

# OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

Spring 2025 | VOL. 68 NO. 2



Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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## Who We Are: The Ohioana Library Association

At Ohioana, we elevate Ohio's written works and the creative minds behind them, celebrating our collective literary history. Whether it's through our unique events and programming, our extensive library collection, or our print and digital publications, everything we do is with the goal of connecting readers and Ohio writers.

# OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2025

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,



Photo by Chris Walker

The time has finally arrived for the 2025 Ohioana Book Festival! We hope you will join us on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This year's event will take place at the State Library of Ohio and Ohioana Library. We are so excited to have all of these authors and illustrators in our building! This issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* highlights all of the books that will be featured at the festival. You can use this issue to plan your visit—and to choose some new books for yourself or to give them as gifts. All book sales from the event help support Ohioana, something that is more important now than ever before!

In this issue, we also celebrate the 2025 Choose to Read Ohio booklist, as well as the 2025 Floyd's Pick Book Award winner and honorees. These books are all a joy to read and ones you won't want to miss!

Additionally, this issue features reviews of children's books written by the fourth grade students at Columbus School for Girls. We very much value this longtime partnership and always love reading the reviews these students prepare for us.

Also, don't forget to check out this issue's back cover to see *Crankshaft* at the Ohioana Book Festival! A special thanks to cartoonist Tom Batiuk for setting his characters at the festival for a week with six fun comic strips.

Many of you have probably already heard about the funding threats to libraries, both at the federal and the state level. Libraries are the cornerstone of our communities, opening the world to every citizen, young and old. I urge you to support your local library, as well as the Ohioana Library, as we all navigate these difficult times.

As we move into nicer weather, I hope you make some time to settle in and enjoy a good book by an Ohio author. Listening to audiobooks as you take a walk counts, too! We are so grateful for your continued support of Ohioana and would love to have you come visit us anytime.

We hope you enjoy this issue and thank you for being part of the Ohioana family!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberlee L. Kiehl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Kiehl  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

The official 19th annual Ohioana Book Festival poster art, created by illustrator Joe Sutphin. Read Kathryn Powers' interview with Joe on page 11.

# The 2025 Ohioana Book Festival: Welcome Home!

By Kathryn Powers

In 2007, the Ohioana Book Festival was created with the goal of connecting readers and Ohio writers. 600 attendees gathered at the Ohioana Library and State Library of Ohio at 274 E. First Avenue to celebrate ten authors from the book *Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio*.

A lot has changed over the years since that first festival: more authors were added to the event roster, attendance multiplied, and programming was expanded to include activities for the whole family. The event outgrew its original venue in 2011 and moved to Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center. A larger venue was needed again in 2015, and the festival relocated to the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. When the hotel space hit capacity, the event moved in 2019 to the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library in downtown Columbus, where it proudly reached heights of over 140 Ohio authors and illustrators and 4,000 attendees.

Now, the Ohioana Book Festival is moving once more! We invite you to join us on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as the festival comes back to a familiar venue at 274 E. First Avenue: our home.

Nearly two decades later, we are excited to honor our roots and return the festival to its original location at the Ohioana Library and State Library of Ohio. We're dusting off our shelves and rolling out the welcome mat for 75+ Ohio authors and illustrators, from longtime fan-favorites to new creators with debut books.

All of your favorite programs and activities will still be

included in the day's festivities: book signings, panel discussions, children's storytimes, costumed characters, and local food trucks. The Book Loft of German Village will be back as the festival's on-site bookseller. Ohioana receives a percentage of all event sales, so you can stock up on your summer reading book supply and support our library at the same time.

You can see the list of this year's festival authors and illustrators—and start planning your book wish list!—starting on page 6.

The festival programs will take place throughout both the Ohioana Library and State Library of Ohio, connected by a corridor. We'll have some unique items from our collection on display. We hope you'll stop by to see what makes Ohioana such a special place.

If this is your first Ohioana Book Festival, we couldn't be more thrilled to welcome you to our home! And if you've been an attendee since 2007, we can't wait to welcome you back. We hope you'll join us on May 3 and help us make the 19th Ohioana Book Festival the most memorable event yet! For all of the latest festival updates and information, please visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org) or check us out on Facebook, Twitter/X, and Instagram.

Scenes from the Ohioana Book Festival venues (left to right): 2007 at the Ohioana Library and State Library of Ohio, 2013 at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, 2015 at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, and 2019 at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library. (Photos by Mary Rathke)



# FESTIVAL SPONSORS

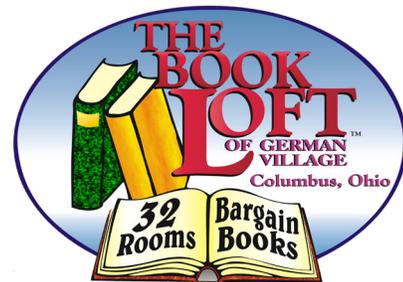
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## FESTIVAL HOST

## BOOKSELLER

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# Festival Authors & Illustrators

Over 75 Ohio authors and illustrators will join us for the 2025 Ohioana Book Festival. You can meet them all at the in-person event on May 3 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Authors are listed alphabetically by genre.)\*

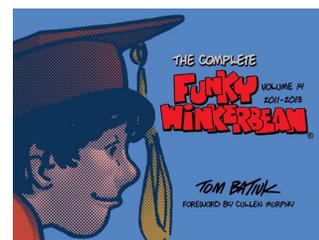
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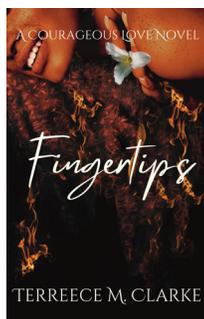
Kalynn Applewhite



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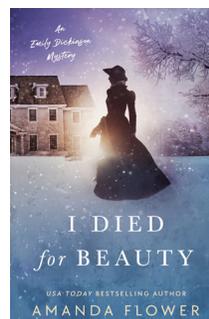
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Angela Crook



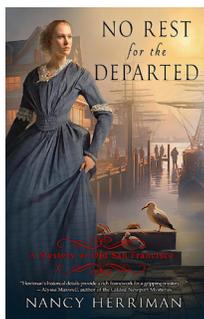
Patti Flinn



Amanda Flower



Susan Gee Heino



Nancy Herriman



E.M. Jones



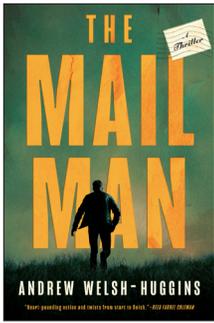
Mercedes King



Patricia Sargeant



Allegra Solomon

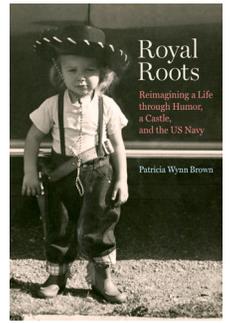


Andrew Welsh-Huggins

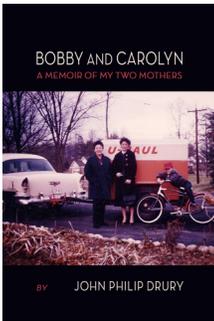


Ashley Willow

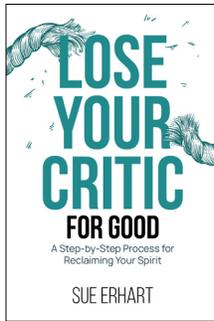
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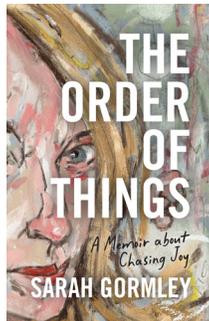
Patricia Wynn Brown



John Philip Drury



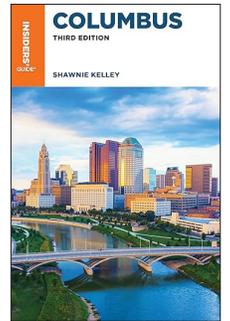
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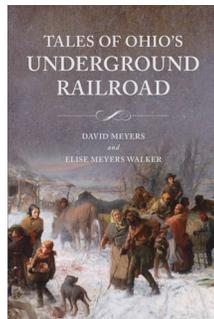
Sarah Gormley



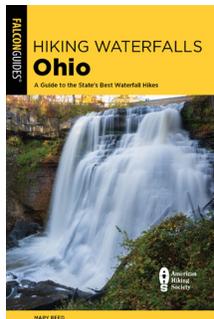
Rebe Huntman



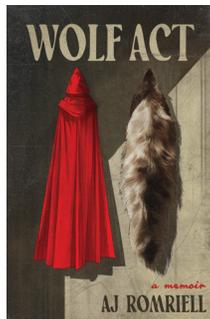
Shawnie Kelley



David Meyers & Elise Meyers Walker



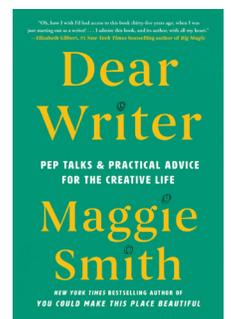
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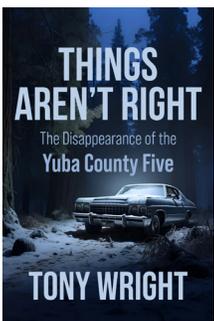
AJ Romriell



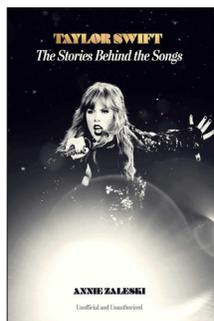
Mandy Shunnarah



Maggie Smith

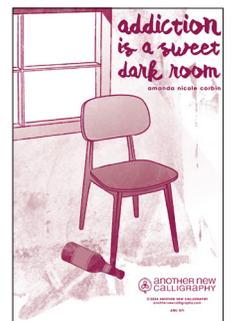


Tony Wright

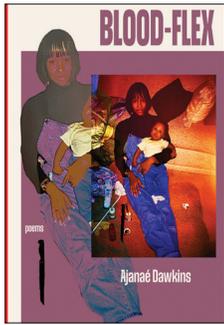


Annie Zaleski

# POETRY



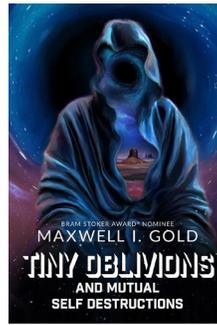
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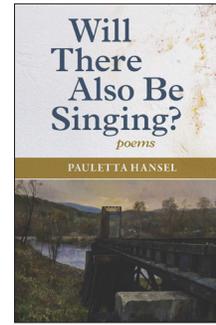
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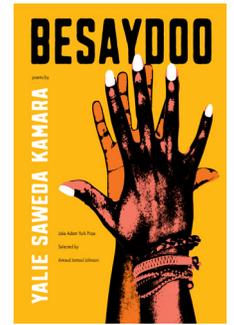
Darren C. Demaree



Maxwell I. Gold



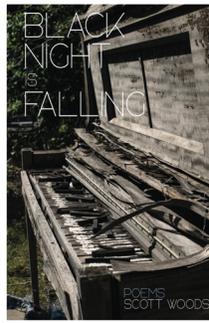
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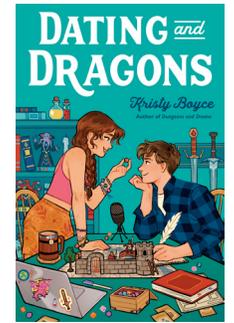
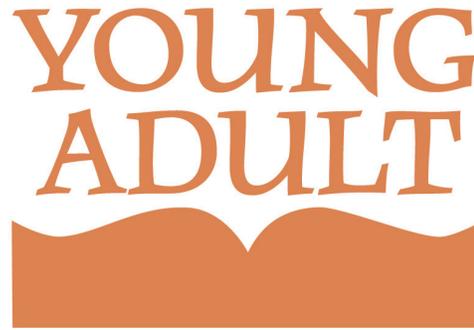
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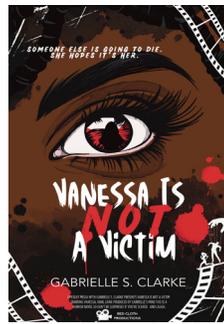
Damaris Puñales-Alpizar



