

OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

Spring 2024 | VOL. 67 NO. 2



Art by
Tracy Subisak

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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OHIOana QUARTERLY

SPRING 2024

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From the Director



Dear Friends,

Last spring the Ohioana Book Festival was presented live and in person for the first time since 2019. After three virtual festivals, we didn't know what to expect. What a thrill it was to see the steady stream of people throughout the day—a record-breaking 5,100 readers of all ages! We're looking forward to even bigger crowds as we present the 18th annual Ohioana Book Festival at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library on Saturday, April 20. As we like to say, it's a book lover's dream!

Our cover story introduces you to the stellar lineup of more than 120 Ohio authors and illustrators who will be taking part in the festival. Among them is Tracy Subisak, who created this year's delightful festival poster—the tenth unique design since we started our annual tradition of commissioning an Ohio illustrator to commemorate each year's event. Also, a special thanks to cartoonist Tom Batiuk for once again setting his beloved *Crankshaft* comic strip (see back cover) at the festival for the entire week.

In addition to our festival features, we continue our tribute to Rod Serling, the creator of television's iconic series *The Twilight Zone*. This year marks the centennial of Serling's birth; he began his prolific writing career while a student at Antioch College in the late 1940s.

Another milestone we're excited to celebrate is the 15th anniversary of the Women of Appalachia Project. Founded by Ohio Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour, this organization uplifts the voices of Appalachian creators. You can read about their annual anthology and upcoming anniversary gala celebration in a feature by Miriam Nordine, Ohioana's Program Coordinator.

We're also pleased to present a special selection of books for young readers reviewed by young readers, in partnership with the Columbus School for Girls. Perhaps one of these young reviewers will someday appear as an author at the Ohioana Book Festival!

Which brings me back to the 2024 festival. This incredible event wouldn't be possible without the authors, sponsors, donors, partners, and volunteers who play a part. Most of all, it wouldn't be possible without readers like you. *Thank you.* We'll see you at the Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library on April 20!

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

David Weaver
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

The 10th anniversary poster art for the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival, designed by author and illustrator Tracy Subisak and adapted by Kathryn Powers. Read Kathryn's interview with Tracy on page 14, and take a look back at all the festival posters created since 2015.

The 2024 Ohioana Book Festival

by David Weaver

Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers. That's not only our tagline—it's what the Ohioana Library is all about. No event celebrates this idea better than the Ohioana Book Festival! The 18th annual festival will take place on Saturday, April 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library. The event is free and open to the public, no registration required.

There is something for every reader to see, do, and experience at the festival, including panel discussions, live podcast recordings, storytimes and activities for kids, costumed characters, and local food trucks. And of course—books! The Book Loft of German Village will be back as the festival's onsite bookseller. You can purchase copies of all the books featured at the festival and get them signed by your favorite author! More than 120 Ohio authors and illustrators (see the list starting on page 6) will be taking part in this year's event, representing every literary genre. Many of your favorites will be returning, and we're welcoming twenty-five debut authors.

2024 is a big year for the Ohioana Library Association as we celebrate our 95th anniversary. But there are several milestones for the Ohioana Book Festival that we're marking as well! First, we're commemorating the 15th anniversary of Choose to Read Ohio. A special collaboration of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library, and the Ohio Center for the Book, Choose to Read Ohio encourages everyone to "Read Together, Read Ohio, Read for Life." More than thirty of our

participating festival authors and illustrators have been on at least one Choose to Read Ohio list. You'll hear them talk about their writing and artistic processes during panel discussions throughout the festival.

Second, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Ohioana Book Festival's relocation to downtown Columbus in 2015 after spending five years at the Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center, then four years at the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center. We celebrated this big move by commissioning special poster art by author-illustrator Jeffrey Ebbeler. Every year since, a new poster has been designed by one of the illustrators attending the festival. We'll have a pop-up gallery at this year's event where you can see all ten posters, including the 2024 design by author-illustrator Tracy Subisak.

If you love books and reading, the Ohioana Book Festival is the place to be! We hope you'll join us on April 20 and help us make this the biggest and best festival yet! For all the latest event updates and information, visit www.ohioana.org. Don't forget to check us out on Facebook, Twitter/X, and Instagram, too. We can't wait to see you at this year's festival!

Scenes from the 2023 Ohioana Book Festival: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine welcome festival goers at the opening ceremony; illustrator Tim Bowers greets fans at the book fair; and a visit from Dav Pilkey's Dog Man. (Photos by Mary Rathke)

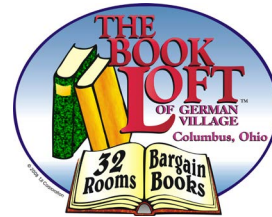


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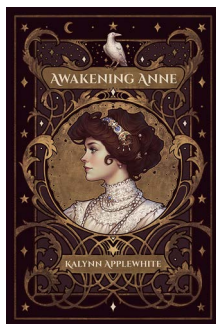


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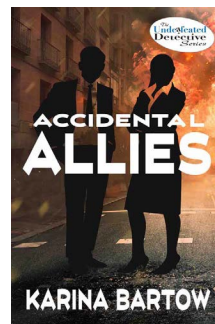


Festival Authors

Over 120 Ohio authors and illustrators will join us for the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival. You can meet them all at the in-person event on April 20. (Authors are listed alphabetically by genre.)



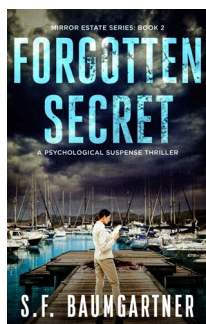
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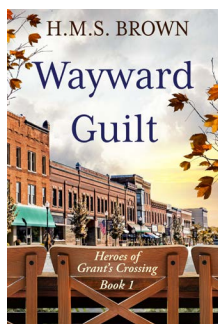
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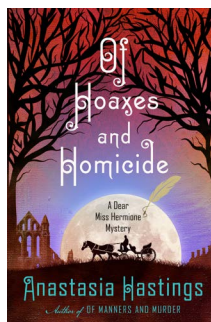
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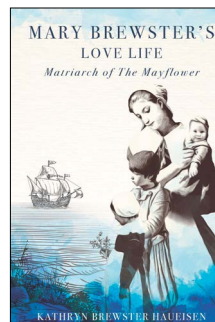
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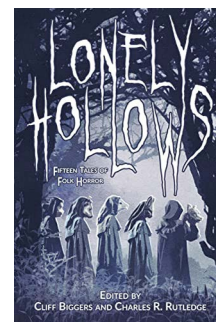
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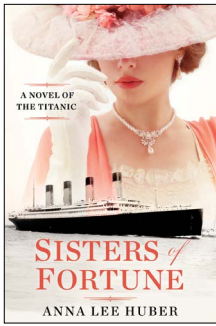
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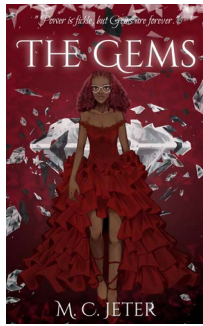
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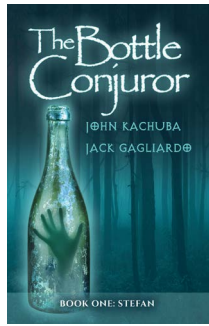
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Anna Lee Huber



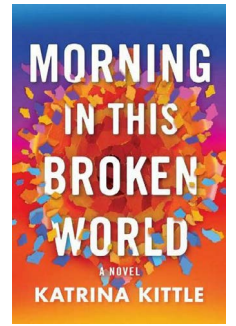
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John Kachuba



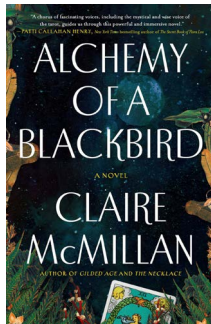
Linda Kass



Katrina Kittle



Olivia Matthews



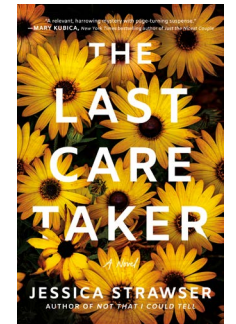
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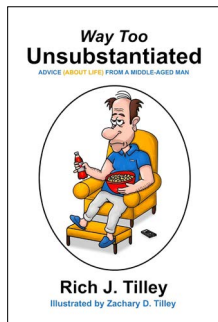
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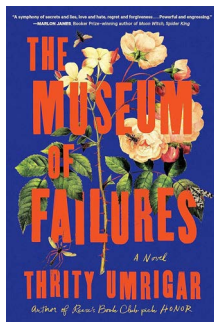
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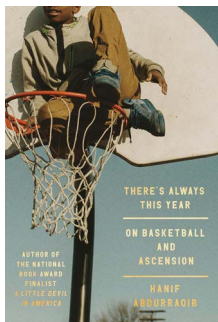
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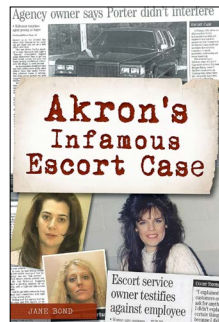
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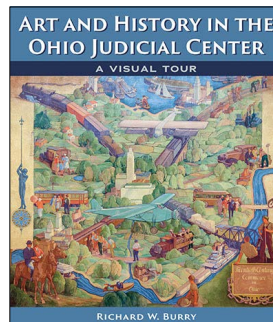
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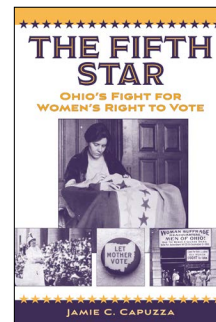
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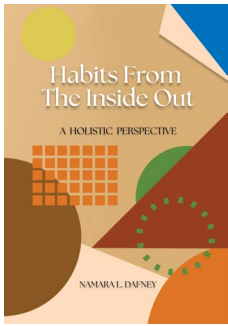
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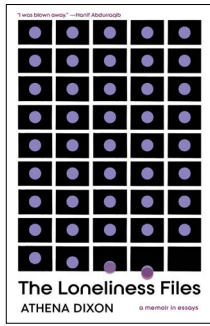
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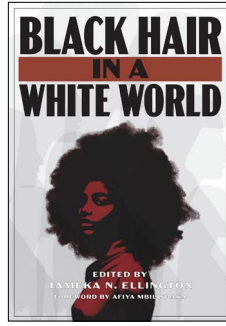
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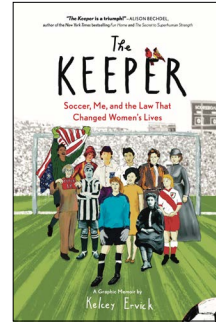
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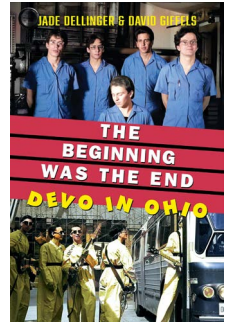
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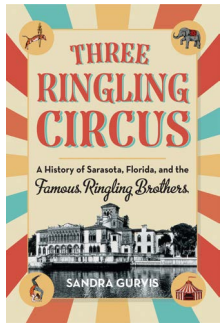
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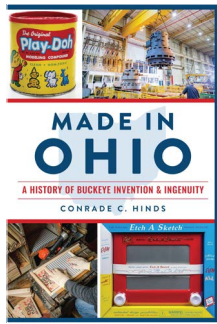
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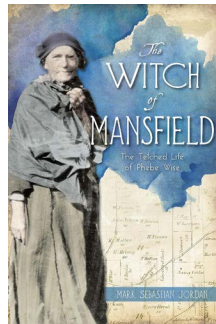
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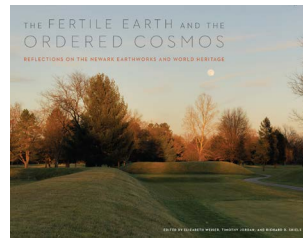
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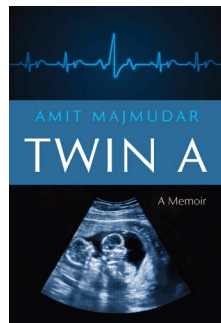
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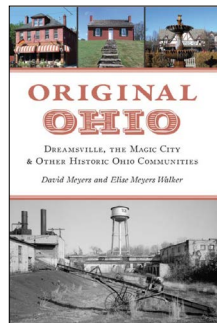
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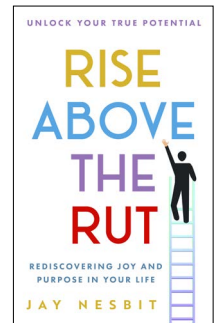
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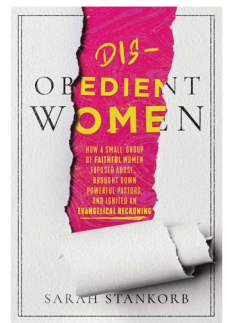
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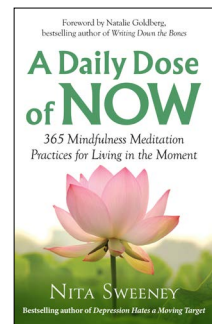
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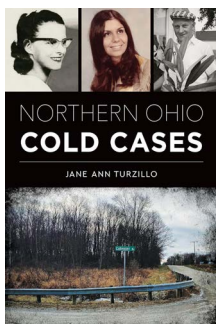
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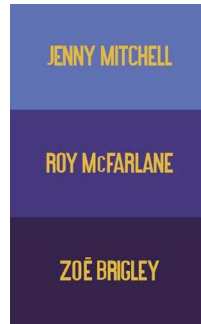


