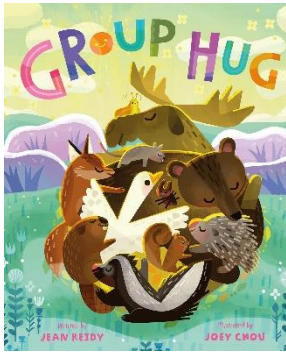


STAFF PICKS

Week of 4/1-4/8/2023



Bri

Title: *Group Hug*

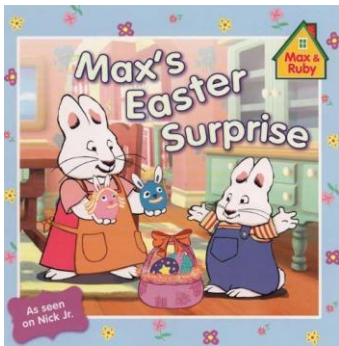
Author: Jean Reidy

Illustrator: Joey Chou

Juvenile Picture book

This fun book starts off with a little slug in need of someone to hug. As you go through the pages, she finds lots of animals to join her in a big group hug! There's quite an eclectic mix, from the slug to a skunk, to a moose, to a groundhog, all joining together for one big hug. Each page has a cute little rhyme as the depicted character joins the rest of the animals for a hug.

Eventually, "the group hug stretched wide and the group hug stretched tall, making plenty of room for those antlers and all." But what happens when bear wants to join in too? Although the other animals may be afraid, the brave slug knows that even scary bears deserve loving hugs too. The simple art style and pretty color palette make this a fun read. In the end, I really enjoyed going through it to spot where each animal was in the big group hug.



Christina

Title: *Max's Easter Surprise*

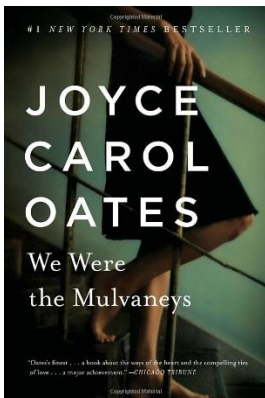
Author: Rosemary Wells

Juvenile Picture Book

Max's older sister, Ruby, and her friend Louise are preparing for Easter by decorating eggs! They invite young Max to participate, and he accepts. But the only thing Max can think about is the Easter parade that's happening the next day! Ruby and Louise take charge of decorating and give Max specific instructions about what to do with the

finished eggs; however, this mischievous bunny has his own ideas about how to get into the Easter spirit.

How will everyone react when they discover what he's done? Join Max on his creative quest and find your inspiration to put a personal spin on a holiday tradition!



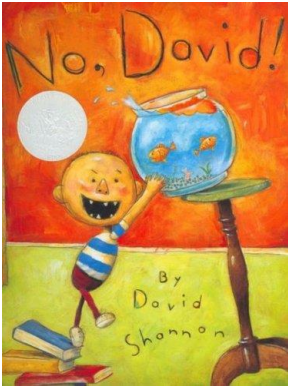
Jen

Title: *We Were the Mulvaney*

Author: Joyce Carol Oates

Fiction

The Mulvaney's own a successful roofing business and are obsessed with social status in their town. However, the Mulvaney's daughter is raped by the son of another successful business owner in town, who happens to be a friend of the Mulvaney family. The incident is hushed up and never spoken of again. Unfortunately, the repercussions of the incident shatter the family dynamic with tragic consequences. This is the story of a family struggling to cope with its social demise in a small town, and the hopeful, loving way they manage to survive and move forward.



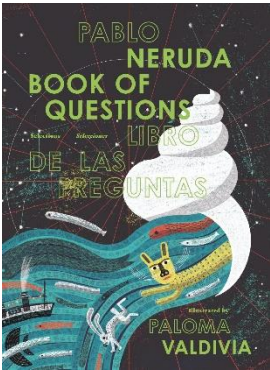
Kaya

Title: *No, David!*

Author/Illustrator: **David Shannon**

Juvenile Picture Book

This was one of my favorite stories to read when I was growing up because of the fun pictures, relatable character, and important overall message. The story is about a young boy named David who is always getting into trouble, so he hears “No, David!” *all* of the time. Despite the mischief he gets into and the fact that he is often in trouble, at the end of the book we learn that David’s mother still loves him no matter what!



