dawson’s text. One picture of a car driving through darkness, the headlights illuminating the unfolding open road, is particularly moving. There is also a helpful, detailed highway-shaped timeline that marks key moments in the quest for Civil Rights.

The book ends on a forward-looking note—an acknowledgment of how far our country has come in the pursuit of racial equality, tempered by the understanding that we still have a long way to go.

This is essential reading that shines a light on injustice in the not-so-distant past for children—and adults—eager to learn more.

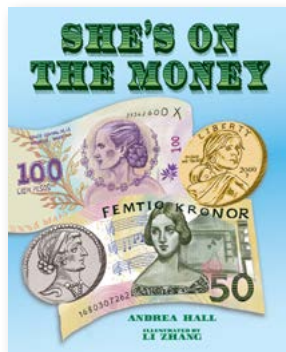
REVIEWED BY JODY CASELLA, WRITER, LOVER OF LIBRARIES,
AND GROWER OF VEGETABLES

Hall, Andrea. *She's on the Money*.

Illus. by Li Zhang.

Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2021.

A clever title for an informative nonfiction picture book, *She's on the Money* presents an overview of fifteen women who have appeared on money at different time periods and in different geographic locations. Author Andrea Hall teams up with illustrator Li Zhang to create a book that is both historically accurate and enjoyable to read.



Fifteen historically significant women and facts about them and their cultures are highlighted in *She's on the Money*. Written chronologically, many time periods are represented—from Egypt's Cleopatra (69-30 BCE) to the Dominican Republic's Mirabal sisters (1920s-1960). Each of these women had a significant impact on her culture, whether it be as an artist, a revolutionary, a politician, or a scientist. Not only does Hall include details about the different eras, but she also includes facts that let the reader know the contributions each woman made. These contributions led to honoring them on money, both paper and coins, and some also appeared on stamps.

As a retired teacher, I always looked to picture books as a way to discuss important topics with students. Finding useful nonfiction picture books can be a challenge at times, but Hall has added another helpful classroom resource. *She's on the Money* is a perfect book to use for read-aloud discussions, as a research resource book, and for Women's History Month.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between March and May, 2022. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

NONFICTION

Betti, Tom, and Doreen Uhas Sauer. ***Forgotten Landmarks of Columbus***. Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2021.

As the crossroads city of the Midwest, Columbus has always thrived. Over the years, many of the city's most important and most beautiful buildings—packed with marble, ornate metalwork, painted ceilings, and glitz and glamour—have been reduced to dust or left in disrepair. Union Station and stately mansions of well-to-do industrialists are no longer there to tell the story of the city. The Alfred Kelley Mansion, the Chittenden Hotel, the Franklin County Courthouse, and the Walk of Wonders in the Great Western Shopping Center were lost, but the palatial Ohio Theatre and the modest Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Home, both designated National Historic Landmarks, were saved. Tom Betti and Doreen Uhas Sauer, authors of *Historic Hotels of Columbus* and *Historic Taverns of Columbus*, recapture stories and memories of a forgotten Columbus.

Case, JRW. ***Cycling Through Columbine***. Huron, OH: Bottom Dog Press, 2022.

This book is at once a memoir, a travelogue, and a look at a notorious school massacre, written by an author coming to terms with their own unresolved memories and heartfelt parental uncertainties.

DeArment, Robert K. ***Deadly Dozen Volume 2: Forgotten Gunfighters of the Old West***. Norman, OK: The University of Oklahoma Press, 2021. Robert K. DeArment (1925-2021), a University of Toledo graduate and expert on the Old West, has tracked down stories of gunmen from throughout the West—characters you won't find in any of today's western history encyclopedias, but whose careers are colorfully described here. Photos of the men and telling quotations from primary sources make these characters come alive.

Delbridge, Walter K. ***Comeback Evolution: Selected Works of Walter K. Delbridge***. Edited by Kate Tucker. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022.

From rising star of the civil rights era to outcast 'schizophrenic,' Walter K. Delbridge's poetry and prose construct beauty from fragmented structures of oppression. Through stargazing poetry to intimate journalistic musings dating back to 1982, Delbridge reveals the transformative power of his own experience, inspiring others to join him in the dance. Delbridge's longtime collaborator, Kate Tucker, infuses the book with biographical context and editorial commentary.

Dyer, Joyce. ***Pursuing John Brown: On the Trail of a Radical Abolitionist***. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press, 2022. In this work of hybrid creative nonfiction, Joyce Dyer retraces John Brown's steps across the country, occasionally taking roads that lead to tangential sites. Along the way, intimate questions form about Brown's personal life and his roles

as son, husband, father, and friend. Dyer's pursuit forces her to confront hard questions about slavery, race, violence, and American democracy.

Kaudo, Negesti. ***Ripe: Essays***. Columbus, OH: Mad Creek Books, 2022.

"Emotional range without consequence," Negesti Kaudo writes in her debut collection, *Ripe*, is a privilege of whiteness. In these essays, she fights back, exhorting readers to follow her through fury, grief, love, and hope as she confronts what it means to own her Blackness and her body in contemporary America.

Keating, W. Dennis. ***Cleveland and the Civil War***. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2022.

Although removed from the frontlines, Cleveland played an active role in national events before, during, and after the Civil War. Author W. Dennis Keating, member and past president of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable, creates a panoramic view of the city through one of the nation's most troubled times.