Scott Woods



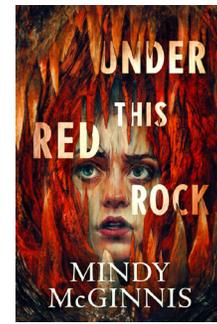
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Gabrielle S. Clarke



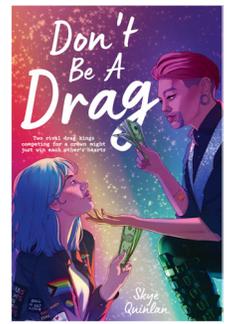
Fern Haight



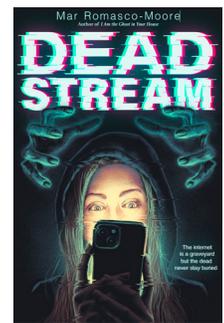
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Ashley Hope Pérez



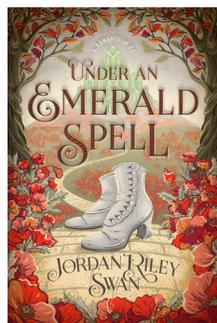
Skye Quinlan



Mar Romasco-Moore



Rafael Rosado

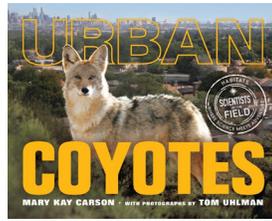


Jordan Riley Swan & Diane Callahan



Ray Wenck

# MIDDLE GRADE



Mary Kay Carson



Sharon M. Draper



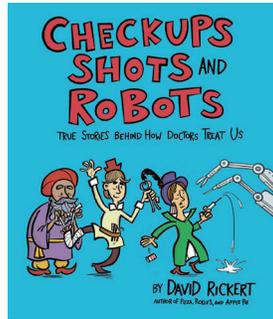
Jeffrey Ebbeler



Jason R. Lady



Elisa Stone Leahy



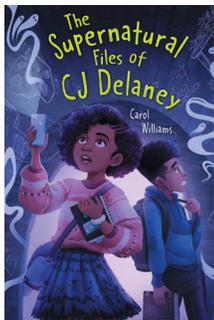
David Rickert



Tricia Springstubb

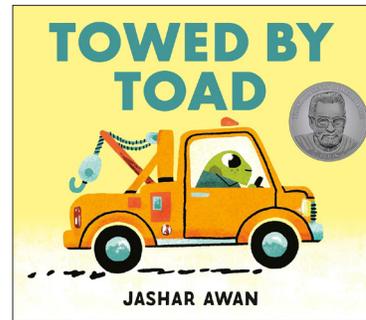


Joe Sutphin

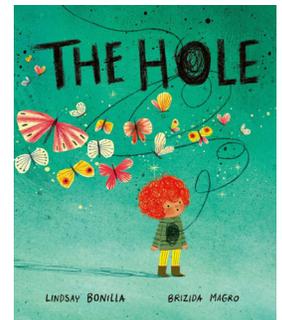


Carol Williams

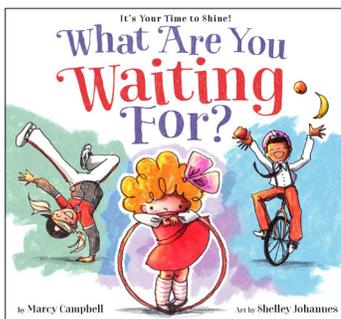
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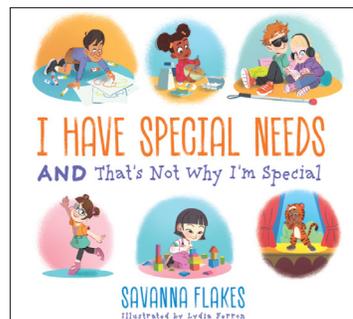
Jashar Awan



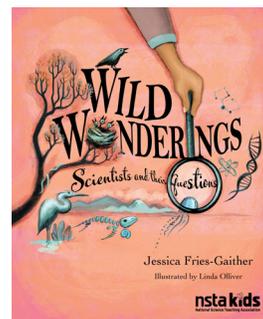
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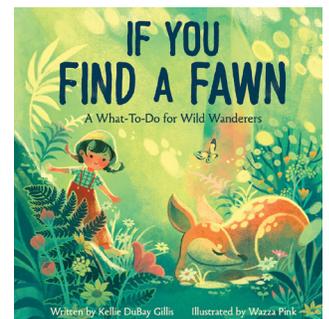
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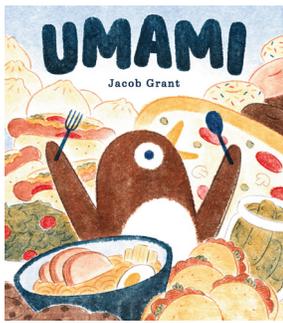
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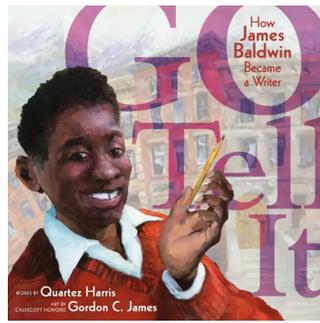
Jessica Fries-Gaither



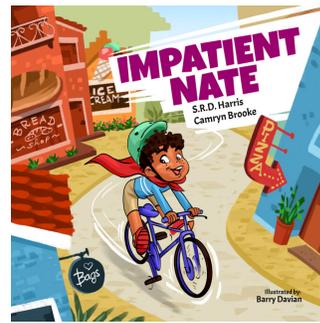
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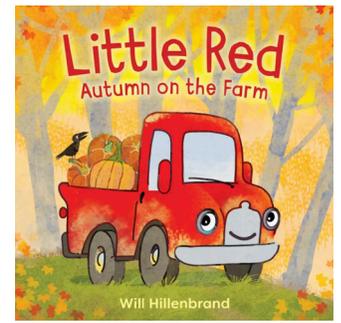
Jacob Grant



Quatez Harris



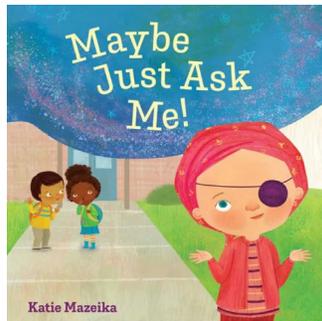
S.R.D. Harris &  
Camryn Brooke



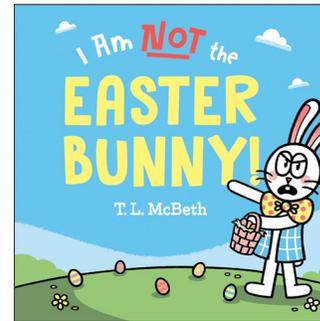
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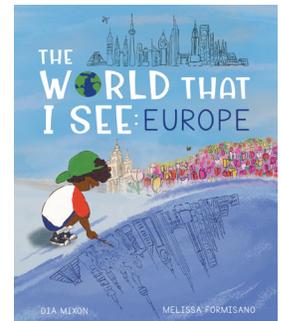
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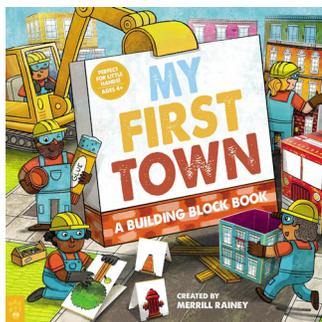
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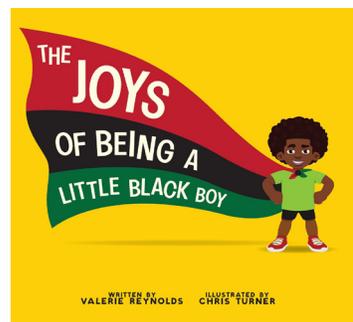
T.L. McBeth



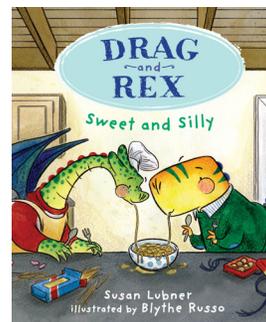
Dia Mixon



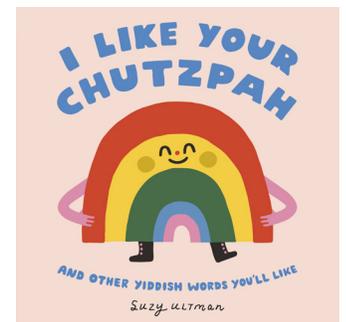
Merrill Rainey



Valerie Reynolds &  
Chris Turner



Blythe Russo



Suzy Ultman

Don't forget! All book purchases made at the  
2025 Ohioana Book Festival help support the Ohioana Library.

Fill your home shelves with books by local authors and illustrators.  
They make great gifts for family and friends, too!

# Meet Joe Sutphin: 2025 Ohioana Book Festival Poster Artist

By Kathryn Powers



Photo courtesy of Joe Sutphin

The 2025 Ohioana Book Festival poster was designed by illustrator and cartoonist Joe Sutphin. Born and raised in central Ohio, his work includes the Eisner Award–winning *Watership Down: The Graphic Novel*, based on the beloved book by Richard Adams, as well as the re-envisioned, illustrated classics *Little Pilgrim's Progress* and *Little Christmas Carol*. We spoke with Sutphin about his creative process, inspirations, and featured festival book.

**Q** What was the inspiration behind your design of the 2025 Ohioana Book Festival Poster art?

**A** My wife recently gave me an old picture book called *Dear Garbage Man* written by Gene Zion and illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham. It's about a garbage truck driver who can't stand to put all the nice things into the compactor, so he piles them on top of his truck and gives them out to people around town. The visual image of that truck—piled high and bringing cheer to a town—inspired me. I've also always been a big fan of the

work of Richard Scarry, and leaned into the joy and fun that he showed in his art. The full concept stemmed from the dreary winters we can have here in Ohio, which can at times amplify our own sadness, and just how bold and bright the coming of spring can feel with all its green and blue—and the happiness that comes with it. The Ohioana Book Festival takes place in the spring each year, so the idea of a bookmobile bringing spring to a wintery town was something that spoke to me in an honest way.

**Q** How did you get started as a children's book illustrator? Was there a specific book or artist that sparked your passion for the field?

**A** I've loved children's books my entire life. Ever since early childhood, I've been a fan of artists like Garth Williams, Robert McCloskey, Arnold Lobel, Wallace Tripp, and even Don Bluth's films like *The Secret Of NIMH*. Those kinds of artists made me want to illustrate books. I actually went to art school, but never completed my education. I ended up in the package engineering field for nearly two decades before finally finding some opportunities in children's publishing.

**Q** Can you tell us about your artistic process? Are you a detailed planner, or do you follow the spontaneity of your pen and muse?

**A** These days, I don't do as much preliminary work as I used to. It's not that I don't believe in it, or even recommend that to other artists. But at this stage of my career, I have found that I really enjoy having some level of spontaneity in my final art rather than it all being very refined. I do some character studies, then I plot out in writing which illustrations I plan to make, and then I will typically do a pencil thumbnail that gets scanned and printed out to size. I'll redraw that on some other paper, often Bristol board using a light box, and then I will usually ink it with Microns or dip pens. I might add tones and texture with black or sepia colored pencils, and sometimes I will add gouache washes over top if needed. Then I scan it all into the computer and clean it up for print.