Marcia

Title: *Book of Questions*

Author: **Pablo Neruda**

Illustrator: **Paloma Valdivia**

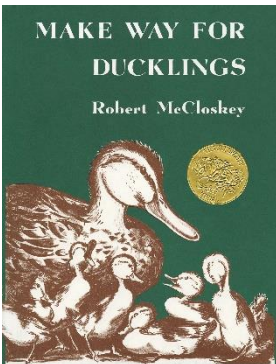
Translator: **Sara Lissa Paulson**

Non-Fiction Picture Book

What do all children have in common? They ask lots of questions!

This title, by Nobel Prize winning Chilean poet Neruda, is devoted entirely to questions. They are presented in a gorgeously illustrated, oversize picture book format. The original Spanish is displayed on one side, with the English translation on the facing page.

The questions chosen are simple, but contemplative, and best for ages 10 to 110. A treasure to read, observe, and think about!



Melissa

Title: *Make Way for Ducklings*

Author: **Robert McCloskey**

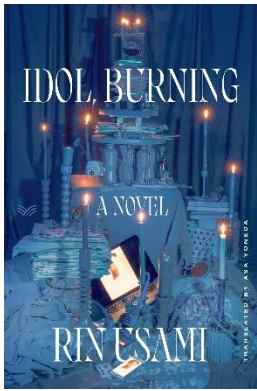
Juvenile Picture book

This Caldecott Medal Award winning picture book is a tried and true NE Favorite - perfect for Easter and the arrival of spring!

Follow the eight ducklings (Jack, Kack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Ouack, Pack, and Quack) and Mrs. Mallard for a webbed foot, duck-eye view of busy Boston as the family searches for a safe home. Fortunately, a friendly Boston policeman is there to help them reach the wonderful pond in Boston’s Public Garden – no predators and lots of peanuts for young ducklings to enjoy. The illustrations are remarkably alive and expressive regardless of the limited color palette.

Interested learning more about the book, author, and activities that accompany this book? *Here’s a great website to check out - click on this [LINK!](https://library.ohio.gov/wp-content/uploads/ducklings_toolkit.pdf)* (https://library.ohio.gov/wp-content/uploads/ducklings_toolkit.pdf)

Week of 4/10-4/15/2023



Bri

Title: *Idol, Burning: a Novel*

Author: **Rin Usami**

Translator: **Asa Yoneda**

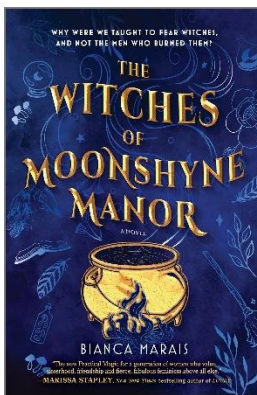
Fiction

"I actually picked this up a while ago and never got around to reading until now...and I'm so glad that I finally did!

A very short, but compelling, story following a high school girl named Akari, and the way her life changes when her favorite singer in a boy band is accused of assaulting a fan. The events that follow after the news breaks, force Akari to consider how much she really knows her favorite celebrity, the meaning of fame, and the quick fall from grace public figures experience due to rumors, regardless of the truth.

I think this is a story that will resonate with anyone active in social media circles and fandom, and is an interesting glimpse into the obsessive behavior teenage girls might exhibit, especially over boybands. Given how short the story is, it's really impressive how Usami manages to encapsulate toxicity in fandom, feelings of isolation and alienation in adolescence, and the type of excessive consumerism so often encouraged by celebrity artists, all in just over a hundred pages."

Great read!