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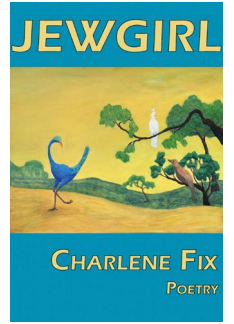
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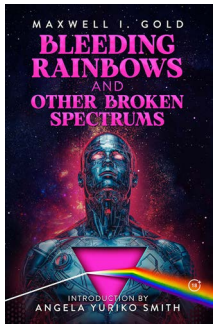
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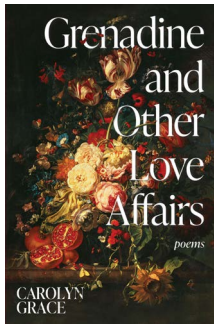
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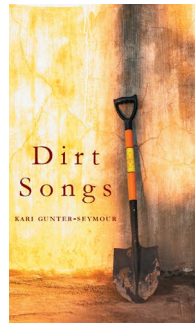
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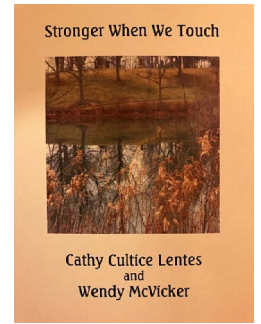
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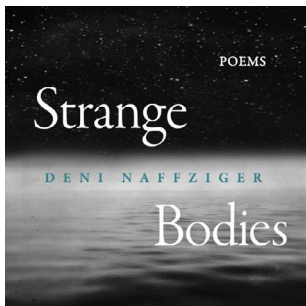
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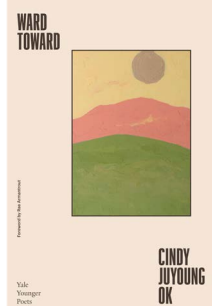
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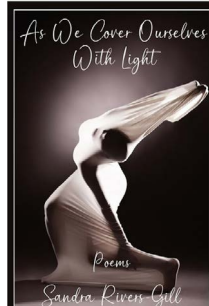
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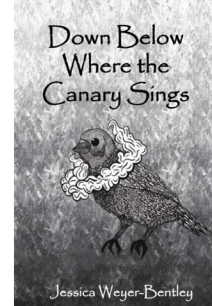
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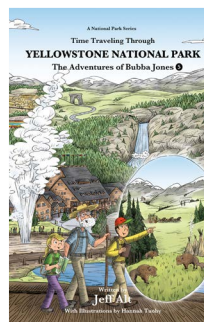


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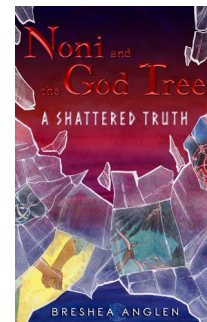


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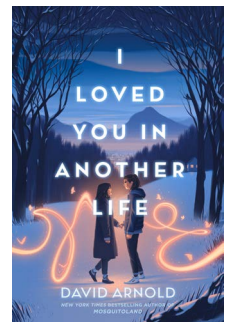
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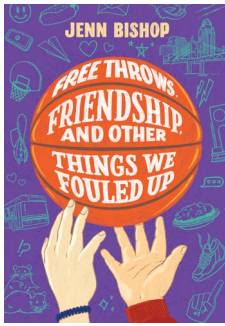
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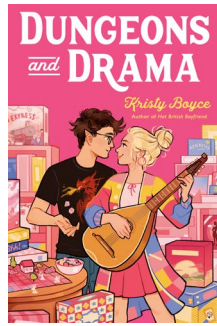
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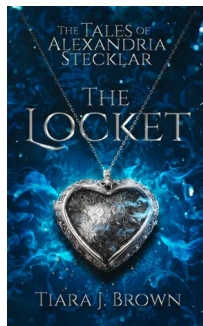
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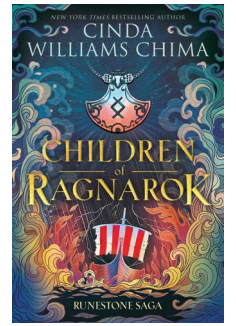
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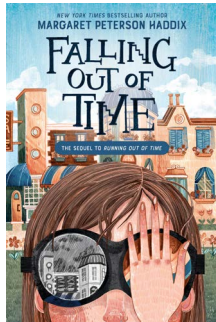
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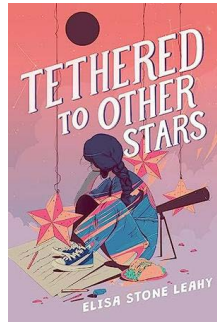
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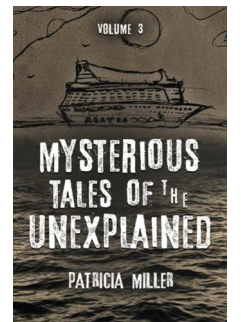
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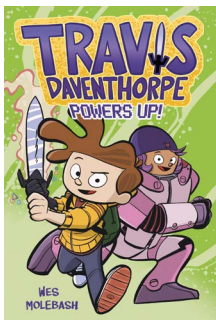
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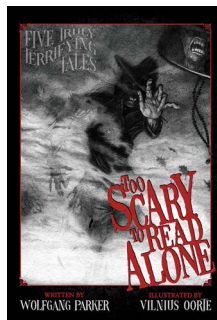
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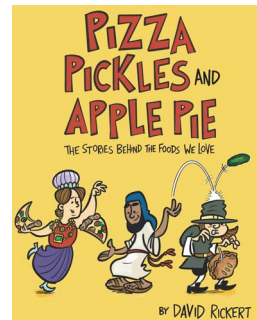
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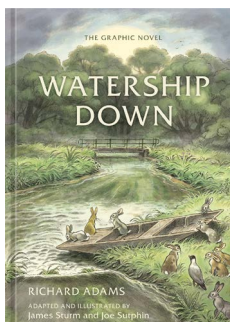
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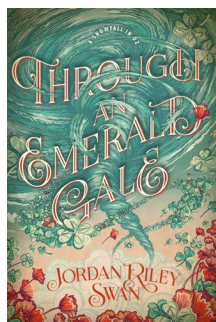
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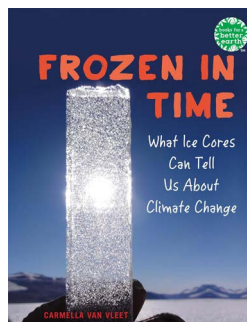
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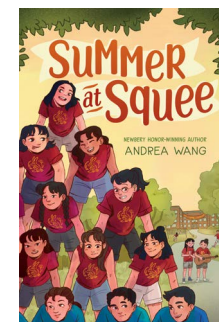
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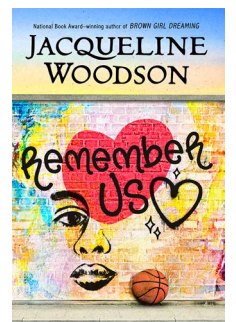
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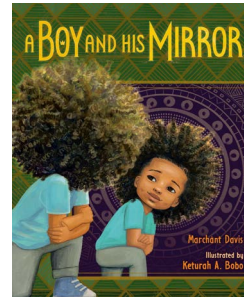


Jacqueline Woodson

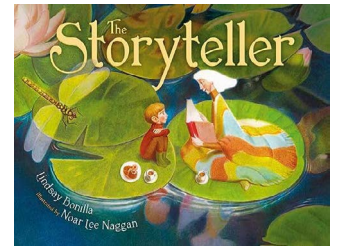
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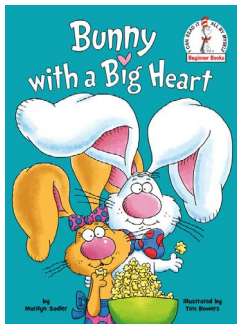
Jashar Awan



Keturah A. Bobo



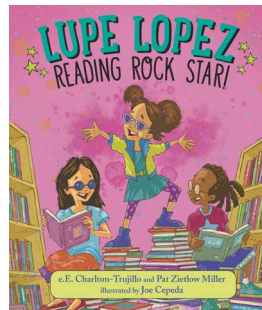
Lindsay Bonilla



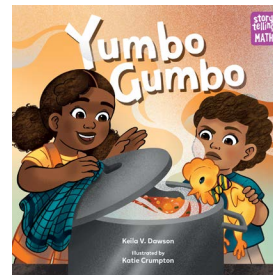
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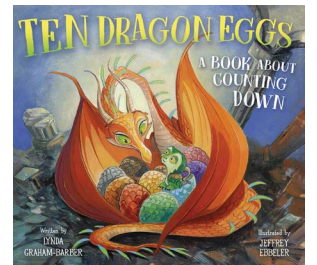
Marcy Campbell