May 3, 2025  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Free Admission

# OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL

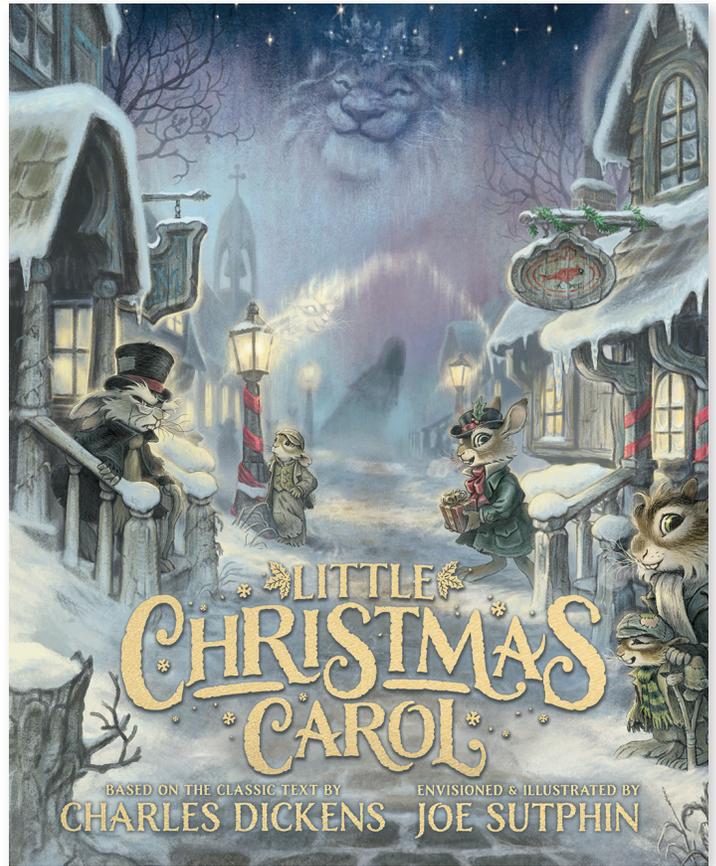
State Library  
274 E. First Ave.  
[ohioana.org](http://ohioana.org)

**Q** Do you have any words of advice for aspiring illustrators or author-illustrators?

**A** Draw a lot. That's the only way to figure out who you are as an artist. I also don't recommend buying fancy sketchbooks—you probably won't ever draw in them because the pressure not to waste paper is too high. Just buy cheap sketch pads and use them up.

**Q** We can't wait to see you on May 3 for the 2025 Ohioana Book Festival! Can you tell us about the title you're bringing this year?

**A** This year my featured book is *A Little Christmas Carol*. Charles Dickens' classic work *A Christmas Carol* is one of my all-time favorite books. After I published *Little Pilgrim's Progress*, which saw John Bunyan's classic work reimagined as animal characters, it seemed like a really fun idea to do the same with Dickens. The text is essentially the classic text by Dickens, and the visual world is my own anthropomorphic animal world.



## Purchase the official event poster at the 2025 Ohioana Book Festival!

The 2025 event poster will be available to purchase at the Ohioana Book Festival on May 3, 2025. This unique illustration is printed on high quality poster stock. You can purchase one for \$10 and get it signed by Joe Sutphin at the event!

You can also show your support for Ohioana by purchasing an Ohioana Book Festival T-shirt or Ohioana Library tote bag for \$10 each.

*Please note: Supply is limited for all items. Be sure to arrive early to make your purchases!*

# 2025 Choose to Read Ohio Booklist & Floyd's Pick Book Award

By Kathryn Powers

Happy Quarter of a Century! A lot has changed over the twenty-five years since the calendar flipped from 1999 to 2000. But one thing never goes out of style—reading great books!

Here in Ohio, 2025 is also a milestone year for two of the state's distinguished literary programs: Choose to Read Ohio and the Floyd's Pick Book Award.

Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) spotlights Ohio authors and illustrators and promotes reading across Ohio. The program is a collaboration of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, in partnership with the Ohio Center for the Book and the Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Council. Established in 2009, CTRO curates a biennial booklist featuring twenty representative titles for readers of all ages. Each list includes books by talented creators born in, residing in, or associated with Ohio. The titles explore an array of topics across genres and age groups, thoughtfully selected with input from dozens of librarians, educators, and literature advocates from around the state.

Previous CTRO booklists have showcased titles by Ohio authors and illustrators including Sharon Creech, Drew Daywalt, Anthony Doerr, Rita Dove, Sharon M. Draper, Nikki Giovanni, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Wil Haygood, Angela Johnson, Daniel Kirk, Katrina Kittle, J. Patrick Lewis, Mindy McGinnis, Paula McLain, Oge Mora, Toni Morrison, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Celeste Ng, Susan Orlean, Dav Pilkey, Cynthia Rylant, Mildred D. Taylor, Andrea Wang, and many others.

“Ohio has been blessed to have a number of literary greats come from our state, from James Thurber to Toni Morrison,” says State Librarian Mandy Knapp. “We have a lot of be proud of.”

The 2025 booklist welcomes twenty exceptional titles to the ever-growing CTRO catalog. The roster of authors and illustrators includes: National Book Award finalist and Emmy nominee Hanif Abdurraqib, CNN Hero of the Year Luma Mufleh, Michael L. Printz Award honor recipient Ashley Hope Pérez, Hugo Award winner John Scalzi, Pulitzer Prize winner Connie Schultz, Academy of American Poets Prize and Pushcart Prize winner Maggie Smith, Eisner Award winner Joe Sutphin, Newbery Honor Book winner Jasmine Warga, and Coretta Scott King Book Award and National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson. Additional

accolades across the booklist include multiple Ohio Book Award winners and finalists, *New York Times*–bestselling authors, Junior Library Guild selections, and enough Kirkus stars to fill the sky from Cincinnati to Toledo. The 2025 booklist also lifts up new voices with titles by debut authors Chiquita Mullins

Lee, Elisa Stone Leahy, Thao Thai, and Misty Wilson.

All twenty books are showcased on the official 2025 CTRO booklist poster (see page 15). The full booklist and toolkits for each title—including discussion questions and additional resources—can be found on the State Library of Ohio's website at: [library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro).

While the unveiling of a new CTRO booklist is always an exciting occasion, this year is extra momentous: the 2025 booklist is the first to release on the program's new annual schedule.

Instead of curating a list of twenty books over a two-year cycle, that means CTRO will now highlight twenty titles *every year*—doubling the number of books, authors, and illustrators to celebrate from the Buckeye State. (Start making room on your shelf!)

Beyond growing your reading list twofold, there's still more to commemorate in 2025: this year also marks



the tenth anniversary of the cherished Floyd's Pick Book Award.

Created in 2015 to honor the legacy of Ohio children's literature expert, advocate, and librarian Floyd Dickman, the Floyd's Pick Book Award is given annually to a book written or illustrated by an Ohioan that is representative of high-quality literature created for children. The award aims to carry on the legacy of Floyd Dickman's joyful work to support and share children's literature. Each year's winning title is selected by the Choose to Read Ohio Advisory Council. The council may also select up to three additional titles as Floyd's Pick Honor Books.

The winner of the tenth anniversary Floyd's Pick Book Award is *The Voice in the Hollow* by Will Hillenbrand. Two Floyd's Pick Honor Books were also selected for 2025: *My Thoughts Have Wings* by Maggie Smith (illustrated by Leanne Hatch) and *The Yellow Bus* by Loren Long.

The 2025 Floyd's Pick Book Award will be presented by State Librarian Knapp at the Ohioana Book Festival on May 3, 2025.

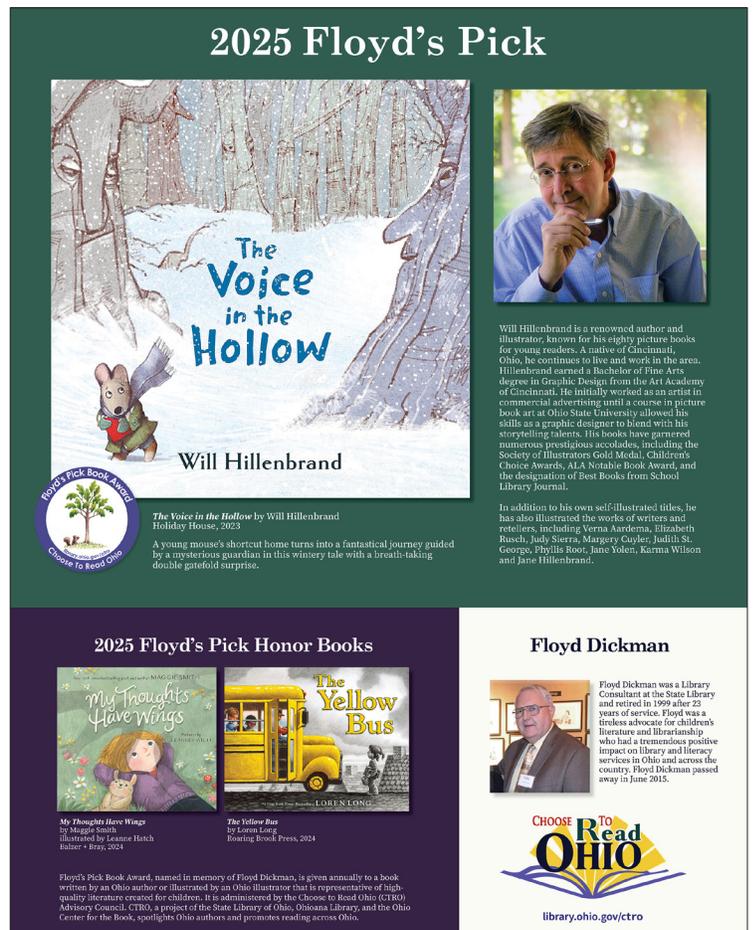
"I never met Floyd, but I feel like I know him through the love and passion for children's literature that he inspired," says Knapp. "Supporting high quality literature for children is so important so that young people can engage with reading."

Information about Floyd Dickman, as well as the ten years of Floyd's Pick Book Award winners and honorees, can be found on the State Library of Ohio's website at: [library.ohio.gov/floyds-pick](http://library.ohio.gov/floyds-pick).

Knapp adds, "Who knows what future literary greats are being inspired by the books these programs highlight."

No one can predict what the next quarter-century might bring, but the outlook is bright as long as Ohioans keep writing, illustrating, and reading.

Photos: (Top) 2025 Choose to Read Ohio poster. (Bottom) 2025 Floyd's Pick Book Award poster. (Designed by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Director of Marketing & Communications, State Library of Ohio)



# Books for Young Readers Reviewed by Young Readers

The book reviews for this issue were written by the Form IV students at Columbus School for Girls. Ms. Dolce-Bun and Ms. Kessler led their classes in a special project where the students selected picture books to review by Ohio authors and illustrators. The students learned to evaluate the books on themes, word choice, art, and age group appropriateness, and practiced their critical thinking and writing skills. We thank Ms. Dolce-Bun, Ms. Kessler, and all the talented students for providing the Ohioana Quarterly with these wonderful reviews!

**Awan, Jashar. *I'm Going to Build a Snowman.***  
New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2023.

*I'm Going to Build a Snowman* is a lovely book written and illustrated by Ohioan Jashar Awan. This book is for kids ages four to nine, but it's an amazing book for anyone. The story is about a little boy who wants to make a snowman and dreams about how easy it will be. However, when he tries to build the snowman, he finds that it is harder than he thought. But he learns that you don't have to be perfect.



I really like this book for many reasons. One reason is that it has great pictures. The author included details on every single page. It's also easy to read. There are simple phrases and a clear storyline. The author added personality to the little boy, too. He has a lot of energy and is amusing. *I'm Going to Build a Snowman* is a book that you should definitely read.

MY NAME IS MALEIA SMITH. I AM IN FORM IV IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LIKE TO DANCE, SING, AND ACT. I ALSO LIKE DOGS. I HAVE A DOG NAMED LEO.

**Blom, Tracy. *Starry Nights in Mexico.***  
Illus. by Eduardo Paj.  
Columbus, OH: Tracy Blom Publications, 2023.

*Starry Nights in Mexico* is an amazing book by Ohio author Tracy Blom with bright and colorful illustrations by Eduardo Paj. The book is about a young girl and her mother. It begins a few nights before Christmas on a starry night. The girl is so happy and wants to have a great Christmas with her mom. But then she finds out they have to leave their hometown to go to Mexico and see her family. Along the way, the girl and her mother get lost. Then they use the stars to guide them. They stop at many towns in Mexico and celebrate different traditions. Finally, they arrive at their relatives' town and have a great Christmas with their family, friends, and grandparents.



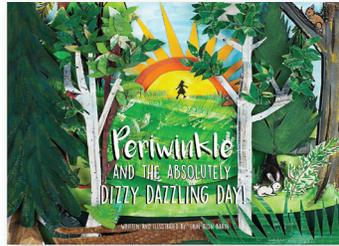
I think this is a great book. One of the reasons why I like this book is because the illustrator took a lot of time with their drawings and added a lot of detail. An example is how the stars in the nighttime pictures look very bright. I also like how all the text rhymes. I personally think the rhyming makes the story easier to read. I think this book is for people of all ages. It is also a great bedtime story, especially on Christmas Eve. I would highly recommend this book.

MY NAME IS ELIZA HOROWITZ. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY SOCCER, SKIING, SWIMMING, AND MORE. I ALSO LIKE BAKING. ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS TO BAKE IS BANANA BREAD.