Christina

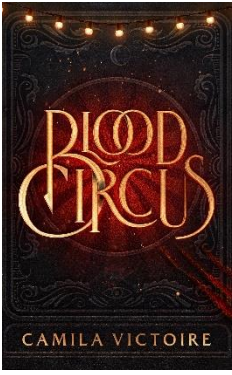
Title: *The Witches of Moonshyne Manor*

Author: **Bianca Marais**

Fiction

Delve into the story of six elderly witches - all of whom have lived very full lives and they're not done yet! A chain of events dating back 33 years has led them to a fast-approaching day of reckoning. The women have fallen behind in their mortgage payments, and the manor they've lived in for over seven decades is in danger of being razed and replaced by a new complex. The complicated story backstory involves a deceitful man in search of personal gain, a magical heist gone wrong, the imprisonment of one of the witches, tragic deaths, and long-hidden secrets that threaten to unravel the fabric of the sisterhood's relationships.

What the witches don't know is that their lives are on the verge of positive changes when a spirited teenage girl shows up at their doorstep, just waiting for her chance to help people in need. But when the sisterhood's leader makes a desperate deal with the devil, they'll need a bit more than spirit to overcome the obstacles they face.



Kaya

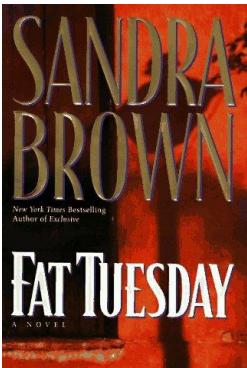
Title: *Blood Circus*

Author: **Camila Victoire**

YA Fiction

Raised in the wake of devastating climate change, Ava lives in a community of one of the last surviving species – humans. Surrounded by a wall, the community lives in fear and hatred of Klujns, a barbaric species that look like humans, but have strength and abilities that show they are anything but.

Despite the struggle Ava shares with her fellow humans, she has never felt as though she belongs. When her peers' dislike leads to a horrible turn of events, Ava begins to realize that perhaps things she's been told her entire life aren't really true after all.



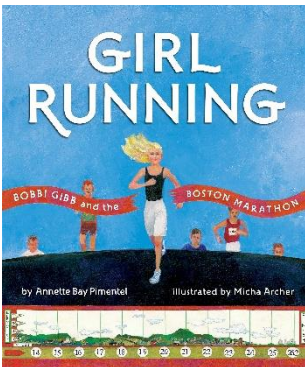
Jen

Title: *Fat Tuesday*

Author: **Sandra Brown**

Fiction

This is an intriguing thriller about a New Orleans police officer, Burke Basile, who has nothing to lose after he is haunted by his partner's death, the end of his marriage, and the destruction of his career. In an act of revenge, he targets his nemesis, a flamboyant attorney who helps killers evade justice, by kidnapping the lawyer's trophy wife. But then, he's not expecting the electric attraction that sizzles between himself and the kidnapped woman either.



Marcia

Title: *Girl Running: Bobbi Gibb and the Boston Marathon*

Author: **Annette Bay Pimental**

Illustrator: **Paloma Valdivia**

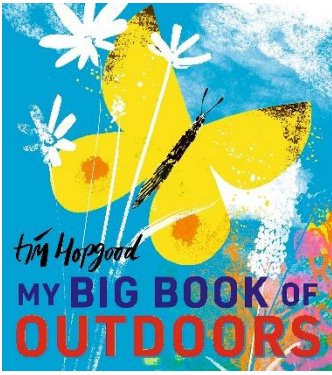
Translator: **Micha Archer**

Juvenile Picture Book Biography

The iconic Boston Marathon is almost upon us. This vibrantly illustrated biography tells the inspiring story of the first woman ever to run and complete the Boston Marathon in 1966.

Our children and grandchildren can't even imagine a time (not that long ago), when girls couldn't even be on a high school track team, much less run 26.2 miles! This tale follows Bobbi Gibb step-by-step, showing how she persevered and became a role model for all the girls who have ever been told, "No, girls can't do that."

I loved the bright collages added to the illustrations. And with the mile markers and familiar sights along the marathon route, I felt I was running along with Bobbi!