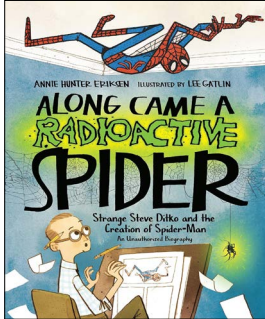
e.E. Charlton-Trujillo



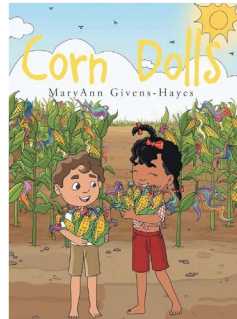
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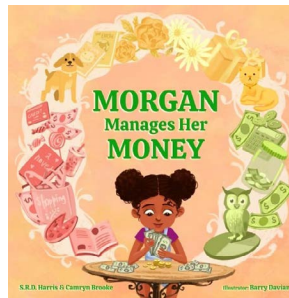
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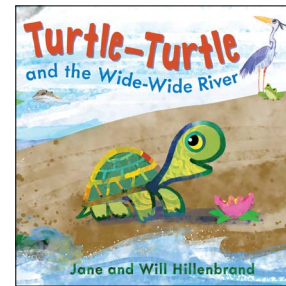
Annie Hunter Eriksen



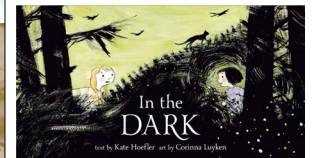
MaryAnn Givens-Hayes



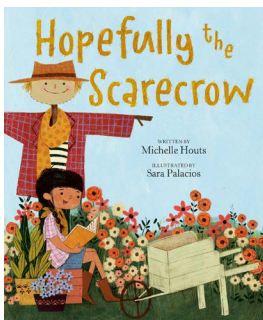
S. R. D. Harris & Camryn Brooke



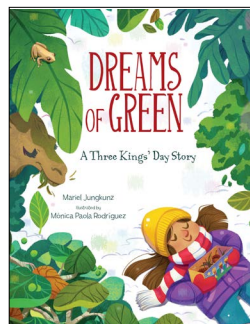
Jane Hillenbrand & Will Hillenbrand



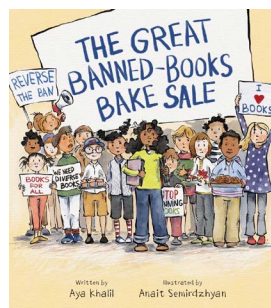
Kate Hoefler



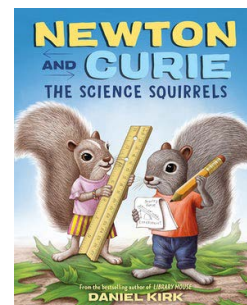
Michelle Houts



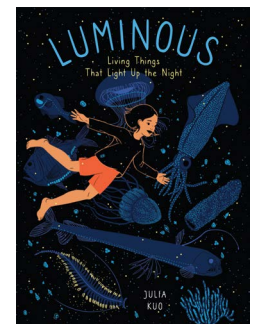
Mariel Jungkunz



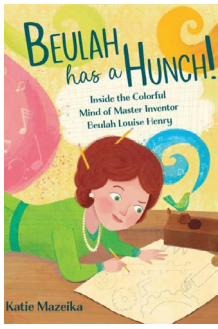
Aya Khalil



Daniel Kirk



Julia Kuo



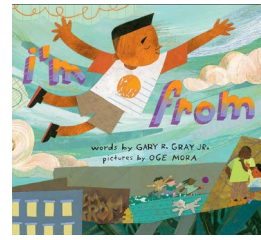
Katie Mazeika



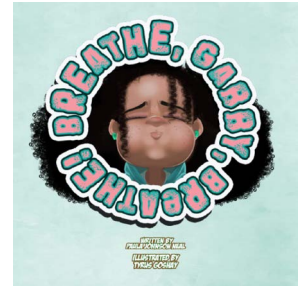
Dinara Mirtalipova & Sabrina Makhsimova



J. P. Mitchell



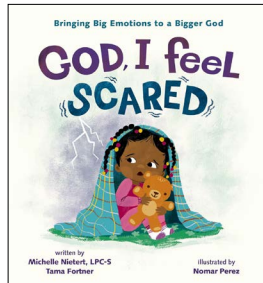
Oge Mora



Paula Johnson Neal



Carlotta Penn & Debbie Rigaud



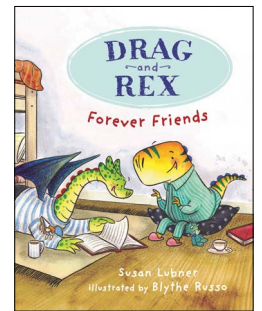
Nomar Perez



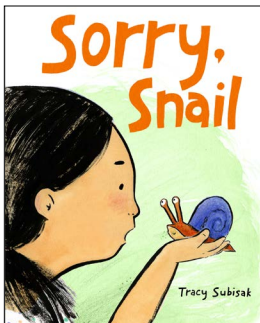
Andy J. Pizza & Sophie Miller



Merrill Rainey



Blythe Russo



Tracy Subisak



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Book Festival**

The Columbus
Dispatch
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Meet Tracy Subisak

2024 Ohioana Book Festival Poster Artist

By Kathryn Powers



Photo by Matthew Gendron

In 2015, the Ohioana Library asked author-illustrator Jeffrey Ebbeler to design a special poster for the Ohioana Book Festival's big move to downtown Columbus. Ten years later, the creation of unique poster art by a festival illustrator has become a beloved tradition. The 2024 poster was designed by author-illustrator Tracy Subisak. She is the first poster artist who has also won the Floyd's Pick Book Award, an annual award presented by Choose to Read Ohio that honors the legacy of children's librarian and advocate Floyd Dickman. We invite you to read about Subisak's winning Floyd's Pick title, *Jenny Mei Is Sad*, as well as her creative process and how her Ohio roots still inspire her today, in our summer 2022 edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*. (Visit: <https://www.ohioana.org/programs/publications/quarterly>)

Subisak grew up in Ohio and now lives in the Pacific Northwest. She joins us to celebrate the 10th anniversary festival poster and to give us a sneak peek of the new book she's bringing to the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival.

Q What was the inspiration behind your design for the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival poster art?

A My inspiration behind the design is fairly simple, but important. I happened to grow up going to the

Columbus Metropolitan Libraries often. The library is a community where a diversity of people, cultures, thoughts, activities, stories, and knowledge all come together. At the library, everyone is welcome! From accessibility of resources to propelling one's love for an obscure hobby, the library is all about it—and Ohioana is a huge celebration of that! In my design, I wanted to show the different types of people coming together and celebrating Ohioana and the importance of libraries.

Q The ten years of poster art showcase the many genres, styles, and illustration career paths that artists can choose. Do you have any words of advice for aspiring illustrators or author-illustrators?

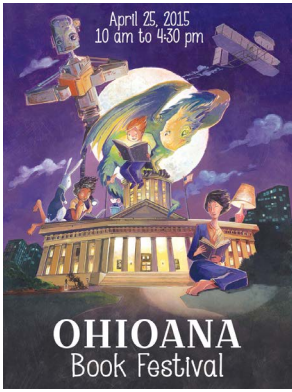
A My advice is to take your time to discover your own path, find a creative community you can trust and be vulnerable with, and have fun. When I first started my career in children's literature ten years ago, I went in all directions, diving into every genre I had an interest in and trying to illustrate like the people I admired. I think this was an important step for me to get to where I am today. In the end, if you illustrate a picture book (or whatever path you take), your natural style will come out. Friends with good taste will cheer you on and be honest with you if something does—or doesn't—work. If you can find enjoyment in this process, there's nothing stopping you.

Q We can't wait to see you on April 20 for the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival! Can you tell us about the title you're bringing this year? What is your favorite part about returning to Ohio for this event?

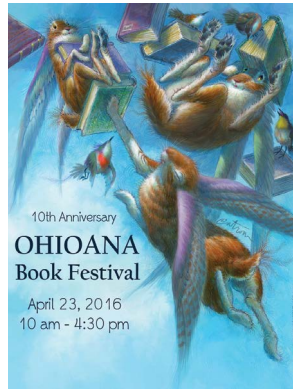
A I will be sharing *Sorry, Snail*, my latest author-illustrated picture book about a zany, hilarious, and slightly dark conflict between a girl and a snail that gets a bit out of hand, and how to sincerely apologize.

I am so excited to finally attend the Ohioana Book Festival in person and to meet all the amazing literary folks and readers of Ohio! I am especially excited to participate in the "Illustrating for Young Readers" panel, and to cheer on my friend Julia Kuo at her events, too.

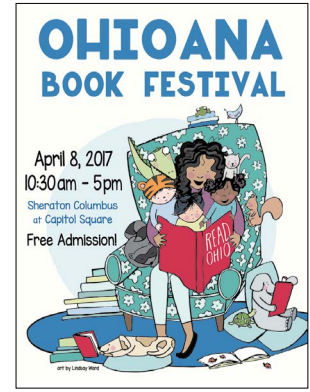
10 Years of Ohioana Book Festival Posters



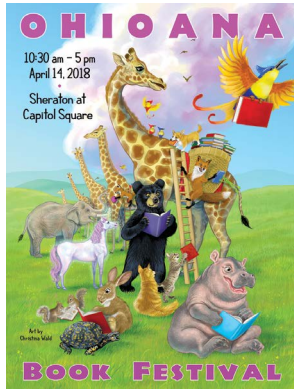
Jeffrey Ebbeler (2015)



David Catrow (2016)



Lindsay Ward (2017)



Christina Wald (2018)



Tim Bowers (2019)



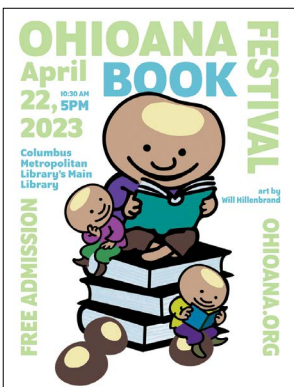
Rafael Rosado (2020)



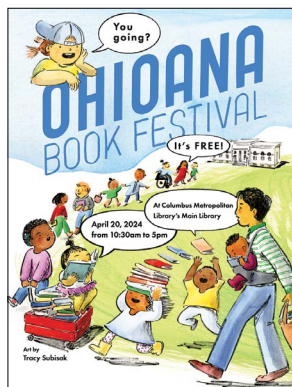
Tom Batiuk (2021)



Terri Libenson (2022)



Will Hillenbrand (2023)



Tracy Subisak (2024)

Ohioana in the Community

The following activities featuring Ohioana Book Festival authors take place both before and after the main event on April 20. All programs are free and open to the public, no registration required.

Author Visit: Lucy A. Snyder

April 17, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
South High Branch

Join author Lucy A. Snyder for a discussion on her book *Never Too Old to Save the World: A Midlife Calling Anthology*, followed by Q&A time.

Author Visit: Darren C. Demaree

April 18, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Whetstone Branch

Join poet Darren C. Demaree for a poetry reading from his book *neverwell*, as well as his forthcoming work, followed by Q&A time.

Author Visit: Carlotta Penn

April 18, 2024
4:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Hilltop Branch

Join author Carlotta Penn for a discussion and reading of her children's book *Step by Step! How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice*. A great event for kids!

Author Visit: David Meyers

April 18, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Northside Branch

Join author David Meyers at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Northside Branch for a discussion on his latest book *Original Ohio*, followed by Q&A time with the audience.