Kirker, Constance L., and Mary Newman. ***Coconut: A Global History (The Edible Series)***. London, UK: Reaktion Books, 2022. The flavor and image of the coconut are universally recognizable, conjuring up sweet, exotic pleasures. Called the "Swiss army knife" of the plant world, the versatile coconut can be an essential ingredient in savory curries, or a sacred element in Hindu rituals or Polynesian kava ceremonies. Complete with recipes, this book explores the global history of the coconut from its ancient

origins to its recent elevation to super-food status.

Longert, Scott H. ***Victory on Two Fronts: The Cleveland Indians and Baseball Through the WWII Era.*** Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2022.

Beginning with the Cleveland Indians' hard luck during World War II, this thrilling history follows the team through its historic role in racial integration and its legendary postwar comeback. Rich with player photographs and stories, this book is sure to excite American history buffs and baseball fans alike.

Mitchell, Koritha. ***From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture (New Black Studies Series).*** Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2021. Koritha Mitchell analyzes canonical texts by and about African American women to lay bare the hostility these women face as they invest in traditional domesticity. Instead of the respectability and safety granted white homemakers, black women endure pejorative labels, racist governmental policies, attacks on their citizenship, and aggression meant to keep them in "their place." Tracing how African Americans define and redefine success in a nation determined to deprive them of it, Mitchell plumbs the works of Frances Harper, Zora Neale Hurston, Lorraine Hansberry, Toni Morrison, Michelle Obama, and others. Powerful and provocative, *From Slave Cabins to the White House* illuminates the links between African American women's homemaking and citizenship in history and across literature.

Oller, John. ***Rogues' Gallery: The Birth of Modern Policing and Organized Crime in Gilded Age New York.*** New York, NY: Dutton, 2021. From the beginnings of big-city police work to the rise of the Mafia, *Rogues' Gallery* is a colorful and captivating history of crime and punishment in the bustling streets of Old New York.

Orlean, Susan. ***On Animals.*** New York, NY: Avid Reader Press, 2021. Susan Orlean—the beloved *New Yorker* staff writer hailed as "a national treasure" by *The Washington Post* and the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Library Book*—gathers a lifetime of musings, meditations, and in-depth profiles about animals.

FICTION

Buckell, Tobias S. ***Shoggoths in Traffic and Other Stories.*** Bonney Lake, WA: Fairwood Press, 2021. Traffic is piling up, and strange things are headed your way in this new story collection by Tobias S. Buckell. In these twenty-seven stories you'll find inhabitants of a small town who won't vaccinate against a zombie plague, a lone sentry keeping motorists from stumbling into something ancient and evil, a man who puts stranded ghosts to rest, an ex-soldier traveling the seas who trades his new life of hardship for a return to swords and blood, and many more tales of speculative fiction.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. ***The Women's March: A Novel of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession.*** New York, NY: William Morrow, 2021.

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini returns with *The Women's March*, an enthralling historical novel of the women's suffrage movement inspired by three courageous women who bravely risked their lives and liberty in the fight to win the vote.

Duffy, Kimberly. ***A Mosaic of Wings.*** Ada, MI: Bethany House, 2020. The year is 1885 and all Nora Shipley wants, now that she's graduating from Cornell University as valedictorian of the entomology program, is to follow in her late father's footsteps by getting her master's degree and taking over the scientific journal he started. The only way to uphold her father's legacy is to win a scholarship, so she joins a research expedition in Kodaikanal, India, to prove herself in the field. India isn't what she expects, though, and neither is the rival classmate who accompanies her, Owen Epps. As her preconceptions of India—and of Owen—fall away, she finds both far more captivating than she expected.

Duffy, Kimberly. ***A Tapestry of Light.*** Ada, MI: Bethany House, 2021. In 1886 Calcutta, Otilie Russell is adrift between two cultures, British and Indian, belonging to both and neither. In order to support her little brother, Thaddeus, and her grandmother, she relies upon the skills in beetle-wing embroidery that have been passed down to her through generations of Indian women. When a stranger named Everett Scott appears with the news that Thaddeus is now Baron Sunderson and must travel to England to take his place as a nobleman, Otilie is shattered by the secrets that come to light.

Despite her growing friendship with Everett, friend to Ottilie's English grandmother and aunt, she refuses to give up her brother. Then tragedy strikes, and she is forced to make a decision that will take Thaddeus far from death and herself far from home. But betrayal and loss lurk in England too, and soon Ottilie must fight to ensure Thaddeus doesn't forget who he is, as well as find a way to stitch a place for herself in a cold, foreign land.

Erickson, Alex. *Death By Hot Apple Cider (A Bookstore Café Mystery)*. New York, NY: Kensington, 2021. Krissy Hancock's bookstore-café in Pine Hills, Ohio, is teaming up with the local library for a seasonal celebration, but someone spikes the refreshments—with fatal results. Now, Krissy will have to check out a stack of suspects to find a killer who's rotten to the core . . .

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *A Perfect Amish Romance (The Berlin Bookmobile Series #1)*. New York, NY: Gallery Books, 2021. From *New York Times* bestselling author Shelley Shepard Gray comes a new series that follows a bookmobile driver-turned-matchmaker who learns that her Amish patrons need a whole lot more than just new books to read.

Henderson, Alexis. *The Year of the Witching*. New York, NY: Ace Books, 2020. A young woman living in a rigid, puritanical society discovers dark powers within herself in this powerful, feminist fantasy debut.