Melissa

Title: *My Big Book of OUTDOORS*

Author/Illustrator: **Tim Hopgood**

Juvenile Non-Fiction Picture book

A very LARGE and lovely celebration of nature through the seasons. The author/illustrator has been generous in his use of color, mixed media design elements, and engaging text to bring his pages to life. I found this to be a really wonderful collection of pictures (birds, bugs, bulbs, trees, crabs, etc.), poems, recipes ("Chocolate Nests," "Bake an apple"), projects ("Daisy Chain," "Bug Hotel"), activities ("Pond Dipping"), and more, as he helps the reader identify the different things that happen as the calendar changes and the weather along with it.

A perfect book to explore at any time of the year, but especially nice right now as it begins with the arrival of spring!

Interested learning more about this book, the author, and other great things he's created? *Click on the link to his website which is full of wonderful illustrations and more:* [LINK! \(https://timhopgood.org/\)](https://timhopgood.org/).

Week of 4/17-4/22/2023

LOU



Breanna Carzoo

Bri

Title: *Lou*

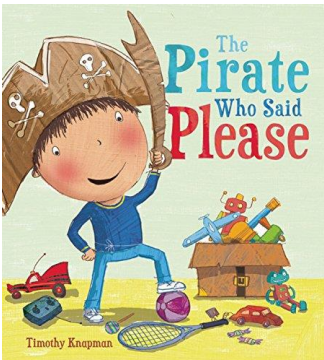
Author: **Breanna Carzoo**

Juvenile Picture Book

I actually laughed out loud reading this book the first time around. Readers are introduced to Lou, who shares that he has a very important job... as the neighborhood toilet. Lou is a fire hydrant, but for some reason the only use he seems to get is from the many dogs in the neighborhood who "sniff, and twirl, and twist, and lift, and, well, you know." But Lou has a feeling he might be meant for more than just a puppy potty. Lou tells us that there's more to him than what everyone sees, but he just isn't sure how to

let it out.

When a fire breaks out at the doggy daycare, Lou finds his true purpose. This picture book managed to be hilarious, adorable, and surprisingly charming. The premise of the story is comical, while still conveying an important message to young readers about feelings of self-doubt and finding confidence in our unique strengths.



Christina

Title: *The Pirate Who Said Please*

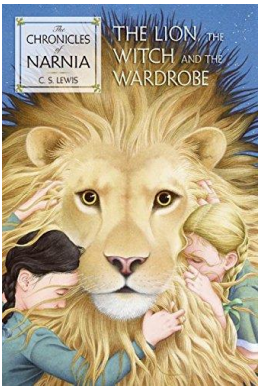
Author: **Timothy Knapman**

Illustrator: **Jimothy Rovolio**

Juvenile Fiction

This story is about a young boy called Pirate Jim, who dresses and acts exactly like a pirate, except for the fact that he's polite! He says "thank you" when given something, and "please" when asking to borrow an item, so people rarely hesitate to be generous with this pirate. But Jim begins to forget his manners. He's bossy to his friends, steals their toys, and becomes demanding at parties. Soon, Jim finds that he's lonely when his friends stop spending time with him, which makes him consider the importance of manners. Pirate Jim goes back to being polite, but will his friends be willing to give him a second chance?

A great story for all ages! Minding our manners can sometimes be tough, but a little reminder can go a long way in helping us all stay on track.



Kaya

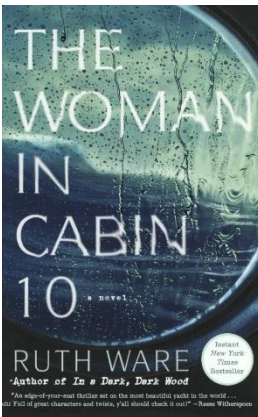
Title: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Author: C.S. Lewis

YA Fiction/Fantasy

The first in the Chronicles of Narnia series, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, tells a story about four siblings who discover a world of magic hidden within a wardrobe.

It all begins when Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are sent away from war-torn London to find asylum in the country with Mrs. Macready and Professor Kirke. When the siblings decide to play a game of hide-and-seek one day, Lucy falls through the back of an old wardrobe and discovers a magical land that is cursed by the evil White Witch to be stuck in an eternal winter. Although the children hope for the return of a great lion named Aslan to restore Narnia to its former glory, they learn that they also have a part in conquering the dark magic of the White Witch.