Author Visit: Nita Sweeney

April 19, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
New Albany Branch

Join author Nita Sweeney at Columbus Metropolitan Library's New Albany Branch for a discussion on her book *A Daily Dose of Now: 365 Mindfulness Meditation Practices for Living in the Moment*, followed by Q&A time with the audience.

Author Visit: Olivia Matthews (a.k.a. Patricia Sargeant)

April 19, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Karl Road Branch

Join author Olivia Matthews (a.k.a. Patricia Sargeant) at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Karl Road Branch for an author visit. She will be discussing her various books including *Hard Dough Homicide: A Spice Isle Bakery Mystery, Book 2*, followed by Q&A time with the audience.

Author Visit: e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

April 19, 2024
4:00 p.m.
Cover to Cover Books for Young
Readers
Upper Arlington, Ohio

Join e.E. Charlton-Trujillo at Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers for an author visit and book signing. They will share their children's book *Lupe Lopez: Reading Rock Star! A great event for kids!*

**Author Visit:
Julia Kuo**

April 21, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers
Upper Arlington, Ohio

Join Julia Kuo at Cover to Cover Books for Young Readers for an author-illustrator visit and book signing. She will share her children's book *Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night*. A great event for kids!

**Author Visit:
Mariel Jungkunz**

April 21, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Whitehall Branch

Join author Mariel Jungkunz at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Whitehall Branch for a discussion and reading of her children's book *Dreams of Green: A Three Kings' Day Story*. A great event for kids!

**Author Visit:
Linda Kass**

April 22, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Hilliard Branch

Join author Linda Kass at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Hilliard Branch for a discussion on her historical fiction novel *Bessie*, followed by Q&A time with the audience.

**Author Visit:
D. M. Guay**

April 22, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
South High Branch

Join D. M. Guay at Columbus Metropolitan Library's South High Branch for an author visit. She will be discussing her various books including *Revenge of the Furballs: 24/7 Demon Mart #5*, followed by Q&A time with the audience.

**Author Visit:
Paula Johnson Neal**

April 22, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Gahanna Branch

Join author Paula Johnson Neal at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Gahanna Branch for a discussion and reading of her children's book *Breathe, Gabby, Breathe!* A great event for kids!

**Poetry Reading:
Cindy Juyoung Ok &
Michael Leong**

April 22, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Streetlight Guild

Head over to Streetlight Guild for a poetry reading and discussion with poets Cindy Juyoung Ok and Michael Leong. Cindy Juyoung Ok will be reading from her book *Ward Toward*, and Michael Leong will be reading from his various collections.

**Author Visit:
Carlotta Penn**

April 24, 2024
4:00 p.m.
Columbus Metropolitan Library's
Whetstone Branch

Join author Carlotta Penn at Columbus Metropolitan Library's Whetstone Branch for a discussion and reading of her children's book *Step by Step! How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice*. A great event for kids!

**Author Visit:
Tim Bowers**

April 27, 2024
10:30 a.m.
Paragraphs Bookstore
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Join Tim Bowers at Paragraphs Bookstore for an illustrator visit and book signing. He will share his children's book *Bunny with a Big Heart*. A great event for kids!

**Author Visit:
Marcy Campbell**

April 27, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Paragraphs Bookstore
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Join Marcy Campbell at Paragraphs Bookstore for an author visit and book signing. She will share her children's book *The More You Give*. A great event for kids!

A SERLING CELEBRATION

By David Weaver

Thanks to the enduring popularity of *The Twilight Zone*, Rod Serling is indelibly woven into American popular culture. Admit it: you have that da-da-dada, da-da-dada theme running through your head right now, and you can picture Serling on a black and white television screen, cigarette in hand, with his distinctive voice narrating the introduction and conclusion of each episode.

But Serling was far more than just the creator of *The Twilight Zone* and the winner of a record-setting six Emmy Awards. As a writer, producer, teacher, speaker, and passionate champion for social justice, Serling left a legacy that grows larger with each passing year.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Serling's birth on December 25. The Ohioana Library is joining in the celebration, including a four-part series in the *Ohioana Quarterly*. We kicked it off in our winter 2024 issue with a wonderful tribute by Ohio writer Mark Dawidziak, the author of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Twilight Zone*. In this issue, we're taking a look at some of the upcoming Serling centennial highlights.

Since 1985, the main caretaker of Serling's legacy has been the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation. Founded by Helen Foley, one of Serling's beloved teachers, and several of his close friends from school, the Foundation is located in Binghamton, New York, where Serling grew up. "Everybody has to have a hometown," Serling once said. "Binghamton's mine."

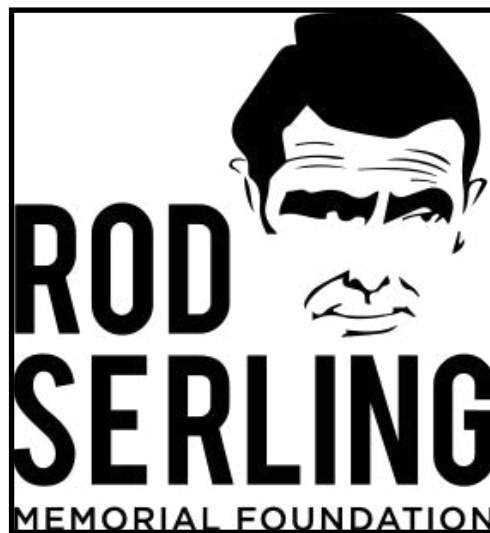
Since 2017, the Foundation has presented SerlingFest, an annual weekend of activities and festivities that includes panel discussions, screenings, and readings. The 2024 SerlingFest, taking place September 13–15, will be highlighted by the dedication of an eight-foot-tall statue of Serling in Binghamton's Recreation Park. Located a few blocks from his boyhood home, it was Serling's memories of the park, with its carousel that still stands today, that inspired him to write "Walking

Distance," one of the classic episodes of *The Twilight Zone*.

Another *Twilight Zone* episode—in fact, Serling's personal favorite of the series' first season—inspired an annual event in Northeast Ohio. "A Stop at Willoughby" is the haunting tale of a harried executive who dreams of escaping to a small, peaceful town where life is simpler. While Serling's Willoughby is fictional, volunteers in the city of Willoughby, Ohio, decided to organize the Last Stop Willoughby

Festival in 2009 for the 50th anniversary of *The Twilight Zone*. This day-long event features music, art, food, a parade, activities for kids, and screenings of "A Stop at Willoughby" at the local library. The 2024 Last Stop Willoughby Festival is set for Saturday, August 10.

Ohio was an important part of Serling's life. His career as a writer and broadcaster began in earnest at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, where he enrolled after serving in World War II. Antioch College is also where he met Carolyn (Carol) Kramer of Columbus, who became his wife in 1948. Following Serling's graduation in 1950, they moved to Cincinnati, where his growing success as a writer for radio and television



brought him national attention. After he and Carol moved to the east coast, Serling kept close ties to Antioch, even returning to teach for a year in the early 1960s, by which time he was one of America's most celebrated writers.

We're excited to announce that a historical marker honoring Serling is in the works, and it will be fittingly located at Antioch College. The unveiling celebration is planned for October 2, 2025, as part of the Yellow Springs Film Festival, which will include a Serling retrospective. This significant date marks the 66th anniversary of when *The Twilight Zone* premiered in 1959. The new historical marker will become a site on the Ohio Literary Trail, the Ohioana Library's program that spotlights Ohio authors and their contributions to literature and culture.

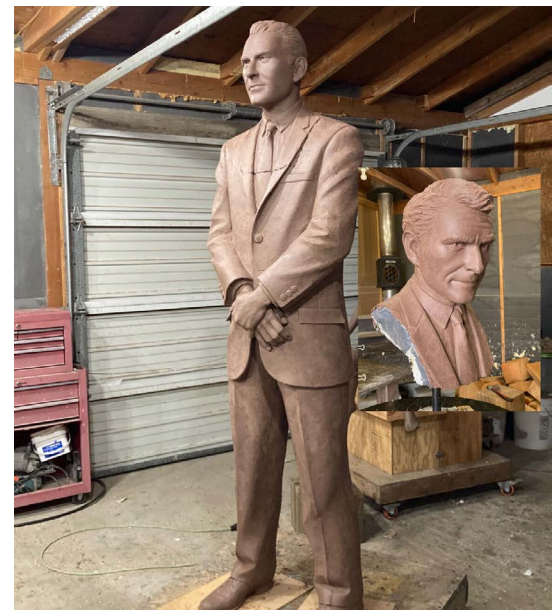
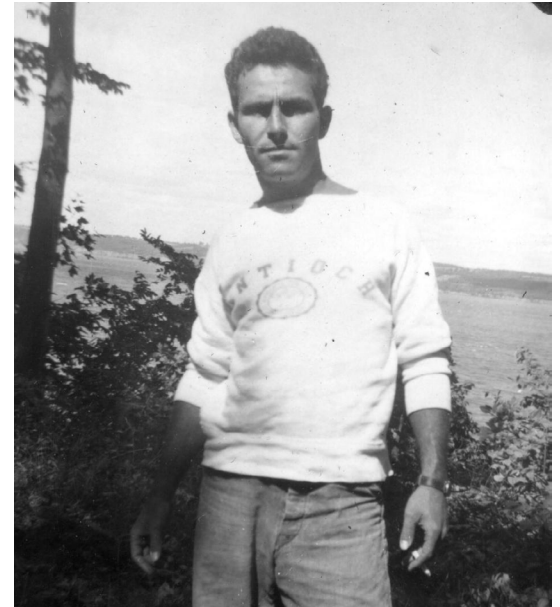
It's going to be an eventful year—and beyond!—celebrating a true American original. One person who is deeply involved in the celebration is Rod's daughter, Anne. Her book, *As I Knew Him: My Dad, Rod Serling*, is a personal, intimate memoir in which she reveals the fun-loving family man the public never saw.

As Anne recalls, "He was silly and funny. My mother used to tell me, 'Stop laughing at him. You're only encouraging him.' He was a practical joker. He loved *The Flintstones*. He did the best gorilla impersonation you could imagine—as evidenced in every home movie. He was passionate about civil rights and humanity, a lover of animals, and a killer tennis player."

She added, "No one would be more surprised than my dad that he is still remembered."

Our special thanks to Anne Serling, Mark Dawidziak, Nicholas Parisi, and the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation for their help with this article.

Photos (from top): Serling as an Antioch student (courtesy of Anne Serling); model of Serling statue; Serling statue in progress (courtesy of Rod Serling Memorial Foundation).



Women of Appalachia Project

by Miriam Nordine

Happy 15th anniversary to the Women of Appalachia Project!

This project has many facets, but one important mission: to uplift and empower women residing in, or with strong ties to, any of the 423 Appalachian counties. Thirty-two of these counties make up Appalachian Ohio. The Women of Appalachia Project invites submissions of spoken word and fine art, shared in public forums both in-person and virtual, in addition to their annual anthology.

Writers, poets, and artists share their experiences, writing, and art at various venues, discussing culture, issues of marginalization, and so much more. The many women involved with the organization have created a unified, non-violently confrontational force of creativity, championing “the whole woman, beyond superficial factors often used to judge her.”