Henry, Emily. *Beach Read*. New York, NY: Penguin, 2020. January Andrews is a romance writer who no longer believes in

love. Augustus Everett is a literary writer stuck in a creative rut. When the two authors engage in a summer-long challenge to break their bad cases of writer's block, they may just upend everything they believe about love and happy endings.

Henry, Emily. *People We Meet on Vacation*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2021.

Poppy and Alex. Alex and Poppy. She's a wild child; he wears khakis. She has insatiable wanderlust; he prefers to stay home with a book. They have nothing in common, but somehow are the very best of friends. Or *were* the very best of friends. Now, Poppy has to convince Alex to go on one last vacation with her so she can fix everything. If only she can get around the one big truth that has always stood quietly in the middle of their seemingly perfect relationship . . .

Huber, Anna Lee. *Murder Most Fair (Verity Kent #5)*. New York, NY: Kensington, 2021.

November 1919. A relaxing few weeks by the seaside with her husband, Sidney, could almost convince Verity Kent that life has returned to the pleasant rhythm of pre-war days. Then Verity's beloved Great-Aunt Ilse lands on their doorstep. After years in war-ravaged Germany, Ilse has returned to England to repair her fragile health—and to escape trouble. Someone has been sending her anonymous threats, and Verity's Secret Service contacts can only provide unsettling answers. When Ilse's maid is found dead, Verity must uncover whether this is anti-German sentiment taken to murderous lengths, or whether there is a more personal motive at work. Could Verity's shadowy nemesis, Lord Ardmore, be

involved? And if so, how much closer to home will the blow land when he inevitably strikes again?

Huber, Anna Lee. *A Wicked Conceit (Lady Darby #9)*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2021.

In 1832 Scotland, soon-to-be new parents Kiera and her husband, Sebastian Gage, have been hoping for a respite from their inquiries, but murder and mayhem have a startling way of dropping into their laps. When they find themselves in the crosshairs of a killer, trapped in the squalid underground vaults of Edinburgh, they discover that the truth does not always set you free, and death can lurk around any corner.

Kotrba, Karen. *Pottery Town Blues*. Huron, OH: Bottom Dog Press, 2022. This collection of short stories takes readers into the lives of characters who exist at the intersection of Appalachia and the Rust Belt—people who survive on their own wits and wisdoms. Each selection offers the intimacy of living rooms and kitchens to which we are made privy to by the narrators. Kotrba knows, respects, and values these people and relates their collective episodes with empathy and humor so that their stories resonate and remain with us.

Rodgers-Kulich, Betty A. *The River: A Spiritually Transforming Journey*. Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2020.

Melissa had always avoided risk, until one day, she undertakes an unexpected journey where she encounters God. Using natural and supernatural adventures, God encourages Melissa to confront deep fears, self-doubt, worry, and unbelief. A series of miraculous

adventures teach her how to cooperate with God, let go of her past, and embrace her destiny. By saying yes to God, Melissa is spiritually transformed forever.

Stine, Alison. *Trashlands*. Toronto, Canada: MIRA, 2021.

A few generations from now, the coastlines of the continent have been redrawn by floods and tides. Global powers have agreed to not produce any new plastics, and what is left has become valuable: garbage is currency. In the region-wide junkyard that Appalachia has become, Coral is a “plucker,” pulling plastic from the rivers and woods. She’s stuck in Trashlands, a dump named for the strip club at its edge, where the local women dance for an endless loop of strangers and the club’s violent owner rules as unofficial mayor. Amid the polluted landscape, Coral works desperately to save up enough to rescue her child from the recycling factories, where he is forced to work. In her stolen free hours, she does something that seems impossible in this place: Coral makes art. When a reporter from a struggling city on the coast arrives in Trashlands, Coral is presented with an opportunity to change her life. But is it possible to choose a future for herself?

Stout, Dan. *Titan’s Day (Carter Archives #2)*. New York, NY: DAW, 2020.

The second book in the acclaimed Carter Archives noir fantasy series returns to the gritty town of Titanshade, where Detective Carter must pursue a killer during the biggest celebration of the year: Titan’s Day.

Stout, Dan. *Titan Song (Carter Archives #3)*. New York, NY: DAW, 2021.

The third book in the acclaimed Carter Archives noir fantasy series finds Detective Carter taking on the case of a high-profile band member’s murder in the dangerous town of Titanshade.

Willis, Connie, ed. *American Christmas Stories*. New York, NY: Library of America, 2021.

Library of America joins with acclaimed author Connie Willis to present an unparalleled collection of American stories about Christmas, literary gems that showcase how the holiday became one of the signature aspects of our culture. Spanning from the origins of the American tradition of holiday storytelling in the wake of the Civil War to today, this is the biggest and best anthology of American Christmas stories ever assembled. From ghost stories to the genres of crime, science fiction, fantasy, westerns, humor, and horror, stories of Christmas morning, gifts, wise men, nativities, family, commercialism, and dinners from New York to Texas to outer space, this anthology reveals the evolution of Christmas in America—as well as the surprising ways in which it has remained the same. Includes stories by Ohioans Langston Hughes, O. Henry, James Thurber, and more.

Winfrey, Kerry. *Not Like the Movies (Waiting for Tom Hanks #2)*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2020.