**Brain, Erin Alon. *Periwinkle and the Absolutely Dizzy-Dazzling Day!***

Columbus, OH: Dfmi Designs, 2023.

The book *Periwinkle and the Absolutely Dizzy-Dazzling Day!*, by Ohio author and



illustrator Erin Alon Brain, is about adventure and exploration. This story involves a young girl named Periwinkle who lives by an alluring forest and is very happy because she now gets to go into it by herself. But when she enters, she feels overwhelmed because everything is unfamiliar. On her way through the forest, Periwinkle faces many challenges and learns to overcome them. At the end of the day, she goes home and shares her experience with her family. Periwinkle learns that when challenges get in your way, you should never give up.

In my opinion, this book is sweet and made me want to keep reading to discover the challenges Periwinkle would face. First, the illustrations are gorgeous. I love the last page when Periwinkle goes to bed and how it feels like the stars are glistening in the picture. Next, the story is adventurous. I love how Periwinkle is confident and never gives up. I also like how there is a lot of vocabulary, however children might not understand everything. For example, parents may need to explain words like *encompassed*, *adeptly*, *keen*, and *cerulean* to younger children. The book includes a bunch of mini problems and not just one main problem. Examples are when the raccoon took Periwinkle’s lunch and she was hungry for the rest of the book, and when the rope bridge washed away and it was hard for her to cross the river. Overall, *Periwinkle and the Absolutely Dizzy-Dazzling Day!* is really enjoyable and great.

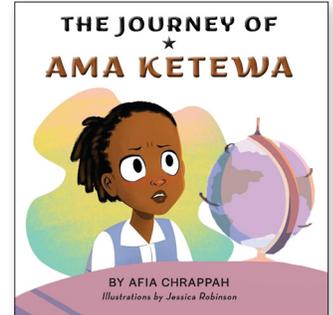
Erin Alon Brain is from Ohio and loves adventure.

MY NAME IS SIDNEY SKROBARCEK. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. KESSLER’S CLASS. I LOVE TO PLAY TENNIS AND SING.

**Chrappah, Afia. *The Journey of Ama Ketewa*.** Illus. by Jessica Robinson.

Columbus, OH: Ketewa Storytelling, 2021.

*The Journey of Ama Ketewa*, written by Afia Chrappah and illustrated by Jessica Robinson, is a book about a nine-year-old girl named Ama. Ama lives in a country called Ghana in Africa. She enjoys living there. Her parents own a store in their neighborhood and sometimes



Ama goes there to help out. One day, Ama’s parents pick her and her younger brother up from school, which is unusual because they normally walk over to their parents’ store after school. When they get home, their entire family is there. At this point, the book gets very exciting. But then Ama’s dad tells her they’re moving to the United States of America in a week. Ama tries to run away, but her dad grabs her and tells her everything is going to be okay and it’s for the best.

This book is inspiring and a reminder that anyone can do hard things. First, Ama is only nine years old. Second, she lives in Africa and has to move far away to America. I know that’s going to be hard for her because she doesn’t want to leave her home.

The only thing I would add to this story is to tell the reader what happens when Ama moves to America. Overall, it’s a great book even without those details. I believe this book will continue to inspire other girls facing big changes. This is a wonderful and very inspirational book.

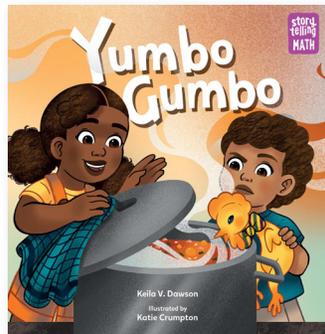
The author of *The Journey of Ama Ketewa*, Afia Chrappah, immigrated to Ohio when she was only five years old. The illustrator, Jessica Robinson, was born in Ohio.

MY NAME IS DOROTHY LANCTOT. I’M IN FORM IV AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN MS. KESSLER’S CLASS. I ENJOY PLAYING MANY SPORTS INCLUDING ICE HOCKEY AND BASKETBALL. I AM ALSO A HUGE BOOKWORM.

**Dawson, Keila V. *Yumbo Gumbo (Storytelling Math)*.**

Illus. by Katie Crumpton.  
Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2024.

The book *Yumbo Gumbo*, written by Keila V. Dawson and illustrated by Katie Crumpton, is an astounding book with gorgeous graphics and inspiring examples of compromise. The main girl, Annabelle, and her mom, dad, brother, mamá, and papí (her grandparents) want to make gumbo, but they disagree on what type to make. An example is her little brother, who wants chicken gumbo and not seafood gumbo. Annabelle comes up with some incredibly clever ways to solve the disagreement, including choosing your “unyumbo gumbo,” which is the term for their least favorite gumbo. In the end, Annabelle thinks of a clever compromise for everyone, even her little brother.



I believe this book is an awesome way to learn about a different culture and is very educational. As well as having the family make gumbo, author Keila V. Dawson also includes a few words out of the Louisiana Creole language. Katie Crumpton creates exquisite illustrations of gumbo that perfectly match the descriptive words, making you feel like you could actually reach into the page and grab the tasty food. This is also a very inspirational book on the importance of family and compromise. Everyone agrees to something that was not his or her favorite choice. This shows that no matter how old we are, we know in our hearts that family is the most important thing.

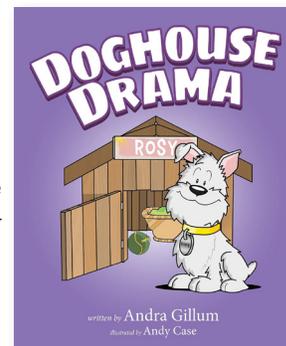
Author Keila V. Dawson lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she writes books for children including *The King Cake Baby* and *Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book*

I'M ANNIE SKARUPPA IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I ENJOY READING AND BEING OUTSIDE.

**Gillum, Andra. *Doghouse Drama*.** Illus. by Andy Case.

Herndon, VA: Mascot Books, 2023.

The book *Doghouse Drama*, written by Ohioan Andra Gillum and illustrated by Andy Case, is about a dog named Rosy who wants to go back to the farm where she was born in the middle of Ohio. She is taken away by new owners. At the new house, Rosy settles in and starts to get used to everything. But Lucy, the family's other dog, scowls and hides her toys so Rosy can't play with them.



One day, Rosy gets lost and experiences an adventure trying to get home. After a while, she finds a familiar scent and follows it. She makes it back to her new home and everyone is so happy to see her. Even Lucy is nicer to her. They live happily ever after.

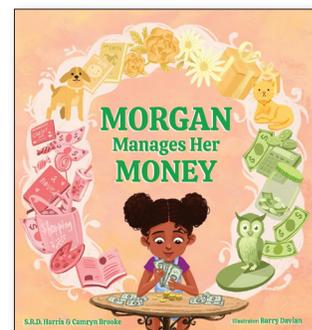
*Doghouse Drama* is exciting and funny. Rosy has a big adventure when she gets lost. One of the most exciting parts is when she gets chased by an angry lawn mower. I also like the funny things that Rosy says. For example, “I don't want to move. Nobody asked me!” I would recommend this book to others who like funny and exciting stories.

MY NAME IS TARA ALEXANDER. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LIKE TO READ AND LIVE IN BEXLEY, OHIO.

**Harris, S. R. D., and Camryn Brooke. *Morgan Manages Her Money*.** Illus. by Barry Davian.

Pickerington, OH: S. R. D. Harris Books, 2023.

*Morgan Manages Her Money* is a good book by Ohio authors S. R. D. Harris and Camryn Brooke. It is about a girl named Morgan who has a problem. She spends all her money shopping with her friend Liz, and she needs to learn how to manage her money. One night, Morgan has a dream in which



a wise owl shows her how to create a list of wants and needs. This dream helps her with managing her money.

My opinion is that *Morgan Manages Her Money* is a good guide to helping kids save and spend their money. One reason I think this is because Morgan is a problem solver. She decides to have three jars labeled “give,” “spend,” and “save.” Another reason I like the book is because the owl teaches readers about wants and needs. *Morgan Manages Her Money* is a great book for kids of any age!

MY NAME IS TALIA WORLY. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I PLAY BASKETBALL AND SOCCER. I HAVE THREE SIBLINGS. LASTLY, I LOVE TO READ.

### Heide, Florence Parry. *Giants Are Very Brave People*. Illus. by Merrill Rainey.

New York, NY: Holiday House, 2023.

The book *Giants are Very Brave People*, written by Florence Parry Heide and illustrated by Merrill Rainey, is a great story. A boy giant named Bigelow wants to be brave, but he is afraid of everything. (Except his mother.) For example, he is even afraid of alphabet soup! So, he takes a walk and runs into a “little” lady (a.k.a. a human adult), who is small compared to Bigelow. Her name is Ms. Pimberly, and she isn't afraid of him. At first, Bigelow doesn't realize that he is a giant to her. When he tells Ms. Pimberly he is afraid of everything, she suggests he says something like “*Fee Fi Fo Fum*” to help him feel brave. He practices a lot, and it makes him feel bigger and braver. In the end, Bigelow stops being afraid of alphabet soup and so many other things.



I really like this book. In my opinion, it has bright and saturated colors. An example is on page 5. Bigelow is walking under the clouds and it shows lots of bright colors. Another reason I think this is a good book is because the pictures all make sense and are superb. On pages 8–9, Bigelow meets Ms. Pimberly and the one picture takes up two pages. The last thing is the storyline. I think it is amazing and funny. For example, on page 13 it says, “For instance, if you would go around shouting a giant sort of shout, that would make you feel braver. Like *Fee Fi Fo Fum*.” Bigelow then practices it eighty-seven times!

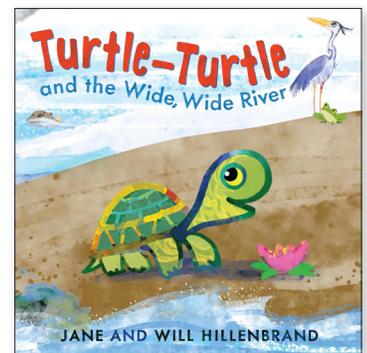
The Ohio connection to this book is the illustrator, Merrill Rainey. He was born in Ohio and was the Illustrator Coordinator for the Northern Ohio Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He still lives in Ohio with his wife, kids, and pets.

MY NAME IS MADISON DAVIS. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LIKE TO READ AND DO COMPETITIVE CHEER. MY FAVORITE CHEER MOVE IS A BACK TUCK. MY FAVORITE BOOK IS *DIARY OF AN 8-BIT WARRIOR (#1)*. I LIVE IN REYNOLDSBURG.

### Hillenbrand, Jane, and Will Hillenbrand. *Turtle-Turtle and the Wide, Wide River*.

New York, NY: Holiday House, 2024.

*Turtle-Turtle and the Wide, Wide River* is an amazing book by Ohio authors Jane Hillenbrand and Will Hillenbrand. In this book, there is a storm. Everyone except little Turtle-Turtle knows what to do in order to stay safe. Thankfully, Turtle-Turtle's friends help him find his way to safety. Turtle-Turtle thanks his friends and is happy again.



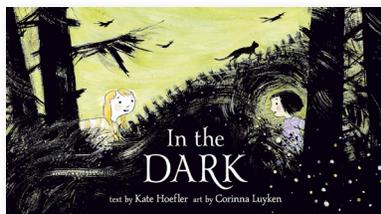
I love this book! I would especially recommend this book to children ages six and under. One reason I love this book is the pictures. They are beautiful and show very cute animals. Another reason I like this book is the characters. I think that the authors were very creative in choosing who the characters would be. I also like how the characters are animals and they are named after what kind of animal they are. Last but not least, I like that the theme of this story is friendship, which is very important to me. All in all, I think this book is a great bedtime story because it is calm and soothing with repeated words. I hope Jane and Will Hillenbrand are proud of themselves. Read on!

MY NAME IS MAREN STEELE. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY WRITING, SWIMMING, SEWING, AND LEARNING. I ALSO LIKE READING. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS *BLACK BEAUTY* BY ANNA SEWELL.

**Hoefler, Kate. *In the Dark*. Illus. by Corinna Luyken.**

New York, NY: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2023.

*In the Dark* is a really good book for all ages. It is by Ohio author Kate Hoefler. You can read it out loud or read it alone. In the book, there is a girl in yellow and a few other children who are all happy. They are having a good time playing with their bird-shaped kites. Then thunder and rain come crashing down with strong winds. The children lose their kites in the trees. Many people come together to find and fix the children's kites, including strangers who seem scary at first. At the end, they all enjoy the kites together.