This incredible organization was founded by Ohio Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour, who will be a featured author at the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival with her latest poetry collection, *Dirt Songs*. A ninth generation Appalachian, she is the editor of *I Thought I Heard a Cardinal Sing: Ohio's Appalachian Voices*, funded through an Academy of American Poets Fellowship Grant and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and winner of the 2023 ABF Poetry Anthology “Best Book Award.” Gunter-Seymour is a retired instructor in the E. W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, and the founder, creator, and host of a seasonal performance series featuring poets, writers, and musicians called

“Spoken and Heard.” She is an award-winning author, an artist in residence for the Writing the Land Project, and a Pillars of Prosperity Fellow for the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. Learn more about her work at <https://www.karigunterseymourpoet.com>.

Executive Director Kari Gunter-Seymour writes of the Women of Appalachia Project: “We believe that all women are capable, courageous, creative, and inspired.” Nothing exemplifies these words more than the 15th anniversary issue of *Women Speak*,

Volume Nine, the project's annual anthology, released in March 2024. The anthology will be available at Kari Gunter-Seymour's author table at the Ohioana Book Festival on April 20. Two poems on the following page will give you a sneak peek at the anniversary issue. There are so many important voices showcased in this beautiful book, so be sure to check it out at the festival or online.



Join the Women of Appalachia Project for their 15th Anniversary Gala Celebration, “Voices Ringing Out from Mountain Top to Holler,” taking place May 17, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens, Ohio. Some of Appalachia's finest artists and writers will share their poetry, stories, and songs published in the project's anthology series, *Women Speak, Volume Nine*. A reception will follow with refreshments and music provided by local musicians Lazy Susan. Free and open to the public, so bring along family and friends!

Learn more about the Women of Appalachia Project at <https://www.womenofappalachia.com>.

Dis/traction

by Pauletta Hansel

Drawn asunder, dragged,
as

by tractor,

“a poor mad soul,” so driven / or split,
as in

“I was
of three
minds, like a tree in which”

there’s an iPhone,
a book, and down below, my
body, rooted still in good
dirt.

Straight and Narrow

by Jane Hicks

“You’d catch a toenail in a stitch that long,
jerk the covers right off the bed.”

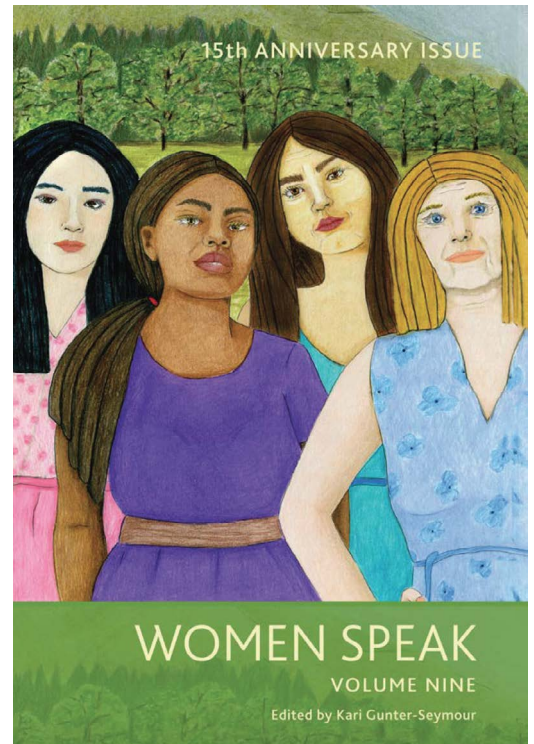
My grandfather peered over my shoulder,
patted it, and passed through.

Astounded he would consider our lesson
at the quilt frame, my grandmother
peeped over her glasses and nodded.

I giggled at his assessment but
it gave me a gauge to stitch by,
to rock the needle straighter
and tighter like the rows he plowed
in their vast garden or the way he packed
tight hands of tobacco on a market basket.

I think of him that way – neat and spry.
Even in farmer overalls, he was trim,
straight, and true like the stitches
his words conjure as I apply my needle
to any project or myself to any task.

Photos (from top): The book cover of *Women Speak, Volume Nine*; singer/songwriter Donna Weems sings her ballad “The Storm” at the Historic Towngate Theater in Wheeling, WV (courtesy of the Women of Appalachia Project); poet Rose Smith reads her poem “Night Clothes” at ArtsWest in Athens, OH (courtesy of the Women of Appalachia Project).



Book Reviews

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 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!

Aldama, Frederick Luis. *Con Papá/With Papá*. Illus. by Nicky Rodriguez. Columbus, OH: Mad Creek Books, 2022.

Con Papá/With Papá is a book written by Frederick Luis Aldama and illustrated by Nicky Rodriguez. It is about a child who learns how to be an adult and become independent from their Papá. The child has fun growing up with their Papá and playing together all the time. They are thankful for the help of their Papá as they get older and become an adult, going out on their own. Together, the child and Papá thread needles with silky fabric to make a cape, they make art with stories and tell them to each other, and they whisper shapes to make another world.

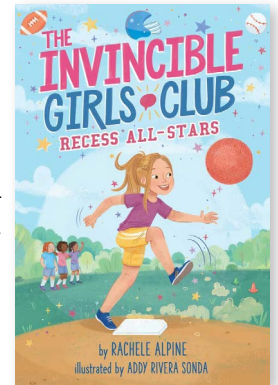


This book is good. The way it is written is pretty cool because kids can read it in both English and Spanish. It also has alliteration, such as “speedy steps,” “steady and sturdy,” and “splish splash.” I would definitely read this book to my younger cousins, Auggie, who is two years old, and Teddy, who is four years old. They would probably want me to read this over and over again.

MY NAME IS GIGI WEIMAN. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LOVE SWIMMING AND LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES. I LIVED IN MICHIGAN FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS. MY FAVORITE THING TO DO THERE WAS SLEDDING DOWN THE LAKE SAND DUNES.

Alpine, Rachele. *Recess All-Stars (Invincible Girls Club #5)*. Illus. by Addy Rivera Sonda. New York, NY: Aladdin, 2022.

The Invincible Girls Club: Recess All-Stars is an amazing book by Ohio author Rachele Alpine. The book is about a girl named Lauren. The boys in Lauren’s class make fun of her and say she isn’t allowed to play kickball with them. Instead of giving up, she challenges them to a game of kickball that is boys versus girls. The girls are surprised when they win, but then they notice the boys are sad. So, Lauren says that the field is big enough for everyone and suggests they can all share it.

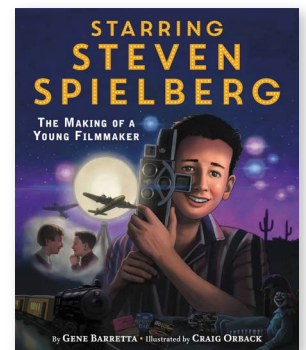


This is a great girl power book! It is a strong story that is very inspiring for girls. It can help you stand up for yourself and build courage. I would recommend *Recess All-Stars* for readers age seven to ten. I love this book.

I AM GRETA EVANS, AND I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S CLASS. I ENJOY MATH AND GETTING MONEY. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS *DEAR PANDA*.

Barretta, Gene. *Starring Steven Spielberg: The Making of a Young Filmmaker*. Illus. by Craig Orback. New York, NY: Christy Ottaviano Books, 2022.

Starring Steven Spielberg is an eye-catching book. It is about the movie director and producer Steven Spielberg who was born on December 18, 1946, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This fascinating book is full of facts. The pictures show clips of the movies Spielberg made and fun scenes from each film. We especially liked the scene from



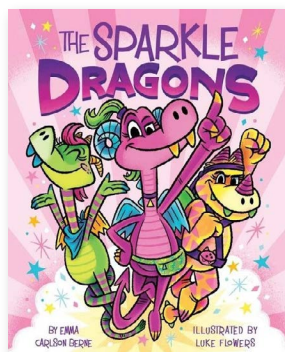
E.T. where it shows frogs being released from science experiments, because we learned that this is something that happened in Spielberg’s real life when he was a child.

The book gives information about Spielberg’s childhood and not just his grown-up life. When he was a child, Spielberg played the clarinet and became fascinated by movies. We learned about Spielberg’s personal life and how it impacted his career. We were shocked he and his wife, Kate Capshaw, have seven kids! We believe this book is for readers of all ages.

WE ARE ELISSA CLINKSCALE AND ELLA HICKS, AND WE GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. WE ARE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. ELISSA ENJOYS DANCE, SOCCER, EATING, READING, AND LOVES STITCH. ELLA ENJOYS BASKETBALL, DOGS, ELEPHANTS, READING, AND STAR WARS! BOTH GIRLS ENJOY SPORTS.

Berne, Emma Carlson. *The Sparkle Dragons*. Illus. by Luke Flowers.
New York, NY: Clarion Books, 2022.

The book *The Sparkle Dragons* by Emma Carlson Berne is a story about telling the truth. It is also about being kind to others.



The main characters are three superhero dragons named Glinda, Trixie, and Rue. They need to find out who made the river polka-dotted. At first, they think Robert the troll did it because he has polka-dotted paints, but then the Sparkle Dragons realize they need more information and proof.

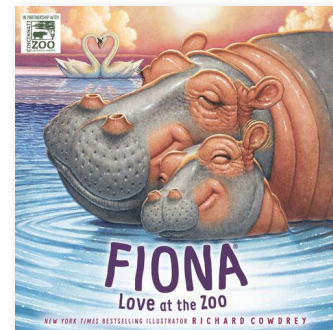
This book is really exciting as they solve the mystery. The ending is funny, and there are lots of other silly scenes, too. *The Sparkle Dragons* is also very colorful with a lot of pink illustrations. I think this is a good book.

The author, Emma Carlson Berne, lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, with her family.

MY NAME IS ELLIE KEELING. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. KESSLER’S CLASS. I AM IN THE CLASS OF 2032.

Cowdrey, Richard. *Fiona: Love at the Zoo*.
Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2022.

Fiona: Love at the Zoo is a book by Ohio author and illustrator Richard Cowdrey. The book is about a real hippopotamus named Fiona at the Cincinnati Zoo. In the book, Fiona is running through the zoo and noticing the different ways the animals share love. After visiting all the other animals, Fiona realizes that her love is at home in her habitat with her family.

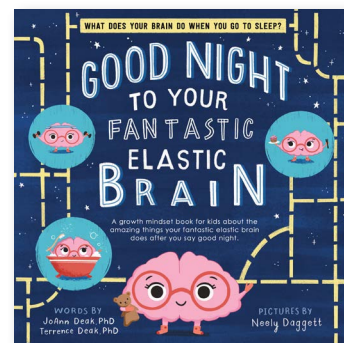


This is a great book for younger kids, especially as a bedtime story because it makes you feel all cozy inside. Every page in the book has a rhyme about an animal. Also, there is onomatopoeia on some pages that makes the animals feel real. A couple examples are the words *nuzzle*, *kiss*, and *coo*. I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it to everyone.

MY NAME IS LAILA HILL. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I’M IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FORM IV CLASS. I ENJOY RIDING HORSES, DIVING, DRAWING, AND RUNNING TRACK. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS RAIN REIGN.

Deak, JoAnn, and Terrence Deak. *Good Night to Your Fantastic Elastic Brain*.
Illus. by Neely Daggett.
New York, NY: Sourcebooks Explore, 2022.