As the sole caregiver for her father, who has early onset Alzheimer’s, Chloe Sanderson has no time—or interest—in getting swept up in some dazzling romance. Not like her best friend Annie, who literally wrote a rom-com that’s about to

premiere in theaters across America . . . and happens to be inspired by Chloe and Nick Velez, Chloe’s cute but no-nonsense boss. As the buzz for the movie grows, Chloe reads one too many listicles about why Nick is the perfect man, and now she can’t see him as anything but Reason #2: The Scruffy-Bearded Hunk Who’s Always There When You Need Him. But unlike the romance Annie has written for them, Chloe isn’t so sure her own story will end in a Happily Ever After.

Winfrey, Kerry. *Very Sincerely Yours*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2021.

Teddy Phillips never thought she would still be spending every day surrounded by toys at almost thirty years old. But working at a vintage toy store is pretty much all she has going on in her life after being unceremoniously dumped by her longtime boyfriend. The one joy that she has kept is her not-so-guilty pleasure: *Everett’s Place*, a local children’s show hosted by Everett St. James, a man whom Teddy finds very soothing . . . and, okay, cute. Teddy finds the courage to write to him, feeling slightly like one of the children who write to him on his show. He always gives sound advice and seems like he has everything figured out—and he pretty much does: Everett has a great support system, wonderful friends, and his dream job. To her surprise, Everett writes back. They continue writing to each other, all the while living their lives without meeting. When their worlds collide, however, they must both let go of their fears and figure out what they truly want—and if the future they want includes each other.

POETRY

Gunter-Seymour, Kari, ed. *I Thought I Heard a Cardinal Sing: Ohio's Appalachian Voices*. Russell, KY: Sheila-Na-Gig Editions, 2022. An anthology focused on the unique culture of Ohio's Appalachian population. A one-of-a-kind collection, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Editor Kari Gunter-Seymour writes: "Within these pages you will find a lavish mix of voices—Appalachian, Indigenous, non-binary and LGBTQ; from teens to those creatively aging; poets in recovery, some with disabilities or developmental differences; emerging and well established; some living in the state, others from assorted locations throughout the country, all with a deep connection to Appalachian Ohio. The work speaks honestly and proudly as it represents Ohio's Appalachian population, providing examples of honor, endurance, courage, history, love of family and the land; and provides evidence of how even against the odds our people continue to thrive, to work hard to build awareness and overcome mainstream America's negative response to those with a strong Appalachian heritage."

Nye, Naomi Shihab, David Hassler, and Tyler Meier, eds. *Dear Vaccine: Global Voices Speak to the Pandemic*. Kent, OH: The Kent State University Press, 2022. When so much in our lives ground to a halt in the spring of 2020, no one knew how long the COVID-19 pandemic would last. After long months of shutdowns, social distancing, and worry, the first coronavirus vaccines were released

in December 2020. In March 2021, the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University and the University of Arizona Poetry Center launched the website for the Global Vaccine Poem project, inviting anyone to share experiences of the pandemic and vaccination through poetry. *Dear Vaccine* features selections from over 2,000 poetry submissions to the project, which come from all 50 states and 118 different countries. Making use of poetry's powerful tools to connect us across division, *Dear Vaccine* reminds us that medical advances alone are not enough to solve the vexing challenges of the pandemic; the arts—and poetry—have a profound and critical role to play.

Smith, Maggie. *Goldenrod*. New York, NY: Atria Books, 2021. From the award-winning poet and bestselling author of *Keep Moving* and *Good Bones*, *Goldenrod* is a stunning poetry collection that celebrates the beauty and messiness of life.

Snyder, Lucy A. *Exposed Nerves*. Bowie, MD: Raw Dog Screaming Press, 2021. *Exposed Nerves* continues the explorations into dark poetry by Lucy A. Snyder, pairing the author's sly wordplay and imagery with grim introspection. By turns challenging, wryly amusing, and gut-wrenching, Snyder's work plumbs bittersweet catharsis and maps a survivor's path through dangerous worlds—both the real and the horrifically imagined.

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Arnold, David. *The Electric Kingdom*. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021. When a deadly Fly Flu sweeps the globe, it leaves a shell of the world that once was. Among the survivors are eighteen-year-old Nico and her dog, on a voyage devised by Nico's father to find a mythical portal; a young artist named Kit, raised in an old, abandoned cinema; and the enigmatic Deliverer, who lives Life after Life in an attempt to put the world back together. As swarms of infected Flies roam the earth, these few survivors navigate the woods of post-apocalyptic New England, meeting others along the way, each on their own quest to find life and love in a world gone dark. *The Electric Kingdom* is a sweeping exploration of art, storytelling, eternal life, and above all, a testament to the notion that even in an exterminated world, one person might find beauty in another.

Becker, Harmony. *Himawari House*. New York, NY: FirstSecond Books, 2021. A young adult graphic novel about three foreign exchange students—Nao, Hyejung, and Tina—and the pleasures, and difficulties, of adjusting to living in Japan.

Bentley, Tadgh. *The Case of the Missing Socks (Dino Detective and Awesome Possum, Private Eyes #2)*. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2021.

Dino Detective and Awesome Possum, the sister-and-brother duo, are on the hunt for the next big case! When Awesome Possum notices yet another sock has gone missing in

the wash, his suspicions are raised. If they aren't in the laundry . . . who could be taking them?

Bentley, Tadgh. *The Case of the Nibbled Pizza (Dino Detective and Awesome Possum, Private Eyes #1)*. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2021.