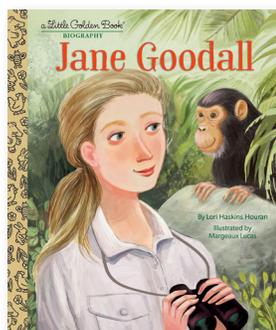
Personally, I really like this book, especially the pretty drawings. Another thing I like is how this book is sad and happy at the same time. I also really like that there's a black cat named Mingus, and they don't make him bad luck. *In the Dark* is a book about how it doesn't matter who you are on the outside, you can always help if you are kind inside.

MY NAME IS SARAH ETEISH. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. MY FAVORITE HOBBIES ARE READING, WRITING, TYPING, AND PLAYING WITH MY FRIENDS. MY FAVORITE BOOKS ARE *KING OF THE WIND* AND *REAL HORSE BOOKS*. A FUN FACT ABOUT ME IS THAT I OWN A HORSE NAMED MALIBU!

**Houran, Lori Haskins. *Jane Goodall: A Little Golden Book Biography*.**

Illus. by Margeaux Lucas.  
New York, NY: Golden Books, 2024.

*Jane Goodall: A Little Golden Book Biography* is an amazing book by Lori Haskins Houran with exciting illustrations by Ohio illustrator Margeaux Lucas. This book is about Jane Goodall and is great for people who love animals.



One reason I like this book is because it gives lots of information. For example, three things I learned are that

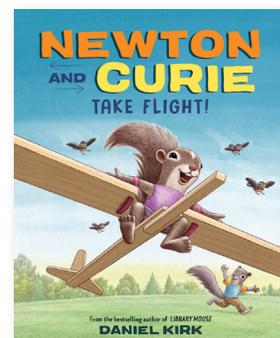
Jane was not her real first name (it was Valerie), she wanted to go to Africa to study animals, and she had a stuffed chimp named Jubilee as a child. Another reason I like this book is because it shows a lot of things animals do. An example is how Jane observed the ways chimps are human-like. She saw an old chimp using nature tools to provide himself with food. One more reason I like the book is because Jane started a foundation so others could learn about animals and help save them. If you love animals and want to learn more about them, you should read *Jane Goodall: A Little Golden Book Biography*.

MY NAME IS AVA MCCLANAHAN. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. SOME HOBBIES I ENJOY ARE ICE HOCKEY, BASKETBALL, READING, AND ART. ALSO, MY LAST NAME IS IRISH AND SCOTTISH, BUT I AM NOT IRISH OR SCOTTISH!

**Kirk, Daniel. *Newton and Curie Take Flight!***

New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2023.

The book *Newton and Curie Take Flight!*, written and illustrated by Daniel Kirk, is about never giving up and to keep trying, no matter what. This book's characters are brother and sister squirrels named Newton and Curie. When Curie meets baby robins learning to fly, she asks the mother robin to teach her to fly, too. Everyone says squirrels can't fly, but Curie still tries with the help of her brother. After a while, they finally find a solution. They build a model plane with long wings, and the robins fly them into the air.

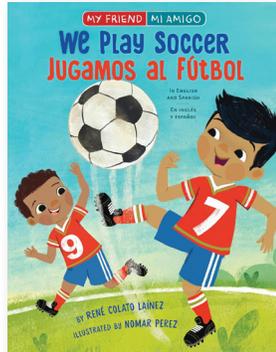


In my opinion, I really like this book and think it is very fun because I like animals and science. For example, on pages 12–13, Newton and Curie explain what flight is with science facts. Another thing I like is how the author-illustrator used lots of colors in his pictures. Pages 12–13 have bright colors like purple, orange, yellow, and green. My third reason why I really like this book is because Curie is curious and wants to try new things. On page 3, for example, Curie asks if the mother robin can teach her to fly. In conclusion, my opinion is that *Newton and Curie Take Flight!* is a very fun and funny book, and I like everything about it.

MY NAME IS ZARA MACPHAIL. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LOVE TO READ AND WANT TO BE A VETERINARIAN SOMEDAY.

**Láinez, René Colato. *We Play Soccer, Jugamos al Fútbol*.** Illus. by Nomar Perez. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2022.

*We Play Soccer, Jugamos al Fútbol* is by René Colato Láinez and illustrated by Ohio illustrator Nomar Perez. The main characters in the book are José and Joe. They want to play soccer, but they have to wait on the bench. They wait and cheer for their team. Then the soccer game takes a turn, and José and Joe are needed to save the day. Will their team win? Well, you'll have to read it to find out!

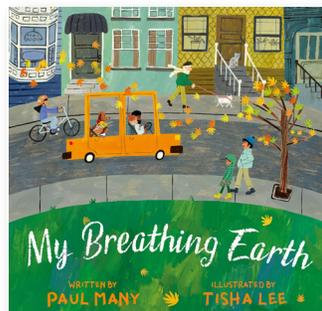


This book is an amazing book for young children as a bedtime story because it is very calming. One reason I like this book is because it is written in English and Spanish. An example of this is one kid says, “Hola,” and the other says, “Hello.” The second reason I like this book is that it has really cute pictures. I love the kids’ faces. Lastly, it has a glossary in the back that shows what each Spanish word means, which is really helpful. I definitely recommend reading this book.

MY NAME IS MARIBEL GIBLIN FARFAN. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I'M IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I LOVE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING, FIELD HOCKEY, AND READING. I DO SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING FOR OCS (OHIO CORALINA SYNCRO).

**Many, Paul. *My Breathing Earth*.** Illus. by Tisha Lee. San Diego, CA: Yeehoo Press, 2023.

The book *My Breathing Earth*, by Ohio author Paul Many and illustrator Tisha Lee, is about a girl (a.k.a the narrator). She wants to learn about the Earth’s ways and its breath (how it is a living thing). So, she goes on an adventure and she figures out the Earth’s ways. Then, she wakes up and gets to do it again.



One reason I like this book is because of the wonderful wording. An example is the sentence, “She will sleep

the whole day long, breezes ruffling her fur.” By the way, “her” refers to the narrator’s cat. I connected to this because it reminded me of my cat, Daisy. She always used to sit in the window like the cat in this book. But sadly, Daisy is no longer with me. Another thing I like about this book are the variety of illustrations. Some drawings take up the whole page, while other ones have circle vignettes that leave a lot of white space. I like the full-page pictures best. The character doesn’t have a problem to solve in this book, so it’s not like a lot of other books. But if you want to read a great and soothing book, you should read *My Breathing Earth*.

MY NAME IS HARPER LANDRUM. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I GOT THIS BOOK AS MY REVIEW BOOK.

**Mazeika, Katie. *Beulah Has a Hunch! Inside the Colorful Mind of Master Inventor Beulah Louise Henry*.** New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2023.

The book *Beulah Has a Hunch!* is by Ohio author and illustrator Katie Mazeika. It is a true story about self-determination and shows that if you put in time and effort, you can achieve any goal. Beulah Louise Henry is a young woman who wants to get her new invention, a collapsible parasol, out into the world. She gets a patent but sadly, since she is a woman, no one will produce her product. Even though the first few manufacturers do not work out, Beulah does not get discouraged. After many disappointing meetings, she finally finds a manufacturer! Everyone buys and loves her parasol and she becomes a very famous inventor!



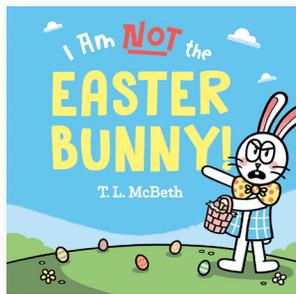
I love this book because it shows a main character whose neurodiversity makes her stronger. On page 9, the book explains, “She had hyperphantasia, an ability to picture things in extreme detail.” I also love that the book shows real problems like discrimination. On page 25, the book says, “Some manufacturers laughed at the idea of a woman inventor. Several others just shrugged her off.” Plus, the book title is very catchy, too. I believe that it is because of the “H” alliteration. In conclusion, this is a great book!

MY NAME IS NORA MECUM. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I LOVE TO WRITE!

**McBeth, T. L. *I am NOT the Easter Bunny!***

New York, NY: Flamingo Books, 2024.

*I am NOT the Easter Bunny!* is by T. L. McBeth, an author-illustrator who was born in Ohio. *I am NOT the Easter Bunny!* is about a bunny who has to keep a secret. But it is hard for him to do this because the narrator of the book keeps noticing things about him that are similar to the Easter Bunny and asking him lots of questions. The narrator is curious to know if he is the actual Easter Bunny, but the bunny keeps saying he isn't and tries to prove that the narrator is wrong. There is a surprise ending when the bunny reveals his secret!



I love the book *I am NOT the Easter Bunny!*, especially the bunny's variety of emotions. He changes from calm to very annoyed! Another thing I like about the book is that it is really creative. This book is funny and it brings me joy. In my opinion, this book is for kids ages three to eight years old. I suggest this wonderful book to kids who love to laugh!

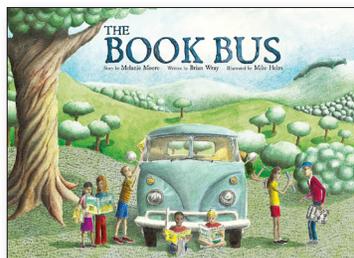
MY NAME IS AMELIE MURRAY. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I DO GYMNASTICS, LACROSSE, AND BASKETBALL. MY FAVORITE BOOK IS WONDER.

**Moore, Melanie, and Brian Wray.**

***The Book Bus.* Illus. by Mike Helm.**

Atglen, PA: Schiffer Kids, 2024.

*The Book Bus* by Ohioans Melanie Moore, Brian Wray, and Mike Helm is a wonderful book for kids ages seven to ten. The illustrations are beautiful. I love how the story is nonfiction with fiction woven in. Tilly is a Volkswagen pickup truck, who is the main character, and is helpful around the farm where she lives. She loves when a little girl comes and reads to her at night. But the girl grows up and moves away, and Tilly is replaced by bigger, more substantial trucks. Tilly sits in the barn



gathering dust and thinks she is done being helpful. Then, she remembers the crates of books the little girl left in the barn and realizes how much she misses the sound of reading. So, Tilly goes out into the town, full of happiness, and displays the crates of books so people in the community can read them. Kids and parents visit her wherever she goes, and Tilly is happy to share her books and hear children read them.

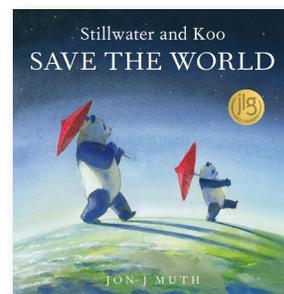
This is a wonderful book! My first reason that I like it is because the story is beautiful and kind. My second reason is because the artwork is great and looks like it took a long time to create. My third reason is because the book is based on a true story. In the back of the book, there is a picture of the real book bus! I love this book.

MY NAME IS GRACE JOHNSTON. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I LOVE SWIMMING AND READING. A FUN FACT ABOUT ME IS I HAVE A RABBIT NAMED OSO. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS SWEEP.

**Muth, Jon J. *Stillwater and Koo Save the World (A Stillwater and Friends Book).***

New York, NY: Scholastic, 2023.

The story *Stillwater and Koo Save the World* is by Jon J. Muth. This cute story is about helping each other and the Earth. Stillwater and Koo are pandas who spend all day doing small, good deeds. But Koo says, "The world is so big," and, "Is saving the world even possible at all?" So, Stillwater, Koo's uncle, helps him by saying, "Each time you do something good, you save the world a little bit." Then, Stillwater and Koo save the world a little bit every day.



I like this book. In my opinion, it is kind and sweet. Also, the book shows that a small thing can mean a lot. For example, a small panda named Koo wants to save the world, but the world is so big and Koo feels very small. Next, I connect to this book because I also like to help the Earth and the world around me. For example, Koo likes to clean his room and feed his cat. Lastly, the book shows that doing a small good deed makes everyone feel good. For example, the Sanam family thanks Stillwater and Koo for welcoming them to the neighborhood with a cake. That is why I think the book is kind and sweet.

Jon J. Muth, the author and illustrator, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1960.

MY NAME IS PIPER KRUG. I AM FROM NEW YORK CITY, BUT NOW I LIVE IN OHIO. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY READING AND LOVE MY CAT.