Good Night to Your Fantastic Elastic Brain is a WONDERFUL and very interesting book! This book has amazing facts about your brain. For example, the book explains, “There is a part across the middle of your head, from ear to ear, called the motor cortex, which controls your body. If you want to wave, that part of the brain sends a message to your hand to move.” Another example is, “Extra or unused synapses are sheared away like trimming branches of a tree! While you sleep, glial cells help to prune unnecessary (or unused) synapses to strengthen

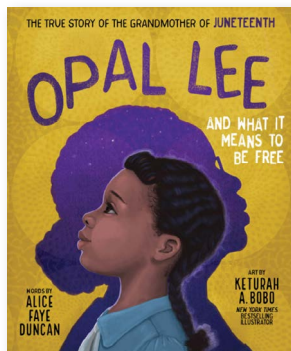


important connections between neurons.” I learned so much from this book! The pictures really helped me understand all the information, and also made it more fun. In my opinion, this is an INCREDIBLE book.

MY NAME IS PHOEBE BRASELTON. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY READING, DRAWING, CRAFTS, AND MUCH MORE. I ALSO ENJOY CROCHET. (I ONCE MADE SOCKS!)

Duncan, Alice Faye. *Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth*. Illus. by Keturah A. Bobo.
Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2022.

The book *Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free*, written by Alice Faye Duncan and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo, is a story about keeping your head up no matter what and fighting for what’s right. This story involves a girl named Opal Lee who wants Juneteenth to become a nationwide holiday. Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates Black enslaved people becoming free.



An adult Opal Lee tells children stories of slavery that her father had told her when she was a child. For example, Black men could not own land but had to plow fields anyway. Black women were cooks but couldn’t eat from the master’s table. Black children cleaned the school rooms but weren’t allowed to read or write.

Opal Lee also tells stories about her Juneteenth experiences growing up, like how her house was burned down by angry people who wanted to stop Black people from becoming equal. It was her saddest Juneteenth, and she learned an important lesson that, “Freedom is a golden coin. Struggle makes it shine.” Opal Lee also said, “No matter how long it takes for freedom to stretch across the land, I will keep teaching, reaching, walking, and talking. I will raise my voice on the prairie and the mountain until freedom rings.”

I enjoyed this book for three main reasons. Reason one: although Opal Lee’s house was burned down, I love how she kept her head up even though it was a hard thing

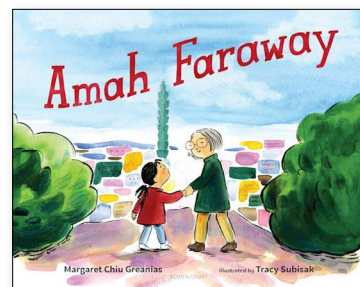
to go through. Reason two: no matter what, freedom and equality is for all. The book showed a bold, bright, and shining illustration while Opal Lee said her very inspiring quote about walking and talking until freedom stretched across the land. Reason three: Opal Lee does not hate other races for burning down her house, and she tells her story to people of all colors. Also, there is a beautiful picture with all skin colors being shown, and it was so heartwarming to see.

Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free is in the Ohioana Library because the illustrator of this book, Keturah A. Bobo, graduated with a BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design and lives in Columbus, Ohio, with her family. Opal Lee is a real person who is an activist from Texas. She helped Juneteenth become a national holiday and became known as “The Grandmother of Juneteenth.”

I AM JENRAYO AWOSIKA IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. AS A REVIEWER, I ENJOY READING BOOKS. SOME OF MY FAVORITES INCLUDE ALLERGIC, STARGAZING, AND THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE.

Greanias, Margaret Chiu. *Amah Faraway*. Illus. by Tracy Subisak.
New York, NY: Bloomsbury Children’s Books, 2022.

The book *Amah Faraway*, written by Margaret Chiu Greanias and illustrated by Tracy Subisak, is about having trust in people and trying new things. In the book, a girl named Kylie gets scared because she is going to visit Amah, but hasn’t seen her for a long time. Amah is Kylie’s grandmother and lives in Taipei. Kylie lives in San Francisco.



During the trip, Amah takes Kylie and her mom everywhere in Taipei. Kylie is not enjoying herself with all the unfamiliar things. But once they get to the hot springs, Kylie tries the water and finds it so fun! Amah and Kylie go to the park together, as well as to the night market, and this time Kylie leads. Kylie starts to realize how beautiful Taipei is and why Amah loves it.

This book is enjoyable. I really loved all of the foods and crafts on the inside cover. For example, there are

pictures of Chinese donuts, candied fruit, mangos, and boba. I also enjoyed all the different colors of the clothes, food, and places in the book. The large illustrations of the night market were all so colorful and beautiful. I also really liked how the words and pictures described the characters' feelings because it helped me understand the book a little more. For example, I could understand Kylie's nervous feelings on the airplane.

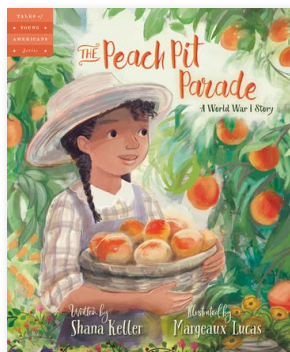
Tracy Subisak, the illustrator of this book, was born and raised in Ohio.

I AM DYLAN PIEPER IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LOVE READING!

Keller, Shana. *The Peach Pit Parade: A World War I Story*. Illus. by Margeaux Lucas.

Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2022.

The Peach Pit Parade: A World War I Story is written by Shana Keller and illustrated by Margeaux Lucas. It is a true story about a girl named Polly and a war that took her father away to fight. Polly's father left at a time when people who were fighting needed gas masks. Polly discovered that the filters of the gas masks could be made with peach pits. Polly was worried about her father, so she organized a parade and asked everyone to bring peach pits so more gas masks could be made.

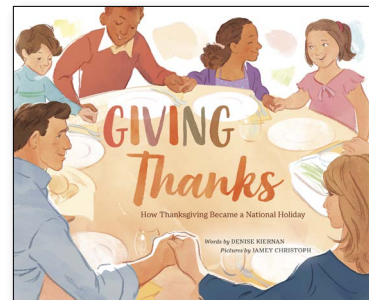


This book made me feel hopeful, happy, and a tiny bit sad. I liked the illustrations and the story. One thing I liked about it was how Polly was sad when her dad left, and the book showed the bond between them. I also liked how when she learned that the people in the war needed gas masks, she thought up the idea of having a parade. I really liked the colors in the illustrations. The bright colors and dark colors swirled together and made the story come to life. This book made me feel very different feelings all at once. In my opinion, it is a great book.

MY NAME IS ANNABEL HUFFMAN. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY PLAYING WITH FRIENDS, READING, AND SLEEPOVERS. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS WINGS OF FIRE.

Kiernan, Denise. *Giving Thanks: How Thanksgiving Became a National Holiday*. Illus. by Jamey Christoph. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2022.

Giving Thanks is a great book. It is about how Thanksgiving became a national holiday. The book explains how Sarah Josepha Hale thought Thanksgiving should be on the same day every year. A long time ago, people and cities had their own Thanksgiving holidays on different days during the year. Sarah wrote to the president of the United States and asked for Thanksgiving to be celebrated on the same day every year for everyone. Was she successful? Read the story to find out!

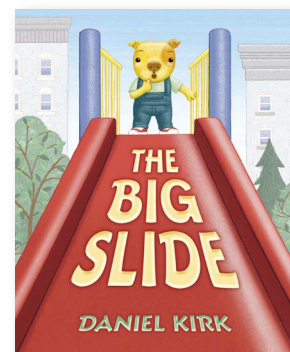


Giving Thanks has beautiful illustrations by Ohio illustrator Jamey Christoph. The colors are soft and the pictures are very detailed. The book tells a great story and has lots of interesting facts. I especially liked the part where it shows how people say "thank you" in different languages. I definitely learned a lot from this book, and I like this story for so many reasons. These are just a few. I would recommend it to everyone. I hope you like this book!

MY NAME IS LOLO PENNINGTON. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY ROCK CLIMBING, PLAYING OUTSIDE, DRAWING, AND READING. MY FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS JUNIE B. JONES.

Kirk, Daniel. *The Big Slide*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022.

The Big Slide by Daniel Kirk is a story about a little dog. The theme is to be brave, even when you're scared or feel like you can't do something. The main character is Little Pup. The story takes place at a playground. Every day, Little Pup wants to go down the big slide, but he is too scared. But he doesn't want to go down the baby slide anymore because it is too small.



On the way home one day, Little Pup’s mom has the idea to have him slide down a ramp. Little Pup tries it and really likes it. Later, Little Duck, his friend from school, asks Little Pup to go down the big slide with him because he is nervous to do it alone. Little Pup supports him and gets in line with Little Duck, then finally goes down the slide. He likes the slide so much, he wants to do it again.

This book shows how Little Pup was brave. I think this book is for kids younger than fourth grade (ages two to five). The main reason is that the sentences follow a simple pattern. For example, “He waited in line. He climbed up the ladder.” The words are easier than we would normally see in fourth grade, like *toys* and *cool*. Also, there is very little text on each page. As I mentioned, I like that it has a strong theme of courage, especially for young children. Lastly, I think the message to keep trying when things get rough is a good attitude for anyone to have.

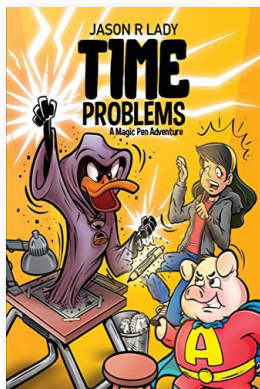
Daniel Kirk, who wrote and illustrated this book, attended The Ohio State University and majored in education and fine arts.

I AM EVIE BUXTON, AND I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. KESSLER’S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I LIKE DANCE (I DO ALL TYPES) AND READING. MY FAVORITE BOOKS ARE *WHITEBIRD* AND THE LAND OF STORIES SERIES.

Lady, Jason R. *Time Problems (A Magic Pen Adventure #3)*.

Castroville, TX: Black Rose Writing, 2022.

I read Jason R. Lady’s *Time Problems: A Magic Pen Adventure* for my book review. Rachel, the main character, really wants an endless summer because she is nervous to start middle school. A crow brings her a magic pen, so she uses it to draw characters who might help her achieve her goal. She draws Attack Pig, Timeduck, and two hedgehogs to help Timeduck. She asks Timeduck to make the summer endless, but he misunderstands what she wants. Instead, he makes the same two days repeat. This makes Rachel unhappy because she and her friend Cooper have theater camp later in the summer, and if the same two days repeat, then camp will never come.



Rachel tries again with Timeduck, but he keeps making mistakes. Finally, she talks to her brother, and he says he was looking forward to the end of summer. She realizes that lots of other people were probably looking forward to it, too, like her friend Cooper. So, Rachel asks Timeduck to fix things. The two days stop repeating, and Rachel and Cooper finally get to go to theater camp. But Timeduck has a new plot to make the summer endless.

On the first day of theater camp, Rachel and Cooper meet one of the counselors, Blue Hood, and another, Mr. Octagon, who both have experience with the magic pen. The counselors explain that an eraser will appear once they have learned their lesson. When it finally appears, Rachel and Cooper erase Timeduck and are prepared to face middle school.

The plot of *Time Problems* was very imaginative and the characters were unique, but it was also confusing sometimes. There were a lot of things going on at once. For example, in the middle of the story, Timeduck makes a big mistake and creates himself in the past. The past Timeduck and future Timeduck plot was hard for me to understand. I think it would be better if they split this book into two books, but it was definitely very creative!

Jason R. Lady, the author, lives in Cleveland with his wife.