By veteran author-illustrator Tadgh Bentley comes a new easy-to-read series chronicling the misadventures of a dynamic duo, Dino Detective and Awesome Possum. When Grandma Thunderclaps' pizza is found with all the pepperoni missing, who's to blame? With a thirst for the truth and a hunger for justice (and pizza), Dino Detective and Awesome Possum are on the case!

Brady, Dustin. *Escape from a Video Game: Mystery on the Starship Crusader*. Illus. by Jesse Brady. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2021.

Young gamers control the action in this interactive mystery from the bestselling author of *Trapped in a Video Game*. With more than thirty endings and an unlockable bonus adventure, this second book in the series—set on a spaceship with a traitor onboard—is perfect for fans of *Among Us* and promises hours of screen-free fun.

Brady, Dustin. *Escape from a Video Game: The Secret of Phantom Island*. Illus. by Jesse Brady. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2021.

Young gamers control the action in this interactive mystery from the bestselling author of *Trapped in a Video Game*. Set inside an adventure game, this first book in the series has readers outsmarting enemies, solving puzzles, and exploring hidden areas to solve the secret of

Phantom Island. Finding all of the book's endings reveals a code that readers can use to unlock a secret story online.

Carson, Rae. *Any Sign of Life*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, 2021.

When Paige Miller falls deathly ill during her basketball team's championship season, she wakes up several days later attached to an IV in an empty world. Everyone she loves, and all of her dreams for the future, have suddenly disappeared. As Paige struggles with her new reality, she learns that the apocalypse did not happen by accident—and that there are worse things than being alone.

Cavallaro, Brittany, and Emily Henry. *Hello Girls*. New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books, 2019. From critically acclaimed authors Brittany Cavallaro and Emily Henry comes a page-turning, darkly funny teen novel about two teenage girls who have had enough of the controlling men in their lives—and take their rage on the road to make a new life for themselves.

Charlton-Trujillo, e. E. *Fat Angie: Homecoming*. New York, NY: Candlewick, 2021.

With unexpected internet fame, two people vying for her heart, an all-girl band, and coming to terms with her parents' failures, Angie comes home to herself in a rewarding finale to this acclaimed series.

Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Heart*. New York, NY: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2021.

Melody doesn't let cerebral palsy stop her from following her passions. In this stunning sequel to the acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling middle grade novel *Out of*

My Mind, Melody is determined to find a summer camp for differently-abled kids like her—a place where maybe she can finally make a real friend, make her own decisions, and even do things on her own.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *The Messengers (Greystone Secrets #3)*. New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books, 2021.

In the dazzling conclusion to the Greystone Secrets series from *New York Times* bestselling author Margaret Peterson Haddix, the Greystones and their doubles, the Gustanos, must team up to save the alternate world—before both worlds are lost. All secrets are revealed in this page-turning, suspenseful story that shows the importance of teamwork, telling your story, and taking action when it matters most.

Henry, Emily. *When the Sky Fell on Splendor*. New York, NY: Razorbill Books, 2019.

The Serpent King meets *Stranger Things* in Emily Henry's gripping novel about a group of friends in a small town who find themselves dealing with unexpected powers after a cosmic event.

Khanani, Intisar. *The Theft of Sunlight (Dauntless Path #2)*. New York, NY: HarperTeen, 2021.

Children have been disappearing from across Menaiya for longer than Amraeya ni Ansarim can remember. When her friend's sister is snatched, Rae knows she can't look away any longer—even if it means seeking answers from the royal court, where her country upbringing and clubfoot will only invite ridicule. There she discovers an unexpected ally in the foreign princess, who recruits her as an attendant. Armed with the princess' support, Rae seeks answers

in the dark city streets, finding help in a rough-around-the-edges street thief with secrets of his own. But treachery runs deep, and the more Rae uncovers, the more she endangers the kingdom itself.

Libenson, Terri. ***Truly Tyler (Emmie and Friends)***. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2021. Cliques. Crushes. Comics. Middle school. Ever since Tyler started getting into art and hanging out with Emmie, his friends and teammates have been giving him a hard time. He wonders why he can't nerd out on drawing *and* play ball? Emmie is psyched that she gets to work on a comics project with her crush, Tyler, but she gets the feeling that his friends don't think she's cool enough. Maybe it's time for a total reinvention? Told from two perspectives, *Truly Tyler* is a story about trusting your truest self—and your truest friends.

Marcus, Leonard S., ed. ***You Can't Say That!: Writers for Young People Talk About Censorship, Free Expression, and the Stories They Have to Tell***. New York, NY: Candlewick, 2021. What happens when freedom of expression comes under threat? In frank and wide-ranging interviews, historian and critic Leonard S. Marcus probes the experience of thirteen leading authors of books for young people. Includes writing from Ohioans R. L. Stine, Dav Pilkey, and more.

Milano, Alyssa, and Debbie Rigaud. ***Project Animal Rescue (Alyssa Milano's Hope #2)***. Illus. by Eric S. Keyes. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2020. In the second book in Alyssa Milano's funny and relatable middle

grade series, Hope decides to do whatever it takes to stop the local animal shelter from closing down. It's where she found her two furry best friends—it has to stay open so the other animals there can find their fur-ever homes, too! But can Hope get the support she needs in time to keep the shelter doors open?