**Pedalino, Alana, and Pen Ken. *Kenny and the Cookie Lady*. Illus. by Jade Pilgrom.**

Buffalo, NY: Windmill, 2024.

*Kenny and the Cookie Lady* is a great book with lovely illustrations by Jade Pilgrom, a beautiful storyline by Pen Ken, and awesome words by Alana Pedalino. This book is about a boy named Kenny and a woman who is called “the Cookie Lady.” The Cookie Lady babysits for basketball players on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On Fridays she still babysits for basketball players, but she also makes extra cookies for the Sugar Street kids. She gives cookies to the kids who have good grades. The cookies are so good that they make everyone smile. Except Kenny. He is new in town and is struggling to keep his grades up. But with the Cookie Lady’s wisdom, and help from his classmates, he might be able to get a cookie.



I think this book is awesome for three reasons. Reason number one is the fact that the storyline is so good. Reason number two is because the Cookie Lady says, “It’s okay to ask for help.” This is a very inspirational quote and a good message for readers. Reason number three is that the pictures show a lot of emotion so the reader can understand how the characters feel. I think *Kenny and the Cookie Lady* is a really great book.

MY NAME IS RUBY WILLIAMS. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. THREE THINGS ABOUT ME: I LIKE READING BOOKS, MATH IS MY FAVORITE SUBJECT, AND I SKIPPED FIRST GRADE.

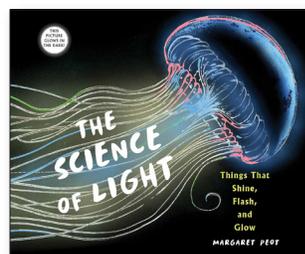
**Peot, Margaret. *The Science of Light: Things That Shine, Flash, and Glow*.**

New York, NY: Holiday House, 2022.

*The Science of Light*, written and illustrated by Ohio author Margaret Peot, is a nonfiction book about things that shine, flash, and glow, including the bioluminescence of the world, fireworks, the sun, and the aurora borealis. If your child likes stuff that glows

in the dark, this will be the perfect book for them. But this book will be enjoyed by other children, too.

My opinion is that *The Science of Light* is a good bedtime story for children six and older. Here are some reasons why I like this book. My first reason is because the book ends on a peaceful note. I think the beautiful illustrations and the simple words come together in a pleasing way. My second reason is because this book is an informational story complete with intricate illustrations. This book is a portal to understand the bioluminescence of the world, as well as other kinds of light. At the end, there is information for any questions one might have about the iridescent creatures and lights featured in the book. There are a lot of things in this book that young children will not know about, which makes the information at the end very useful. This book has beautiful cover illustrations that also glow in the dark. Just leave it under a light for two hours, then take it to a dark room and watch it glow! This is an amazing book for younger children and has beautiful, lustrous illustrations!

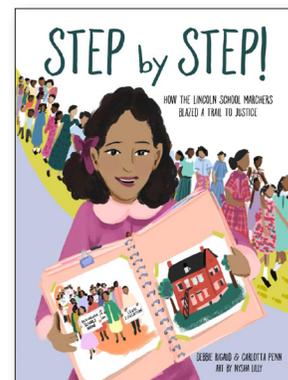


MY NAME IS ELEANOR KAMP. I'M IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I ENJOY SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING, RUNNING, AND READING. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS.

**Rigaud, Debbie, and Carlotta Penn. *Step By Step! How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice*.**

Illus. by Nysha Lilly.  
Columbus, OH: Daydreamers Press, 2023.

This book is called *Step by Step!* by Debbie Rigaud and Carlotta Penn. They are both from Ohio. The art is by Nysha Lilly. This book is about how the Lincoln School Marchers blazed a trail to justice. It takes place in Hillsboro, Ohio, at the Lincoln School and Webster School. Black kids went to Lincoln and white kids went to Webster. When Lincoln School got badly damaged in a fire in 1954, the Black students’ mothers



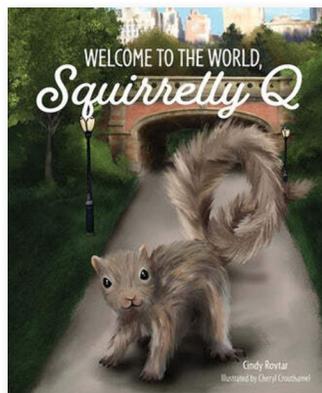
wanted their kids to go to Webster, which was a much nicer school. The school board wouldn't let the Black students attend Webster, so the mothers and kids started to march. While they marched, they ran into problems. For example, the principal of Webster would stand like a brick wall so they couldn't enter. However, it was illegal to keep the Black kids out of Webster, according to United States laws. So, one mother talked to an attorney named Constance Baker Motley, and they sued the school board. Finally, the judge decided that they were right and Webster would need to allow Black kids immediately. At first, it wasn't easy, and some of the kids wouldn't even say hello to the Black students. But they continued to persevere.

In my opinion, this is an amazing book. I especially love the illustrations. For example, an illustration at the middle of the book shows scenes of all the different places where the kids and mothers marched. When you look at some pages, there is newspaper in the background like a scrapbook, which also makes the illustrations unique and interesting. This is an important story to show how Black kids had to march and march until they finally won the rights to go to a good school.

MY NAME IS A'LAILA JEFFRIES. I AM NINE YEARS OLD AND GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS IN FORM IV. I LIKE TO RIDE MY BIKE AND PLAY UNO. MY DAD IS A HISTORY TEACHER AND MY MOM IS A DOCTOR.

**Rovtar, Cindy. *Welcome to the World, Squirrelly Q.*** Illus. by Cheryl Crouthamel. Herndon, VA: Mascot Books, 2022.

*Welcome to the World, Squirrelly Q* is about a baby squirrel named Q. Q wakes up alone in a cold dark place. All of a sudden, he falls to the ground and meets a little critter. The critter is a mouse. Q starts to wonder if he is a mouse, too. Then he meets another animal named Mr. E. Mr. E is nice and wants to help Q find his mom. But first, they need to find food. As they are nibbling some berries, Mr. E suddenly says, "Run!" To Q's surprise, the furry monster turns out to be a friendly dog. The dog's name is Sherlock. He tells Q that he can help find Q's mother.



They search for her in the city. Sherlock finds a skunk, two pigeons, and a fluffy cat, but none of them are Q's family. Then the cat remembers she saw some critters that looked just like Q! They all run back to the park and finally find a group of squirrels. At first the squirrels hide, but then Q's mom notices him. Q hugs his mom and says bye to his friends. Q and his mom live happily ever after.

My opinion of this book is that it is a nice story and has great illustrations. For example, I love the picture of the pretty fountain and animals. I think this is an interesting and sweet book that will put a smile on any kid's face. That's why I think you should read *Welcome to the World, Squirrelly Q*.

Cindy Rovtar is from Ohio, and this book is inspired by Central Park in New York City.

MY NAME IS BROOKE CASEY. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LOVE TO READ AND THIS BOOK WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITES.

**Rowe, Sarah. *From the Farm to Our Table.*** Illus. by Amanda Morrow. Louisville, KY: Gnome Road Publishing, 2024.

*From the Farm to Our Table* is a great book written by an outstanding author named Sarah Rowe and illustrated by Amanda Morrow. It is about a family that lives on a farm and feeds the animals, gathers the chicken eggs, and milks the cows to make a perfect and delicious shepherd's pie.



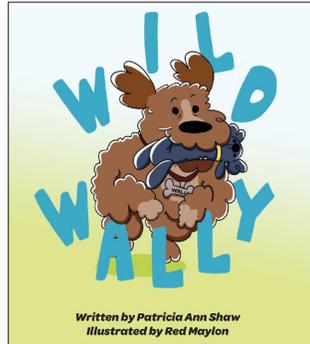
I think this book is for younger kids, but I still like it. I love the dog character with his little bandana. He follows the kids everywhere and is a good helper. I also really like the writing. I like the setting because I'm interested in farms. I think this book is great for younger kids. But if your kid is obsessed with animals, it might not be a good book for them because the characters think of the animals as food and not animals.

MY NAME IS AUDREY RAKOCY. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY SWIMMING, LACROSSE, AND TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS *CITY SPIES*.

**Shaw, Patricia Ann. *Wild Wally*. Illus. by Red Maylon.**

Palm Coast, FL: Sunsational Publishing, 2024.

*Wild Wally* is a funny book by Ohio author Patricia Ann Shaw with cute illustrations by Red Maylon. *Wild Wally* is a book for two through six year olds, but I really liked it! This book is about Wally, a cavapoo puppy, who always causes trouble in his owners' house. Pops and Mamaw are Wally's owners. Wally steals Pops' sock, then Pops chases Wally all around the house trying to find a way to get the sock out of his mouth. When Pops gets his sock back, he finds a surprise. Everyone thinks Wally is tuckered out, but he's not! So, he plays some more. Finally, Wally slows down and goes to sleep.



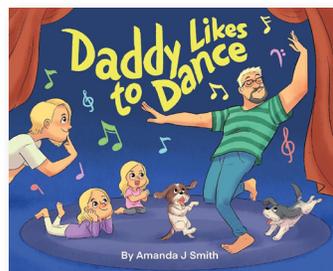
I think *Wild Wally* is a really great book. One reason is because the characters are so funny! Pops is really old and Wally is so energetic. Pops has to chase Wally around the entire house, which is difficult for Pops. Another reason I like this book is because the pictures are cute. Wally looks so fluffy, I just want to squeeze him and love him! Mamaw's dress is also very pretty. My last reason why I like this book is because the illustrations show all the actions and emotions of the characters. When Wally sees Pops' sock, there's an exclamation point above his head to show he sees it and is excited. I really like *Wild Wally* and I hope you do, too!

MY NAME IS MARGOT HATTAWAY. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY BALLET, READING, AND MATH. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS *ELF DOG AND OWL HEAD*.

**Smith, Amanda J. *Daddy Likes to Dance*.**

Columbus, OH: Amanda J. Smith, 2021.

The book *Daddy Likes to Dance*, written and illustrated by Amanda J. Smith, is about the oldest daughter in a family who wants to get rid of all of her big emotions. Her dad is so silly, but every time he tries to make her smile,



she still has a frown on her face. Her dad tries to get her to cheer up by dancing. He picks her up and spins her around, and then eventually she realizes that her dad's silly dancing actually does cheer her up!

*Daddy Likes to Dance* is a great book. In the story, the dad is very fun and playful with his kids, just like my dad. Whenever I'm sad, my dad also lifts me up. I like how silly the dad is when he dances and says funny stuff in the book. I think he is a good father because he is looking out for his kids. For example, when the older daughter is a bit grumpy, he lifts her up and spins her in the air to cheer her up. I hope one day to be able to read this book to children of my own.

Amanda J. Smith is married and has two daughters and a bunch of animals. She lives in an historic home in Columbus, Ohio.

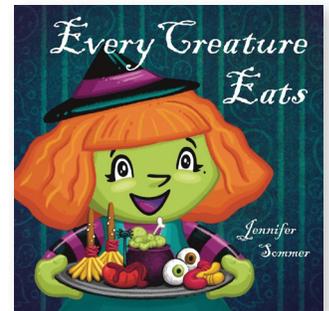
MY NAME IS KYLIE CARRILLO. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

**Sommer, Jennifer. *Every Creature Eats*.**

Illus. by Jerry Shields.

Springboro, OH: Braughler Books, 2024.

*Every Creature Eats*, written by Jennifer Sommer and illustrated by Jerry Shields, is a silly story. It is about a witch who has a witch feast and makes a lot of dishes for the different creatures. These are NOT your typical dishes. They are really gross and fit the Halloween theme. Some of the creatures at the feast do NOT like the witch's dishes, but most of them do. The dishes are actually not as gross as you think. They are actually things you can make at home with recipes in the back of the book!



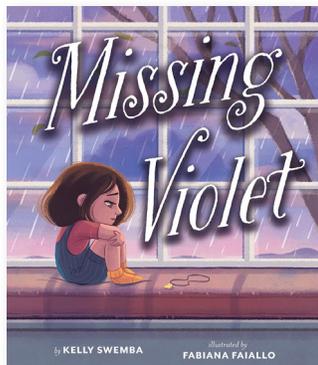
Here are some things about my opinion of this book. Some of the dishes are too gross for me, but some of them are interesting. If you don't like gross things, you may not enjoy the book. I think it is silly and fun to read, so overall I like *Every Creature Eats*.