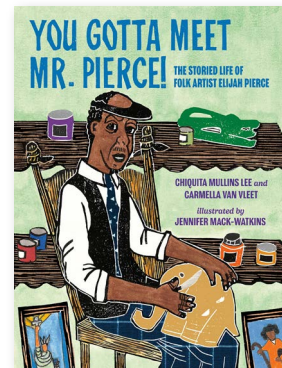
MY NAME IS JULIANA BEHBEHANI. I AM IN MS. KESSLER’S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LOVE ANIMALS AND SOCCER.

Lee, Chiquita Mullins, and Carmella Van Vleet. *You Gotta Meet Mr. Pierce! The Storied Life of Folk Artist Elijah Pierce*.

Illus. by Jennifer Mack-Watkins.

New York, NY: Kokila, 2023.

The book *You Gotta Meet Mr. Pierce!* is about a young boy who doesn’t know what to draw for his mother. His dad takes him to a barbershop to get his haircut. While the boy is getting his haircut, Mr. Pierce, the barber (who is also a well-known wood carving artist from Columbus, Ohio), shares his words of wisdom using stories of his life



that inspired each of his art pieces. Mr. Pierce believes that every piece of art should tell a story. By the end of the book, and after Mr. Pierce's stories, the boy leaves knowing just what he will make for his mother. On the last page, the boy grows up and tells his own son, "You gotta meet Mr. Pierce!"

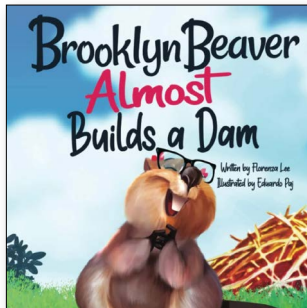
This book was really good. I didn't like that there were a lot of male characters and would have liked more girls included. But I liked that the book is kind of suspenseful because on the second to last page, it doesn't tell you what the boy draws for his mother, which made me curious. Overall, I really liked it!

Chiquita Mullins Lee lives in Ohio and is an Arts Learning Coordinator at the Ohio Arts Council. Carmella Van Vleet also lives in Ohio and is an award-winning author.

I AM DAMI SHOFU, AND I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I LIKE TO READ, HAVE FUN, AND PLAY PRACTICAL JOKES.

Lee, Florenza. *Brooklyn Beaver Almost Builds a Dam*. Illus. by Eduardo Paj. Chagrin Falls, OH: Words to Ponder Publishing, 2021.

Brooklyn Beaver Almost Builds a Dam is an amazing book by Ohio author Florenza Lee and illustrated by Eduardo Paj. This book inspires me to be kind and help others. It is about a beaver named Brooklyn. She is going to meet her brother so they can build a dam, but the wagon she is pulling is too heavy. On the way, she meets all of her friends. They each offer to help by taking some supplies out of her wagon to make it lighter. When Brooklyn finally gets to the spot where she and her brother want to build, the wagon is almost empty. She decides to ask for the supplies back. Her friends have already used the supplies for themselves, but they each have even better supplies to offer Brooklyn to use. The other animals also want to chip in by helping Brooklyn and her brother build the dam.

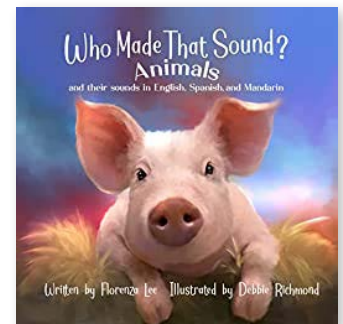


The main reason I love this book is because it's a memorable story of friends helping each other. In the end, every animal Brooklyn meets on her journey helps her build the dam. My second reason is because the illustrations are so vibrant. When I look at them, I can picture the story actually happening. The part that stands out the most to me is when Brooklyn sees Giovanna, a very small insect. Giovanna shows that even though she is small, she can still help. I really love this book! It made me cry because of how memorable, sweet, and joyful it is.

MY NAME IS MARYALICE WOLFORD. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S CLASS. I LIKE TO SWIM, DANCE, SING, AND DO GYMNASTICS. I ALSO LIKE TO READ. MY FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS THE LAND OF STORIES.

Lee, Florenza. *Who Made That Sound? Animals and Their Sounds in English, Spanish, and Mandarin*. Illus. by Debbie Richmond. Chagrin Falls, OH: Words to Ponder Publishing, 2022.

Who Made That Sound? is a book written by Florenza Lee and illustrated by Debbie Richmond. It is very heartwarming and cute! Florenza Lee is from Ohio. All the animals in the book have joyful and unique illustrations. One of my favorite illustrations is the dolphin page because it's so colorful.

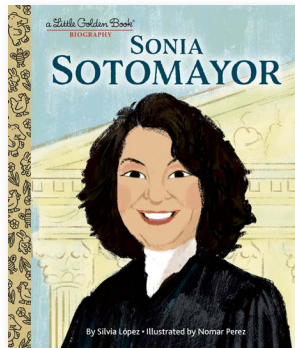


Every page also has an animal sound written in three different languages: English, Spanish, and Mandarin. I think it's amazing that Florenza Lee thought about the variety of people's cultures and included languages other than English. This book is very beautiful and fun to read!

MY NAME IS SAVANNAH MOORER. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY DANCING, GYMNASTICS, READING, AND WRITING STORIES. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS THAT I HAVE READ IS *REBOUND*.

López, Silvia. *Sonia Sotomayor: A Little Golden Book Biography*. Illus. by Nomar Perez.
New York, NY: Golden Books, 2022.

The book *Sonia Sotomayor: A Little Golden Book Biography*, written by Silvia López and illustrated by Nomar Perez, is about Sonia Sotomayor, a famous Supreme Court judge. Sonia and her family lived in New York City. Sonia wanted to be a judge, but she couldn't afford to go to college. So, she participated in a program that helped people go to college who couldn't afford it on their own. Afterward, she earned her law degree from Yale University.



Sonia became known as the judge that saved baseball. This is because she settled an argument between professional baseball players and team owners.

My opinion is that I like how the illustrator, Nomar Perez, did the illustrations. They are very detailed and understandable. It's one of those books where you can easily understand what is happening just by looking at the pictures. I also like how the author, Silvia López, uses descriptive and challenging words like *surrounded*, *educational*, and *encyclopedias*. Additionally, I like how it's written in chronological order. For example, the book explains that Sonia earned her law degree in 1979 and then became a Supreme Court judge.

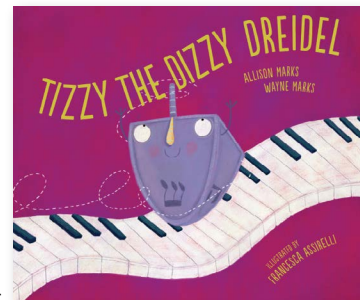
The Ohio connection is that the book's illustrator, Nomar Perez, moved from Puerto Rico to Ohio at age ten.

I AM MADISON EDWARDS IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS. AS A REVIEWER, I AM INTERESTED IN DRAWING. MY FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL IS STRINGS (AN INSTRUMENT CLASS), AND I PLAY THE VIOLA.

Marks, Allison, and Wayne Marks. *Tizzy the Dizzy Dreidel*. Illus. by Francesca Assirelli.
Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2022.

Tizzy the Dizzy Dreidel is a book by Allison and Wayne Marks and illustrated by Francesca Assirelli. It is a story

about a dreidel named Tizzy who gets dizzy and falls over whenever anyone spins her. Tizzy is worried that she won't get picked for the family dreidel contest. But with encouragement from a little girl named Sara, Tizzy overcomes her dizziness and spins all around the house. She keeps spinning through all of Hanukkah and wins the family contest!



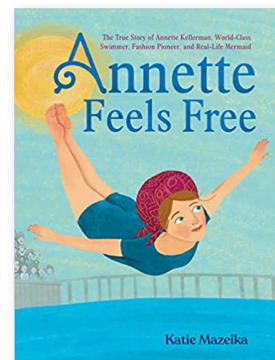
The theme in this story is to never give up and how with enough encouragement, you can keep going! I love the theme in this book. I recommend this book to first graders because it is a picture book. The illustrator did a great job on the cover, and the piano is really colorful and detailed. I also like how the story rhymes, for example, "Tizzy sat dejected / she wouldn't be selected." That's what I think about this great book.

Tizzy the Dizzy Dreidel is in the Ohioana Library because Allison and Wayne Marks, the authors, are from Akron, Ohio.

I AM LOLA BRAUN. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. WE ARE THE CLASS OF 2032.

Mazeika, Katie. *Annette Feels Free: The True Story of Annette Kellerman, World-Class Swimmer, Fashion Pioneer, and Real-Life Mermaid*.
New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2022.

The book *Annette Feels Free* by Katie Mazeika is a true story about a young girl named Annette Kellerman. When Annette was young, she got sick with polio or rickets. This made her legs unsteady, so she had to get braces. But the braces made her feel like her legs were trapped. This was a problem because Annette loved to dance. When she danced, she felt free. Without being able to dance, she sat staring out the window.



Her parents were concerned. They tried everything to help Annette be happy, like reading her favorite books and playing her favorite songs, but nothing worked. However, her dad had an amazing idea. He took off Annette's braces that felt like hot cages on her legs, and carried her into Lavender Bay, which led into the ocean. She loved the cool freedom, and the best part of all was that she did not have to wear her hot, sweaty braces in the water. She kicked, danced, and swam. Eventually, Annette became the strongest swimmer in New South Wales! She broke every record in Australia! The more she swam, the stronger she got, and she didn't have to use her leg braces as much anymore. Annette wanted to be the first woman to swim across the English Channel, but she didn't like that she had to wear a swimsuit with lots of layers and fabric that dragged when she swam.

When Annette was older, she went to America to swim and try to break more records. She was always competing, but soon, Annette was sick and tired of going up against men who got to wear proper swimsuits while she had to wear a big skirt and pantaloons. So, she decided to stop wearing all that clothing and sewed and stitched her very own new swimsuit.

This freedom reminded her of when her dad first brought her to Lavender Bay. She remembered the cool freedom of the ocean. Annette put on her new swimming costume and went to Revere Beach in Boston, where she needed to train hard for her next race. The women at the beach were astonished by her outfit that showed her knees. One of the women covered her son's eyes. Then the police arrested Annette for not wearing enough clothing. They thought that what she was wearing was almost like being naked!

So, Annette had to go to court. She argued about not wanting to swim in pantaloons and a skirt, and she said she would never wear them again. Finally, the judge saw the logic in Annette's arguments, so she was allowed to wear her amazing new swimming costume. But there was one condition: Annette had to wear clothing over her swimsuit all the way until the edge of the water.

The new swimsuit became known as the "Annette Kellerman," and all women showed their knees. As time went by, her swimsuit got even more popular. Eventually, women didn't have to wear coverups anymore to the edge of the water. Annette kept swimming, diving, and racing. She formed her own team of water dancing

women, and they performed in Australia and in the United States. Her swimming friends were called "Kellermanettes."

Nowadays, female athletes all around the world are still dancing in the water. It's called artistic swimming, and it is even a part of the Summer Olympics. Women don't hold back in the water, and it's all because Annette Kellerman just wanted to feel free.