Milano, Alyssa, and Debbie Rigaud. ***Project Class President (Alyssa Milano's Hope #3)***. Illus. by Eric S. Keyes. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2020. In the third book in Alyssa Milano's middle grade series, Hope is running for sixth grade class president, with her friend and campaign manager, Grace, by her side. But in her effort to win over her classmates, Hope makes some promises she can't keep. Can Hope make things right with the students of JFK Middle—and maybe still win the election, too?

Milano, Alyssa, and Debbie Rigaud. ***Project Go Green (Alyssa Milano's Hope #4)***. Illus. by Eric S. Keyes. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2021. In the fourth book in Alyssa Milano's middle grade series, Hope is determined to save the world—literally. She has already gotten her school to add more recycling bins and coordinate a carpooling program. But it's not enough. Hope wants to do more to protect the environment before it's too late. But will Hope's plans to help the planet backfire?

Milano, Alyssa, and Debbie Rigaud. ***Project Middle School (Alyssa Milano's Hope #1)***. Illus. by Eric S. Keyes. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2019. In the first book in Alyssa Milano's middle grade series, Hope is starting sixth grade with her best friend, Sam,

big dreams for the future, and lots of optimism. But things go downhill quickly when Sam meets a new group of friends, Hope embarrasses herself in front of everyone, and the boys in science club exclude all the girls. Can Hope turn the science club into a place that's welcoming for everyone—and maybe make some new friends along the way?

Patterson, James, and Mindy McGinnis. ***City of the Dead (Maximum Ride: Hawk #2)***. New York, NY: Jimmy Patterson, 2021. Hawk, the daughter of Maximum Ride, teams up with her mother to help save their beloved but dangerous city in this action-packed thriller.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Cat Kid Comic Club: A Graphic Novel (Cat Kid Comic Club #1)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2020.

A pioneering new graphic novel series by Dav Pilkey, the author and illustrator of the internationally bestselling Dog Man and Captain Underpants series. Li'l Petey, Molly, and Flippy help their students—twenty-one rambunctious baby frogs—express themselves through comics. The frogs' mini-comics are featured as stories-within-the-story, each one done in a different style, and come together to tell a heartfelt, humorous, and thoughtful tale that encourages kids to unleash their own creativity.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Cat Kid Comic Club: Perspectives: A Graphic Novel (Cat Kid Comic Club #2)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2021.

Cat Kid Comic Club is back in session. The twenty-one baby frogs each have something to say—and a unique perspective to share—in this second collection of mini-comics.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild (Dog Man #6)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2018.

The heroic hound is sent to jail in the sixth Dog Man book from worldwide bestselling author and artist Dav Pilkey.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: Fetch-22 (Dog Man #8)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2019.

Li'l Petey gets caught in some family drama in the eighth Dog Man book from worldwide bestselling author and artist Dav Pilkey.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls (Dog Man #7)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2019.

Petey learns what it means to do good in the seventh Dog Man book from worldwide bestselling author and artist Dav Pilkey.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: Grime and Punishment (Dog Man #9)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2020.

The mayor has had enough of Dog Man's shenanigans in the ninth book from worldwide bestselling author and artist Dav Pilkey.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas (Dog Man #5)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2019.

The Supa Buddies convene to deal with some new villains in the fifth Dog Man book from worldwide bestselling author and artist Dav Pilkey.

Pilkey, Dav. ***Dog Man: Mothering Heights (Dog Man #10)***. New York, NY: Graphix, 2021.

Dog Man and Petey face their biggest challenges yet in the tenth Dog Man book from worldwide bestselling author and illustrator Dav Pilkey.

Raasch, Sara, and Kristen Simmons. ***Rise Up from the Embers***. New York, NY: Balzer + Bray, 2021.

Avatar: The Last Airbender meets *Gladiator* in this epic duology conclusion about two elemental gladiators swept up in an ancient war between immortals and humans—from Sara Raasch, the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Snow Like Ashes series, and Kristen Simmons, acclaimed author of *Pacifica* and *The Deceivers*.

Rigaud, Debbie. ***Simone Breaks All the Rules***. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2021.

Simone Thibodeaux's life is sealed in a boy-proof container. Her Haitian immigrant parents send her to an all-girls high school and enforce strict no-dating rules. As for prom? Simone is allowed to go on one condition: Her parents will select her date (a boy from a nice, Haitian immigrant family, obviously). Simone is desperate to avoid the setup—especially since she has a serious crush on another boy. It's time to take action! Simone and her fellow late-bloomer friends make a senior year bucket list of all the wild things they haven't done yet: going out dancing, skipping class (what), and oh yeah—deciding their own prom destinies. But as the list takes on a life of its own, things get much messier than Simone expected. Can she figure out which rules are worth breaking and which might save her from heartbreak?

Sedita, Francesco, and Prescott Seraydarian. ***The Curse of the Crystal Cavern (The Pathfinders' Society #2)***. Illus. by Steve Hamaker. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2021.

The rollicking Pathfinders Society treasure hunt continues as the five campers from *Mystery of the Moon Tower* get swept away in a new adventure. This action-packed graphic novel is full of fun, magic, and friendship—sure to appeal to fans of the Last Kids on Earth and Lumberjanes series.

Sedita, Francesco, and Prescott Seraydarian. ***The Mystery of the Moon Tower (The Pathfinders' Society #1)***. Illus. by Steve Hamaker. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2020.