Jen

Title: *The Woman in Cabin 10*

Author: Ruth Ware

Fiction

Lo Blacklock, a journalist, takes a job on for her boss to report on a new luxury yacht cruise. Right from the start she's having issues because of her home life problems and sea sickness. She also determined that she witnesses a murder in the cruise ship cabin next to hers, even though no one wants to believe her.



Marcia

Title: *Stars and Smoke*

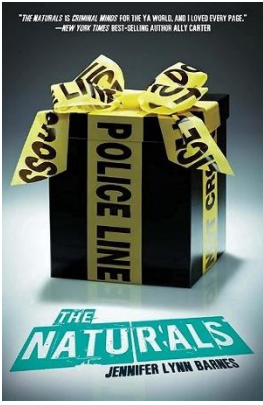
Author: Marie Lu

YA Fiction

If you're looking for a fast-paced, contemporary, adventure/thriller, look no more. This title pairs a pop superstar with a private intelligence agency young star in a high-stakes adventure to save the world from chemical terrorism.

The story has non-stop action, plenty of plot twists, hints of romance, and, underneath it all, superb character development.

I couldn't put it down, and finished the story in one day!



Melissa

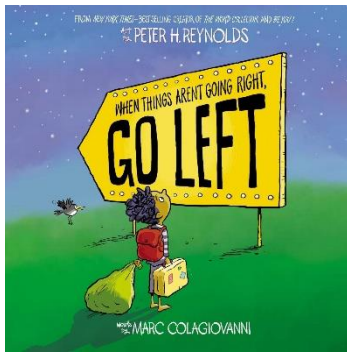
Title: *The Naturals* (#1 in series)

Author/Illustrator: Jennifer Lynn Barnes

YA Crime Thriller

When the FBI comes knocking and offers you a place in their “Naturals” program, you might want to think VERY carefully about it before accepting a position – it’s a “killer” decision. The basis for the story is a quirky YA behavioral analysis unit (think Criminal Minds or The Mentalist) set to examine and resolve un-cleared cases (think Cold Case Files) while suddenly finding themselves enmeshed in a cold case gone HOT! This savvy, adrenalized psychological thriller hits all of the right notes with strangely talented characters, an exceptionally twisty plotline, fast pacing, and unexpected cat and mouse games with closed case killer(s). Oh, and did I mention that there are odd friendships and a little romance thrown in for good measure? You’ll be hard-pressed to put it down. Interested in reading more of the author’s works (she’s REALLY good)? Consider checking out her website at: <https://www.jenniferlynnbarnes.com/>

Week of 4/24-4/28/2023



Bri

Title: *When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left*

Author: Marc Colagiovanni

Illustrator: Peter H. Reynolds

Juvenile Picture Book

This was such a fun picture book about perseverance and the power of choice. If things aren't going right, well... go left! When our worries, doubts, and fears get left behind, we may find that suddenly everything begins to go right. The illustrator did a really great job personifying all those little frustrations and worries that we carry with us, and how sometimes leaving them behind, even temporarily, can make them easier to deal with. I was really impressed by how even the background color of the pages changed as more doubts get left behind, with the initial dark purple page gradually shifting through hues of blues and pinks before ending in bright yellows. It's a really uplifting book, for kids and the adults reading with them!



Christina

Title: *The Last Chance Library*

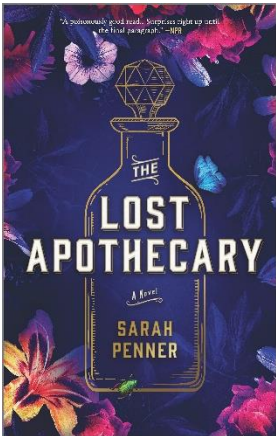
Author: Freya Sampson

Fiction

To celebrate National Library Week, I decided to read a library-centric story and this did not disappoint! In the book, we meet June Jones, a young & timid library assistant, and some of the colorful patrons of Chalcot Library. After the local council announces that the library budget has been cut, June and the rest of the town are facing a very real possibility that the library could be shut down. While several patrons prepare to fight for their cherished community resource, June is informed by her boss that if she gets involved in any way, she could lose her job. But June also knows that the result could be the same if she doesn't fight for the library, a place that has always been a safe haven for her and many others, and is a keeper of her precious memories of her late mother.