Jennifer Sommer lives in Dayton, Ohio, with her husband and two cavapoo dogs.

MY NAME IS NYAH GODFREY, CLASS OF 2033. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS.

**Swemba, Kelly. *Missing Violet*.** Illus. by Fabiana Faiallo. Minneapolis, MN: Beaming Books, 2023.

*Missing Violet* is an amazing book by Ohio author Kelly Swemba and illustrated by Fabiana Faiallo. In this story about grief and friendship, Mia (the main character) wants to play with her best friend Violet, but Violet gets very sick and dies. Mia is so sad, but she makes a box full of pictures of her and Violet together. She also works with her classmates to find ways they can all remember Violet. Mia still misses Violet, but she feels a lot better because she found ways to remember her.



My opinion is that *Missing Violet* is a great book, especially for people who are experiencing the passing of a loved one. My first reason why I like this book is because *Missing Violet* has beautiful illustrations. The illustrator used many colors that show Mia’s emotions and expressions. One thing I noticed is that a lot of pages are purple, and I feel like that is an amazing idea for this book because Violet is another name for purple. Another reason I like this book is because it helps show you how to handle grief. I think it is good for people to know what emotions they will feel after they lose someone and learn different things they can do to remember them. As I have said, I believe that *Missing Violet* is a great book and I think that the Ohio author, Kelly Swemba, and the chosen illustrator, Fabiana Faiallo, did an amazing job!

MY NAME IS ANNALISE SCHULTE. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY ART, SWIMMING, BASKETBALL, AND MORE! ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS *FRONT DESK*.

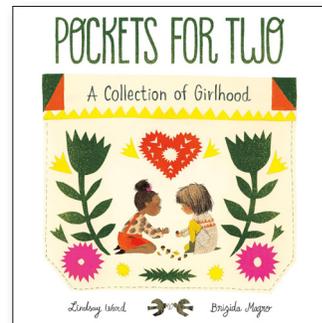
**Ward, Lindsay. *Pockets for Two: A Collection of Girlhood*.** Illus. by Brizida Magro. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2024.

The book I studied is called *Pockets for Two*. The story is about two girls who go to school together. Throughout the year, they explore the wonderful world of pockets! They collect everything from pebbles to frogs. Soon the

school year ends, but that does not mean the pocket fun does! The girls continue to spend time together in the summer and stay friends.

In my opinion, I would recommend this book to readers ages four to eight.

I really like this book and especially love the illustrations. The illustrator used collage and patchwork to make the girls’ clothing. Second, the words the author used seem very purposeful. She writes, “Pockets are for tiny wonders found while we play . . . let’s keep them safe, like buried treasure, to discover another day.” Third, I love how this book represents girlhood as the girls go through the school year together and connect over keeping treasures in their pockets.

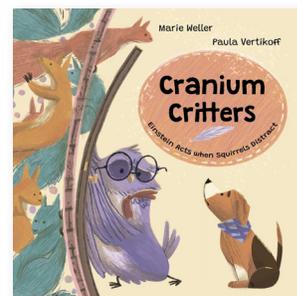


The author, Lindsay Ward, is currently a resident in Ohio. Brizida Magro is an illustrator originally from Portugal, who now lives in Boulder, Colorado.

MY NAME IS GABBY SMYTH. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FORM IV CLASS. I LIKE DRAWING, DIVING, TENNIS, AND READING. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS OF ALL TIME IS *WONDER*.

**Weller, Marie, and Paula Vertikoff. *Cranium Critters: Einstein Acts When Squirrels Distract*.** Illus. by Marina Halak. Columbus, OH: Cranium Kids Media, 2023.

*Cranium Critters: Einstein Acts When Squirrels Distract* is by two Ohioans, Marie Weller and Paula Vertikoff, and illustrated by Marina Halak. It is a book about how when distractions get in the way, there are things you can do to fix it. This book is unique because it takes place in someone’s mind (a man camping), and Einstein is in that person’s head. Einstein is a purple owl who wants to get a tent set up before sunset, but distractions get in the way. So, he goes to the “Pause Place” to find a solution. With the help of Scout the dog, Einstein learns different ways to help block the “squirrels” (distractions). Einstein uses the tools



he learns and manages to set up the tent before sunset. After that, they have fun camping!

In the back of the book, there is a “Create Your Own Pause Place” note for grown-ups, and a section about the authors and illustrator. In the “Create Your Own Pause Place” note, it explains and illustrates the things you can do to help with distraction “squirrels.”

In my opinion, this book is really good and I love everything about it. One reason I like it is because the storyline is very interesting and made me want to keep reading. An example is on pages 7 and 8 when the book goes from peaceful and organized to chaos and destruction. Another reason I like this book is because the illustrations are really beautiful and amazing. Page 12 is my favorite illustration with the distraction “squirrels” jumping all over the place. I also like how this book is very funny and ends with a joke. The joke is, “What’s a squirrel’s favorite kind of joke? A–corny one!”

MY NAME IS OLIVIA PATRON. I’M IN MS. KESSLER’S CLASS IN FOURTH GRADE AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I REALLY ENJOYED READING *CRANIUM CRITTERS*. I LOVE READING AND WRITING/TYPING.

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# Book List

Our collection at Ohioana is always growing. To qualify for addition to our collection, a title must be written, illustrated, edited, photographed, and/or translated by an Ohioan **OR** contain content related to Ohio or Ohioans.

An “Ohioan” is defined as:

- Someone who was born in Ohio **OR**
- Someone who lived in Ohio for at least 3 years (the years do not need to be consecutive) **OR**
- Someone with a current, permanent residence in Ohio

For more information, please contact us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

The following books were added to Ohioana’s collection between January and February 2025.

## NONFICTION

Bergstein, Frank D. *Some Reminiscences of World War II*. Bloomington, IN: Trafford Publishing, 2010.

The late Frank D. Bergstein served in the 29th Division of the United States Army from July 1941 until late 1945. He commanded Headquarters Company, 115th Regimental Combat Team, 29th Division, when it landed on Omaha Beach and for the long months of combat after the invasion. *Some Reminiscences of World War II* presents a few of Bergstein’s poignant memories and revealing observations.

Brown, Patricia Wynn. *Hair-A-Baloo: The Revealing Comedy and Tragedy on Top of Your Head*.

New York, NY: iUniverse, 2005. Hair can make us laugh, cry, and a single strand can send us to prison for life. Who hasn’t experienced a touch of hair envy or left the hair salon with a poodle perm? Hair has even played a major role throughout history. This forty-billion-dollar industry is given the royal “treatment” with Patricia Wynn Brown’s wicked sense of humor.

Brown, Patricia Wynn. *Momma Culpa: One Mother Comes Clean and Makes Her Maternal Confession*. Columbus, OH:

Columbus Alive Publishing, 2001. Humorist Patricia Wynn Brown ruminates on motherhood and offers a journal to chronicle your own maternal milestones and mistakes.

Brown, Patricia Wynn. *Royal Roots: Reimagining a Life through Humor, a Castle, and the US Navy*.

Columbus, OH: Biblio Publishing, 2024. Patricia Wynn Brown, “the Mouthy One” in her middle American family, is hell-bent on overcoming the hardships of her chaotic family life. When her father’s headline-grabbing death in 1980 eventually hits her, she is forced to reassess her life. A visit to a Welsh castle bolsters her courage to search for the truth behind her father’s actions, which leads to stunning disclosures. The US Navy helps transform shame into understanding and love. This uplifting journey’s revelatory lessons apply to anyone who is reassembling the fragments of a shattered life.

Crawford, Alvin H. *The Bone Doctor’s Concerto: Music, Surgery, and the Pieces in Between*.

Cincinnati, OH: University of Cincinnati Press, 2023.

In 1960, Dr. Alvin Crawford began his groundbreaking medical career at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, becoming the school’s first African American student. After completing his medical training and traveling the world as a surgeon for the Navy, Crawford found himself in Cincinnati, where he established the Comprehensive Pediatric Orthopedic Clinic at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, the first in the region. This autobiography is a personal account of segregation, integration, hard work, and ambition.

Czarnecki, Kristin. *Encounters with Inscriptions: A Memoir Exploring Books Gifted by Parents*.

Camanche, IA: Legacy Book Press, 2024.

When Kristin Czarnecki lost both of her parents within nine months, she sought solace in the books they had inscribed and gifted her over the years. In *Encounters with Inscriptions*, Czarnecki writes about this array of novels, short stories, poetry, nature writing, cultural criticism, and a cookbook. As she explores each book, Czarnecki focuses not only on loss, but also on the complexities of childhood, family and friendship, and the rewards of a life spent reading.

Gormley, Sarah. *The Order of Things: A Memoir About Chasing Joy*. Columbus, OH: Salt Creek Publishing, 2024.

Sarah Gormley spent most of her life trying to outrun the persistent

self-loathing that plagued her from childhood, convinced that self-worth was something she had to earn by *doing* rather than *being*. When she left San Francisco and returned to Ohio to care for her dying mother, Gormley had no idea that detaching from the success she believed defined her, untangling the complicated relationship with her mother, and continuing the hard work of therapy would lead to a wildly transformed life.

Huntman, Rebe. *My Mother in Havana: A Memoir of Magic & Miracle*. Rhinebeck, NY: Monkfish Book Publishing, 2025.

A daughter's search for her deceased mother brings her face to face with the gods, ghosts, and saints of Cuba.

Jordan, Mark Sebastian. *Get Busy Living: Doing Time at Shawshank: Behind the Scenes on the World's Favorite Movie*. Phoenix, AZ: Alien Buddha Press, 2024.

In a world where redemption is hard to come by, *Get Busy Living: Doing Time at Shawshank* offers a glimpse into the making of a film that has captured the hearts of millions. Mark Sebastian Jordan, who appeared as an extra in the film, takes you behind the bars and beyond the walls, sharing untold stories and unseen moments from *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Kaufman, Kenn. *The Birds That Audubon Missed: Discovery and Desire in the American Wilderness*. New York, NY: Avid Reader Press/Simon & Schuster, 2024.

Renowned naturalist Kenn Kaufman examines the scientific discoveries of John James Audubon and his artistic and ornithologist peers in this blend of history, science, art, biography, and memoir that bird lovers will cherish.

Majmudar, Amit. *The Great Game: Essays on Poetics*. Cincinnati, OH: Acre Books, 2024.

In this essay collection, Amit Majmudar meditates on the poetic canon of the West and the traditions of world literature.

Parsons, Celeste. *Two on Two Wheels: Adventures on a Bicycle*.

Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2024.

Drawing on over fifty years of bicycle touring experience, Celeste Parsons shares touring essentials and memories of past cycling adventures.

Romriell, A. J. *Wolf Act: A Memoir*.

Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2025.

As a child, A. J. Romriell strove to obey his Mormon leaders' every rule. But at nineteen, returning home early from his mission after admitting his attraction to men, he was forced to make a decision: stay the course, or work to accept himself fully—and risk losing family, community, and the Church he'd devoted his life to. His decision to pursue radical acceptance would turn out to be just one step toward reclaiming his life.

Vacha, John. *Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Renaissance*.

New York, NY: Algonquin Books, 2024.

Shortly after World War I ended, five new theaters were constructed in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, known collectively as Playhouse Square. *Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Renaissance* tells the story of how the rejuvenation of Playhouse Square became one of the main catalysts for Cleveland's larger comeback from postindustrial decline, inspiring and serving as a model for other urban renewal efforts. John Vacha's in-depth

account reminds readers of the significance of the performing arts in shaping a city's culture.

## FICTION

Arnett, John. *Monarch*. Herndon, VA: Mascot Books, 2024.

When a reclusive, anxiety-ridden tech worker is visited by a pair of enigmatic aliens and given a mission to change the fate of an entire planet, his life will never be the same.

Bartow, Karina. *Undercover Babymoon (Unde(a)feated Detective #4)*. Adams Basin, NY: Wild Rose Press, 2024.

Minka's promotion to Orlando PD's homicide department has some bumps at first, including her growing baby bump. Just as she and her partner, Cael, begin to hit their stride, Logan Baris' suspicious death baffles them. The investigation leads the detectives to believe Baris had a hand in a shady operation, but the cruise ship worker's troubles seem to voyage into the ocean blues with him. After they meet up with some dead ends on land, Minka convinces Cael and his wife to join her and her husband onboard a covert investigation of the ship.