Summer camp just became a whole lot more interesting when five curious kids accept a mysterious project: work together as a team to uncover a series of strange clues, reveal a secret path—and follow its twists and turns to a legendary treasure!

Springstubb, Tricia. ***The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe***. New York, NY: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2021.

Eleven-year-old Loah Londonderry is definitely a homebody. While her mother, a noted ornithologist, works to save the endangered birds of the shrinking Arctic tundra, Loah anxiously counts the days until her return home. But then, to Loah's surprise and dismay, Dr. Londonderry decides to set off on a perilous solo quest to find the Loah bird, long believed extinct. Does her mother care more deeply about Loah the bird than Loah her daughter? Things get worse yet when Loah's elderly caretakers fall ill, and she finds herself all alone except for her friend Ellis. Ellis has big problems of her own, but she believes in Loah. She's certain Loah has strengths that are hidden yet wonderful, like

the golden feather tucked away on her namesake bird's wing. When Dr. Londonderry's expedition goes terribly wrong, Loah needs to discover for herself whether she has the courage and heart to find help for her mother, lost at the top of the world.

Stine, R. L. *Camp Daze (Garbage Pail Kids #3)*. Illus. by Jeff Zapata. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2021.

The Garbage Pail Kids are off to sleepaway camp in the third installment of the *New York Times* bestselling Garbage Pail Kids series.

Stine, R. L. *Judy and the Beast (Goosebumps Slappyworld #15)*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2021. Judy Glassman lives with her brother, Kenny, and father, Noah, in a village at the foot of Evil Rock. Every winter, Kenny accompanies their dad up to the mansion at the top of the mountain to assist the rich, eccentric Grendel family with their house repairs. But this year, Judy convinces her dad to let her come too. Judy has heard whispers about the Beast of Evil Rock—a half-human creature who stalks the crags. And she's determined to find out for herself if it's true. Will Judy discover the secret of Evil Rock before the Beast finds her first?

Stine, R. L. *Just Beyond: The Horror at Happy Landings*. Illus. by Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. Los Angeles, CA: KaBOOM!, 2020.

Two Martians unexpectedly land on Earth and have to get home—by hijacking the bodies of two kids and leaving a trail of trouble in their wake that no one may be able to fix!

Stine, R. L. *Just Beyond: Monstrosity*. Illus. by Irene Flores and Joana Lafuente. Los Angeles, CA: KaBOOM!, 2021.

Ruthie and Ezra Dillon's dad and uncle just bought an old Hollywood movie studio, known for all the best horror flicks of the 1950s. But the classic on-screen monsters have returned to the real world . . . with a vengeance!

Stine, R. L. *Just Beyond: Welcome to Beast Island*. Illus. by Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. Los Angeles, CA: KaBOOM!, 2020. Trips to exotic islands can be more exhausting than relaxing sometimes, and on the island of Mala Suerte, they're a real beast in the newest original graphic novel from horror legend R. L. Stine.

Stine, R. L. *Thrills and Chills (Garbage Pail Kids #2)*. Illus. by Jeff Zapata. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2021.

The Garbage Pail Kids are desperate to win the Smellville Pet Contest grand prize—a free all-day trip to Six Thrills Amusement Park. But how can they compete against Good Boy, the perfect Chihuahua of the Perfect twins, who can stand on his head and do algebra problems blindfolded?

Stine, R. L. *Welcome to Smellville (Garbage Pail Kids #1)*. Illus. by Jeff Zapata. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2020.

Welcome to the town of Smellville, where ten kids all live in a big tumbledown house and have as much fun as they possibly can. People may think that they're gross and weird and strange, but they're not bad kids—they just don't know any better. In this hilarious new illustrated series from bestselling author R. L. Stine, the Garbage Pail

Kids—from Adam Bomb to Brainy Janey—get into mischief at their middle school, all while battling bullies and their archenemies, Penny and Parker Perfect. These all-new illustrated stories are sure to amuse, entertain, and blow away readers of all ages.

JUVENILE

Armstrong, Neil. *Bok's Giant Leap: One Moon Rock's Journey Through Time and Space*. Illus. by Grahame Baker-Smith. New York, NY: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021.

First man on the moon Neil Armstrong's only children's book is a unique exploration of how the Earth and the Moon came to be.

Blackburne, Livia. *I Dream of Popo*. Illus. by Julia Kuo. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press, 2021.

From *New York Times* bestselling author Livia Blackburne and illustrator Julia Kuo, this emotionally rich picture book celebrates a special connection that crosses time zones and oceans as Popo and her granddaughter hold each other in their hearts forever.

Brockenbrough, Martha, and Grace Lin. *I Am an American: The Wong Kim Ark Story*. Illus. by Julia Kuo. New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021.

When American-born Wong Kim Ark returns home to San Francisco after a visit to China, he's stopped and told he cannot enter: he isn't American. What happens next would forever change the national conversation on who is and isn't American. After being imprisoned on a ship for months, Wong Kim Ark takes his case to the Supreme

Court and argues any person born in America is an American citizen.

Cowdrey, Richard. ***Fiona Helps a Friend***. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2021.

Join your favorite hippo, Fiona, the adorable internet sensation from the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and her lovable animal friends as they try to help Matilda find her missing laugh. This fun and whimsical follow-up to the *New York Times* bestselling *Fiona the Hippo* is the perfect read-aloud for fans of Fiona (and hippos) everywhere!

Cowdrey, Richard. ***Fiona, It's Bedtime***. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2020.