As June observes the patrons' efforts to save the library, she is inspired to consider how much of her life she's lived in fear of change and speaking up for what she believes in; this leads to her decision to join the fight. While advocating for the library, June becomes aware of the various roles that it has played in the patrons' lives. Their stories make her even more determined to prove to the council that "the library is about so much more than simply books. Libraries are like a net, there to catch those of us in danger of falling through the cracks."

My favorite thing about this book is that while it's heartwarming and inspirational, it resonates with reality. Across the world, we are constantly fighting to save meaningful establishments and traditions from the grip of corruption. The champions of the Chalcot Library serve as a reminder that where there's a will, there's a way.



Kaya

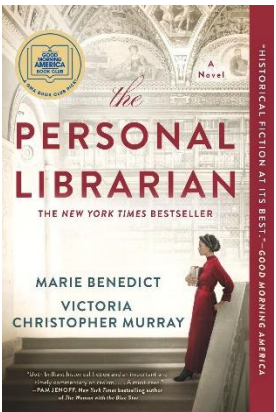
Title: *The Lost Apothecary*

Author: Sarah Penner

Historical Fiction/Mystery

In 18th century Britain, an apothecary runs a secret shop dispensing not only helpful remedies for women in need, but also poisons for those seeking vengeance or freedom from the men in their lives.

In modern Britain, a young woman in the midst of personal and marital strife finds a mysterious little bottle. Curious about the origins of the bottle, she begins to search for answers, and stumbles across a story that ties countless women in history together.



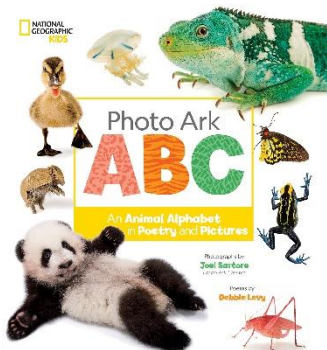
Jen

Title: *The Personal Librarian*

Author: Marie Benedict

Fiction

This book tells of the lifework of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J.P. Morgan, and the first director of the Morgan Library & Museum. She was an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style and wit. She had a secret about her heritage and the book shares the lengths she had to go to in order to protect her family, her legacy, and to preserve her carefully crafted identity in the racist world in which she lived.



Marcia

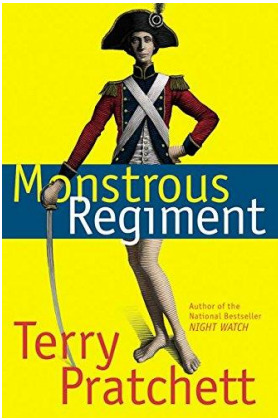
Title: *Photo Ark A B C*

Author: Debbie Levy

Photographer: Joel Sartore

Juvenile Picture Book

This title published by National Geographic is stunning! The close-up photos are intimate and interesting, with surprising details you only notice after reading the poem about each animal. The features of each animal chosen by the poet and photographer are child-friendly and slightly subversive. You and your child(ren) will read, and reread, this gem over and over while developing a love of animals and poetry in the process.



Melissa

Title: *Monstrous Regiment*

Author/Illustrator: Terry Pratchett

Humorous Fiction

It's WAR in Discworld...and Borogravia is at the center of the conflict. Perhaps justly, but it has created a dearth of young men to keep life running along in all of those daily "manly" professions. Polly Perks, in fear of losing her family's Duchesse Inn due to the local deity's decree that women CANNOT own businesses, goes in search of her brother conscripted by the army. The only problem is that to do so, she must join the militia! She masters the art of indiscriminate scratching, cursing, belching, dons the right socks, and visits the local recruiting office, only to find herself not only enlisted, but in strangely mixed company. Follow this "monstrous regiment" as with great subversive humor the author is quick to note that "...sometimes – in war as in everything else – the best man for the job is a woman."