Chiles, Patrick. *Interstellar Medic: The Long Run (Interstellar Medic #1)*. Riverdale, CA: Baen Books, 2024.

As the first human in the Galactic Union Medical Corps, Melanie is assigned the duty of caring for extraterrestrials in desperate need of a medic across the galaxy. It will take all of Melanie's experience, instinct, and grit to prove herself—and the rest of humanity—to be worthy of the Union.

Dubiel, Cari. *I Loved the Mothman and Other Stories*. Stow, OH: Duskbound Books, 2024.

This collection of short stories features the monsters of legend that have captivated us for centuries. Each story takes readers out of the mundane to explore the depth of the human spirit and the lengths we go to transform ourselves.

Hatcher, A. L. *River of Lies (Tess Dane Thriller #2)*. Rushville, OH: A. L. Hatcher, 2024.

When a 9-1-1 call comes in about a missing pregnant woman, Detective Tess Dane takes the case. Everyone typically suspects the spouse first, but did he really have anything to do with his wife's disappearance? Tess isn't so sure. The clock is ticking, and the deeper Tess digs for the truth, the more lies she uncovers.

Hatcher, Julie. *Not Quite by the Book*. Seattle, WA: Lake Union Publishing, 2025.

A bookstore owner discovers that life as a recluse isn't for everyone in this sharp yet sweet novel about how sometimes you need to abandon the quest for love to find your true passion.

Jones, E. M. *The Darling Killer*. Montoursville, PA: Lamp Post Publishing, 2024.

Twelve-year-old Eli Wright's imagination knows no bounds. Pushed by his folks into assisting the creepy fragile widow next door, he reluctantly does chores while inventing stories about the memory-addled oddball. But he's horrified when she demands he help her bury a young couple she killed . . . or she'll slaughter his entire family.

Strawser, Jessica. *Catch You Later*. Seattle, WA: Lake Union Publishing, 2024.

One impulsive decision changes the lives of two best friends forever in a powerful novel of suspense by the *USA Today*-bestselling author of *The Last Caretaker*.

Vibbert, Marie. *Galactic Hellcats*. Amherst, MA: Lethe Press, 2024.

A quick-witted thief. A lonely ex-soldier. A bored rich local. A prince. Join this crew of misfits as they tear across the universe, dodge repo men, authorities, and warring governments, and carve out their own place among the stars.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. *Sick to Death (Andy Hayes Mysteries #8)*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2024.

After years of personal and professional turmoil, private eye Andy Hayes is relishing his new gig: a laid-back, family-friendly stint as a guard at the Columbus Museum of Art. But a museum robbery, an adult daughter he never knew he fathered, and a suspicious death all jerk him out of his newfound carefree life.

Willow, Ashley. *Bryce (New Beginnings #1)*. Wooster, OH: Ashley Willow, 2024.

Samantha is married to one of New York City's bravest. She works part time in a bookshop so she can pursue a career on Broadway. But under the surface, she has found herself in a miserable marriage. When tragedy strikes, she comes face to face with the one person who truly sees her. The one person who knows what she's been through without her having to explain. The one person she never knew existed: Bryce. Sometimes, a broken soul can only be repaired by someone just as broken.

## POETRY

Abbott, Steve, ed. *Common Threads 2024*. Toledo, OH: Ohio Poetry Association Press, 2024.

Published annually and edited by Steve Abbott, *Common Threads* is an Ohio Poetry Association members-only journal and is one of the privileges of membership. The journal features poetry of OPA members and contest winners, such as those who win the Ides of March and Ohio High School Poetry contests.

Corbin, Amanda Nicole. *addiction is a sweet dark room: a collection of 62 poems about alcoholism & the light thereafter*. Chicago, IL: Another New Calligraphy, 2024.

In *addiction is a sweet dark room*, Amanda Nicole Corbin shares her own story of recovery, recounting the dark depths of drinking and the light thereafter. Empathetic but never sentimental, these poems avoid romanticizing her former life and reintroduce her restored self to those who waited. Free from the control of alcohol, she instead chooses to "drink in the sounds of what it means to have meaning." For every copy sold, Another New Calligraphy will donate \$1 to Maryhaven, a behavioral health services provider specializing in addiction recovery for adults and adolescents in central Ohio.

Demaree, Darren C. *So Much More: Abstracts, Unfinished Sequences, and Political Prose Poems*.

Madison, CT: Harbor Editions, 2024. *So Much More* is a collection of interstitial wants and fears. Quilted together in a way that can amplify the abstracts, the sequences, and the political prose poems, this book

works with an energy meant to find the quiet and then fill it with a modern hysteria.

Gunter-Seymour, Kari. *Dirt Songs*. Rochester, MA; EastOver Press, 2024.

In her third full-length collection, Kari Gunter-Seymour's poems are full-throated, raw, deceptively simple, and rippling with candor. *Dirt Songs* provides readers with an insider's lens into the larger questions surrounding the many aspects of Appalachian culture including identity, the impact of poverty, generational afflictions, and the brunt of mainstream America's skewed regard for the region.

King, Bob. *And & And: Poems*. Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press, 2024.

The poems in *And & And* spin & collide with humor, play, empathy, & wild literary-to-pop-culture allusions. At this collection's core are energetic particles, bright moments of friendship & family, love & loss, grief & gratitude, morality & meaning.

Machado, Aditi. *Material Witness*. New York, NY: Nightboat Books, 2024.

*Material Witness* is a series of meditative long poems that ritualize perception as a way of maintaining kinship with the non-human world.

Woods, Scott. *Black Night is Falling*. Mesa, AZ: Brick Cave Media, 2024.

Scott Woods' third book of poetry wrestles with ecstatic notions of blackness, the beauty and grief to be found in every 'hood carryout, the colonization of pumpkin spice, and backstage tales of the vaunted and mythical Cookout. At turns funny,

fearlessly irreverent, and dark, Woods composes a love letter to the existential and emotional blues, gathering up all of the love and woe that can be held in the face of a world seemingly resigned to its own blues.

## YOUNG ADULT

Chima, Cinda Williams. *Bane of Asgard (The Runestone Saga #2)*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2024.

The highly anticipated sequel in the acclaimed Runestone Saga from *New York Times*-bestselling author Cinda Williams Chima. As the two sides prepare for an apocalyptic battle, Eiric, Reginn, and Liv find allies and enemies in unexpected places and draw on new strengths as they seek to prevent the destruction of the last of the Nine Worlds.

Haught, Fern. *The Baker and the Bard: A Cozy Fantasy Adventure*. New York, NY: Feiwel and Friends, 2024.

Author-artist Fern Haught weaves an enchanting, gentle fantasy tale where everything is okay and nothing bad happens in their debut graphic novel. Perfect for fans of *The Tea Dragon Society*, *Legends & Lattes*, *Animal Crossing*, and anyone needing a break from reality.

Langdon, Lorie. *Once Upon a Christmas Past*. Cleveland, OH: Quill & Flame Publishing House, 2024.

This fresh, romantic spin on *A Christmas Carol* tells the tale of aspiring physician Lucy Anne "Raven" Cratchit, secret aristocrat Brit Crane, and three meddling spirits on Christmas Eve.

Neri, G., and David Brame. *Safe Passage*. New York, NY: Tu Books, 2024.

From Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author G. Neri comes an epic journey across the South Side of Chicago for Darius, his little sister Cissy, and his best friend Booger as they set out to find an armored truck that has lost a payload of cash.

Prince, Alli. *Copper Lies*. Zanesville, OH: The Pearl, 2024.

Lillian Booker is dying to experiment on the strange glowing rocks hidden inside her adoptive father's workshop, but the professor forbade it before he left on his journey. When Lillian secretly builds a mechanical dragon, the strange glowing stones collide with her creation and the machine roars to life.

Smith, Jeff. *Thorn: The Complete Proto-BONE College Strips 1982-1986, and Other Early Drawings (Bone Reissue Graphic Novels)*. Columbus, OH: Cartoon Books, 2024.

This collection reprints the entire run of Jeff Smith's earliest rendering of the world-famous *BONE* characters for the first time.

Stine, Alison. *Dust*. New York, NY: Wednesday Books, 2024.

In this haunting, speculative coming-of-age novel about finding your place in an unforgiving environment, a partially deaf teen questions everything she knows about family, love, and her future.

Stine, R. L. *The Graveyard Club: Revenge Game*. Los Angeles, CA: BOOM! Studios, 2024.

Horror master R. L. Stine introduces a cast of devilish teens attending Grave's End High in this brand new graphic novella.

## MIDDLE GRADE

Hall, J. A. *Bandit Lost in the West*.

Illus. by Karine Makartichan.

Buchtel, OH: Monday Creek Publishing, 2024.

What happens when a farm dog gets separated from his family? Follow Bandit as he encounters charming characters and visits iconic locations in this engaging tale of hope and friendship.

Leahy, Elisa Stone. *Mallory in Full Color*. New York, NY: Quill Tree Books, 2024.

A funny, poignant middle grade novel about a tween who navigates questions of identity and friendship when her anonymous web comic goes viral.

Lubner, Susan. *Drag and Rex: Sweet and Silly*. Illus. by Blythe Russo.

New York, NY: Pixel + Ink, 2024.

*Sweet and Silly*, the second book in the Drag and Rex series, features three stories told in short chapters, accompanied by joyful color illustrations, allowing developing readers to gain confidence and a sense of accomplishment as they giggle along with the silly antics of their favorite new friends.

Rickert, David. *Checkups, Shots, and Robots: True Stories Behind How Doctors Treat Us*. New York, NY: Kane Press, 2024.

Prepare to have your funny bone tickled as you explore the science and history behind common medical practices and procedures, and learn about health problems, treatments, and medical breakthroughs in this funny and educational graphic-format nonfiction book.

Springstubb, Tricia. *How to Tell a True Story*. New York, NY: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2025.

After seventh grader Amber's secretive older brother rescues her from a devastating house fire, the community's response proves that kindness is as complicated as family.

## JUVENILE

Bonilla, Lindsay. *The Hole*. Illus. by Brizida Magro. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2025.

What does it feel like to lose someone you love? For one little boy, it's like he has a hole in his life. It's in the bottom bunk, where his little brother, Matty, used to sleep, and it's on his brother's chair at dinner. It follows him everywhere. Inside the hole he confronts his grief—the sadness, the anger, and the truth of how much he misses Matty.

Campbell, Marcy. *What Are You Waiting For?* Illus. by Shelley Johannes. New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2025.

It's your time to shine! An uplifting text exploring the ups and downs of anticipation that will help buoy readers out of anxiety and into embracing a growth mindset.

Flakes, Savanna. *I Have Special Needs AND That's Not Why I'm Special*. Illus. by Lydia Farron.

Herndon, VA: Mascot Kids, 2025.

This interactive school and family self-advocacy book helps students find their unique voices to share who they are. Every child will be equipped with opportunities to express their likes, strengths, and the tools needed to fully participate in school, life, and the world with confidence.

Fries-Gaither, Jessica. *Wild Wonderings: Scientists and Their Questions*. Illus. by Linda Olliver.

Richmond, VA: NSTA Kids, 2025.

Questions are a scientist's best tool! *Wild Wonderings* encourages kids in grades 3–5 to come up with queries to make sense of the world's mysteries. With fun, rhyming text and playful illustrations, the book shines a light on world-changing scientific discoveries that happened because somebody asked the right questions.

Long, Loren. *The Yellow Bus*. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press, 2024.

Yellow Bus loves carrying children from one important place to another. But as time passes, the drivers, routes, and passengers change. One day, the driving stops. And yet, no matter where she is, the Yellow Bus still finds joy and discovery in the world around her.

Mackall, Dandi Daley. *Christmas in the Barnyard*. Illus. by Gail Yerrill.

Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2024.

Join the Christmas Eve barnyard bustle as the animals prepare the stable for the exciting day. Gaggles, herds, and busy birds gather around to hear God's words.

Sommer, Jennifer. *Every Creature Eats*. Illus. by Jerry Shields. Springboro, OH: Braugher Books, 2024.

Join a spooky cast of creatures as they feast their way through a Halloween party hosted by a clever witch and her eager cat assistant.

Ultman, Suzy. *Shabbat Shalom: Let's Rest and Reset*. New York, NY: Rise x Penguin Workshop, 2025.

This whimsical board book introduces the Jewish day of rest, informing and entertaining both Jewish and non-Jewish readers.

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The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from February 16, 2025, through April 20, 2025. Special thanks to Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

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