Join your favorite hippo, Fiona, as she says good night to all her animal friends before snuggling up with her mama—encouraging your own child to drift off to sleep with their own bedtime routine.

Cowdrey, Richard. ***Fiona Saves the Day***. Illus. by Donald Wu. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2021. Join your favorite hippo, Fiona, as she and her animal friends attempt to help their friend Mango the little blue penguin who's stuck on a ledge.

Cowdrey, Richard. ***Meet Fiona the Hippo***. Illus. by Donald Wu. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2021. Learn how Fiona came to live at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and what this fun, fearless hippo hero loves to do!

Daywalt, Drew. ***The Crayons' Book of Feelings***. Illus. by Oliver Jeffers. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2021. Everyone knows the crayons love to color, but did you know that crayons have feelings too? Sometimes they are happy and sometimes they feel

downright blue. From the creative minds behind *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Day the Crayons Came Home* comes a fun board book to help young readers understand and express their feelings.

Lloyd, Susannah. ***This Book Can Read Your Mind***. Illus. by Jacob Grant. Beverly, MA: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2021.

This hilarious interactive book plays on the idea that when you're told NOT to think of something, somehow it is all you can think about. The book begins with a scientist switching on an incredible new invention—a mind-reading machine! The scientist is distraught at the silliness that ensues, but there is plenty of fun in store for the reader.

Nelson, Marilyn. ***Papa's Free Day Party***. Illus. by Wayne Anthony Still. West Orange, NJ: Just Us Books, 2021.

Johnnie wants to celebrate her Papa's birthday, but Papa doesn't know exactly when that special day is. Johnnie doesn't understand how that could be. Then she learns about Papa's childhood—how he built a new life in the all-Black town of Boley, Oklahoma. Inspired by her father's incredible story, Johnnie decides to throw Papa a different kind of party—one to recognize her father's day of freedom. Based on a true story about the author's grandfather, *Papa's Free Day Party* is a powerful celebration of storytelling, strength, and the importance of family.

Subisak, Tracy. ***Jenny Mei Is Sad***. New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021. Jenny Mei is sad, but you might not be able to tell. She still smiles a

lot. She makes everyone laugh. And she still likes blue Popsicles the best. Her friend knows how Jenny Mei truly feels, though, and does her best to be there to support her. This beautifully illustrated book is perfect for introducing kids to the complexity of sadness, and to show them that the best way to be a good friend, especially to someone sad, is by being there for the fun, the not-fun, and everything in between.

Tharp, Jason. ***It's Okay to Smell Good!*** New York, NY: Imprint/Macmillan, 2021.

Panda Cat begins each day by brushing his teeth with garlic toothpaste, combing rotten eggs through his hair, and enjoying a breakfast of spoiled milk and a rotten apple. In Smellville, it's cool to be stinky. But when he tries to invent the stinkiest smell ever for the science fair, it backfires—because it smells good. And Panda Cat . . . likes it? How will he tell his friends? Or his hero, Albert Einstink—the scientist behind the theory of stinkativity? *It's Okay to Smell Good* tells kids young and old that you're free to like what you like, no matter how it smells.

Wang, Andrea. ***Watercress***. Illus. by Jason Chin. New York, NY: Neal Porter Books, 2021.

Andrea Wang tells a moving autobiographical story of a child of immigrants discovering and connecting with her heritage through gathering watercress by the side of the road. Winner of the 2022 Caldecott Medal, 2022 Newbery Honor, and 2022 APALA Award.

Thank You!

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Why I Support Ohioana

“All Americans come from Ohio originally, if only briefly.”
—Dawn Powell

Though I was born in Colorado, my home state has always been and will always be Ohio. It has produced writers and humorists with whom I felt a deep kinship almost from the cradle. My childhood was spent reading Ohio writers: Toledo’s Mildred Wirt Benson, who wrote Nancy Drew mysteries under the pen name of Carolyn Keene (Nancy’s blue roadster was particularly attractive); Dayton’s Erma Bombeck, who transformed the drudgery of middle-class domestic life into high comedy (“My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance”); and as I got older, Columbus’ own James Thurber, whose urbane wit set the tone for the *New Yorker*, and whose elegant and irreverent writing still makes me laugh (“There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else”).



I support the Ohioana Library because from 1999 to 2007, it supported me. I was hired to replace Barb Maslekoff as editor of the *Ohioana Quarterly*, and she and my other colleagues set a high standard for performance. My job also led me to the late Bob Fox, former Ohioana Board member and the Ohio Arts Council’s literary coordinator, whom I married in 2002. Our mutual love of Ohio writers and writing led me, upon his death in 2005, to establish the Ohioana Library Robert Fox Award in his memory.

But the main reason I support Ohioana is because, as the only organization of its kind, its sole purpose is to collect, preserve, and promote the work of so many Ohio authors I love to read, which in turn ensures that their wisdom and writing will be passed down for the delight of my children and their children, who by some miracle of fate and their grandmother’s relocation are actually native Ohioans.

Kate Fox earned her PhD in American literature/creative writing from Ohio University, where she worked as an instructor, editor, and assistant to the president. She is the author of two chapbooks and has been published in multiple journals. After serving for several years as the editor of the Ohioana Quarterly, she currently runs a freelance writing and editing business. She lives in Athens, Ohio, with her partner, Bob DeMott and their English setter, Katie.

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