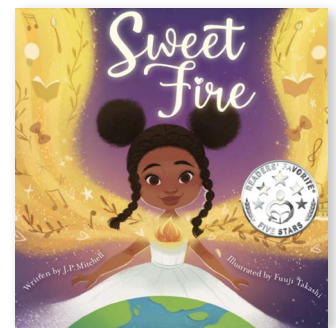
In my opinion, I love this book a lot! It is such a great book. The plot is really interesting, especially since it is a true story. Annette Kellerman really did perform at Australia's Melbourne Aquarium. She was known as "the Mermaid." She also changed the fashion world by designing a new swimsuit for women. Annette was determined to fix the unfairness that men got to wear proper swimsuits, but girls were forced to wear lots of clothing to go swimming. Annette did many amazing things to change the world. This book sends a phenomenal message that young girls should follow their dreams and never give up.

Katie Mazeika attended the Columbus College of Art and Design. She lives in northeast Ohio with her husband and children.

I AM SOPHIA LOPEZ FROM COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN BEXLEY, OHIO. I AM IN MS. KESSLER'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I LOVE TO READ AND DO SPORTS, ESPECIALLY SWIMMING.

Mitchell, J. P. *Sweet Fire*. Illus. by Fuuji Takashi. Columbus, OH: FreedomSong Press, 2023.

Sweet Fire is written by J. P. Mitchell, an Ohio author, and illustrated by Fuuji Takashi. This book is very meaningful because it's all about who you are, and it makes you see yourself in a better way. This book never says the name of the main character. It helps you envision yourself as the subject instead of someone else. The book marks important things and moments in "your" life. For example, it shows a girl taking her first steps. She represents the reader. Fire represents inner passion. The book is titled *Sweet Fire* and it says "sweet fire" whenever "you" show your passion.



Also, I need to talk about the illustrations. Fuji Takashi's illustrations go perfectly with J. P. Mitchell's story. They are truly stunning. I recommend this book for Black girls of all ages. It's a picture book, and it is short and sweet. The text rhymes on every page. This unique book means a lot to me and will be one of my favorites, always.

MY NAME IS ELLA FOSTER. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S CLASS. I ENJOY DANCE, SWIMMING, AND DIVING. I LOVE READING. I ALSO HAVE TWO CATS, GEORGE AND SOPHIE.

Mixon, Dia. *When I Feel at Home*. Illus. by Siara Torres.

Columbus, OH: El Mundo Mixon Books, 2022.

When I Feel at Home is a beautiful book by Ohio author Dia Mixon. The book is about a girl named Alucia. She is from Colombia and lives in America. Throughout the book, Alucia feels very homesick and nostalgic for Colombia. She explains to the reader how she includes her Colombian traditions in her American life in many different ways. For example, Alucia speaks Spanish around her family to keep the language alive. I learned new Spanish words such as *casa* which means *house* and *brinca* which means *jump*! Alucia also uses her five senses, like smells, sounds, and tastes in order to remember important bits of her hometown.



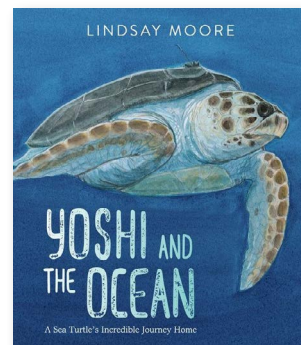
In my opinion, this book is for kids ages six and under. It is great for parents to read to their young children. One of my favorite things about this book is how it is full of bright and popping colors. Another reason I liked this book is because a lot of the words are highlighted in different colors, so they stand out. I hope you want to read this book, too!

MY NAME IS MAISIE STREETER. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY ACTING IN PLAYS, READING, WRITING, AND SWIMMING! MY FAVORITE BOOK SERIES IS KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES.

Moore, Lindsay. *Yoshi and the Ocean: A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home*.

New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, 2022.

Yoshi and the Ocean: A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home by Lindsay Moore is a book about never giving up, even when it is hard. In this story, an injured loggerhead turtle named Yoshi gets rescued by fishermen. Yoshi is nursed back to health at the aquarium located in Cape Town, South Africa. When Yoshi is finally released, she travels north to Angola and Namibia. Then she travels across the ocean to Australia where other loggerhead turtles live, and she can finally be around her own kind again.



This is a beautiful book and the illustrations are amazing. The story is so inspiring. It also teaches turtle facts, like how they breathe and about their body parts. In one section, there is an illustration of how a loggerhead looks to the human eye, and next to it, there is a diagram of the insides of a turtle. I wish the author had included more information about how Yoshi got hurt. I love this book and hope you like it, too.

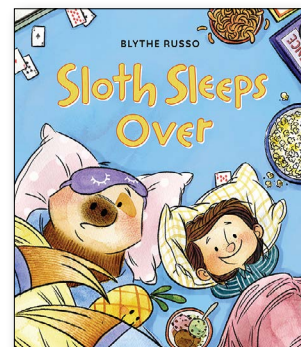
Lindsay Moore, the author, lives in Ohio.

MY NAME IS ALEX WESTGARTH-TAYLOR. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. THIS WAS MY TOP CHOICE OF BOOKS TO REVIEW BECAUSE I AM ORIGINALLY FROM JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, AND MY PARENTS ACTUALLY LIVED IN CAPE TOWN. THEY MAY HAVE EVEN SEEN YOSHI THE TURTLE BECAUSE THEY HAVE VISITED THE AQUARIUM WHERE SHE RECOVERED.

Russo, Blythe. *Sloth Sleeps Over*.

New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2022.

Sloth Sleeps Over is a book written and illustrated by Blythe Russo. It shows that you shouldn't make a mountain out of a molehill, and also that true friends will always understand. I'm going to tell you about this cute and beautiful story about Sloth and her friend, Paloma.



Sloth is attending a sleepover at Paloma’s house. She wants to go to sleep because she is so tired, but she worries she’ll ruin the sleepover if she does. So, she tries to do lots of things to keep herself awake like playing video games, eating popcorn, and having a dance party with Paloma. Then Sloth goes into the bathroom, still sleepy, and realizes she must tell Paloma that she’s too tired to stay awake any longer. She opens the bathroom door to discover that Paloma is asleep and realizes her friend must have been tired all night, too! Sloth quietly celebrates and then lays down on the couch to sleep next to Paloma.

I love this book, especially the illustrations. On pages twenty-nine and thirty, all the colors that the author-illustrator incorporated into the picture are amazing. Also, this book shows all the classic sleepover things like card games, pizza, ice cream, pancakes, and hide-and-go-seek! It was really cute that the author added Sloth’s pineapple stuffed animal. I also love that the book is signed by Blythe Russo, and that I get to keep the book for reviewing it.

MY NAME IS MAGNOLIA KUSS. I’M TEN YEARS OLD AND IN MS. KESSLER’S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. SOME OF MY HOBBIES ARE FIGURE SKATING AND QUILTING.

Snider, Brandon T. *What Is the Story of Transformers?* Illus. by Ted Hammond.
New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2022.

What Is the Story of Transformers? is a great book for all kids! It is written by an Ohio author named Brandon T. Snider and is about the history of Transformers.

In my opinion, this book is inspiring and very interesting. The creation of Transformers started as a little kids’ toy in Japan. Then the toys became more and more popular. Even TV shows and movies were made about them.

The book explains how in 1983, people from the Hasbro toy company went to Japan searching for the next popular toy. They found two kinds of toys by a company named Takara. The first one was Diaclone, and it was a human-operated vehicle that turned into a robot. The



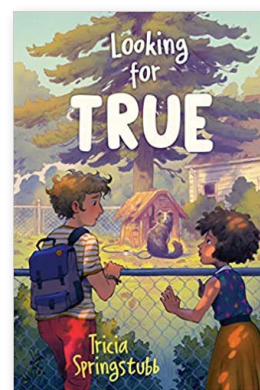
second one was Microman, a series of real objects that changed into small robots. The two toy robots led to the creation of the Transformers. Hasbro worked with Marvel Comics to come up with a story to go with the toys. In 1984, the Transformers toys and a TV show came out. Kids loved them!

This book is great for children seven to twelve years old. I think it helps inspire kids to never give up!

MY NAME IS ILEANA FEHER. I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I’M IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY LACROSSE, MATH, AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. ONE OF MY FAVORITE TYPES OF MATH IS FRACTIONS!

Springstubb, Tricia. *Looking for True.*
New York, NY: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2022.

Looking for True by Ohio author Tricia Springstubb is an excellent book. I love how Jude and Gladys, two completely different people, bond over one dog. On their mission to rescue the dog, True Blue, they become close in ways they never thought they would. Jude and Gladys have to hide True in a dangerous part of town because Jude’s dad is allergic to dogs and Gladys’ mom doesn’t like them. They also have to work together in many ways to keep True healthy and safe as they help her find a forever home.



Tricia Springstubb added many details that help readers, including me, create a vivid picture in their mind. Some examples are when she describes True Blue with “her matted fur” or doing “her silly two-legged dance.”

I would recommend *Looking for True* for readers ten to twelve years old. I think it is really heartwarming and a great read before you go to bed. This book really lifts your spirits and is definitely a favorite of mine.

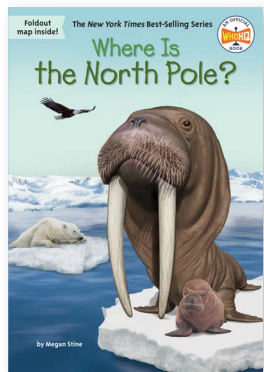
MY NAME IS AVIVA KLEIN, AND HERE IS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF! I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN’S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. SOME OF MY INTERESTS ARE TENNIS, READING, AND PIANO. I ALSO LOVE PLAYING WITH MY FRIENDS. A FUN FACT ABOUT ME IS THAT I LOVE ANYTHING CHOCOLATE.

Stine, Megan. *Where Is the North Pole?*

Illus. by Robert Squier.

New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2022.

Where Is the North Pole? by Megan Stine is an amazing book about rivalry and how honesty is the best policy. This story is about two men and how they both wanted to be the first person to step on the North Pole. It all started with a man named Robert Peary who dreamed of fame. He hired Frederick Cook and a few other men to go with him to the North Pole by ship.



They were planning to sail to Greenland, then hike to the North Pole. While they were on the ship, Robert broke his leg. Luckily, Frederick was there to help him. Robert could not walk for a month. When they hit ice, the ship couldn't go any farther, so the boat sailed back, leaving Frederick, Robert, and four other men. Robert also brought along his wife, Josephine. They set up camp and prepared to wait out the long, cold winter before continuing their expedition north.

Through the winter, Frederick did everything for Robert including learning about the Indigenous people, the Inuit, who could help them on their quest. The Inuit taught Frederick how to fish, hunt, drive a dogsled, and build igloos in the freezing cold. Frederick also learned to speak the Inuit language and earned their trust.

Finally, when winter ended, Frederick, Robert, and two of the other men started exploring. They marched for weeks for a sum of 130 miles. Suddenly, Robert told Frederick and one other man to go back to camp. He wanted to keep all the fame of discovering the North Pole for himself. But Robert failed to find it and eventually headed back to camp. When Robert returned, he shared his adventure with America. But Robert used Frederick's notes in his presentation, claiming them as his own!

Robert was also raising money to go on another expedition. He would not let Frederick go with him this time, so Frederick went by himself. When Frederick got to Greenland, he gave the Inuit his tools for six dogs. He knew he had to rely on them if he wanted to be the first person to walk on the North Pole. He didn't make it to

the North Pole that trip, but he kept going back to try. His next big adventure was to save a missing explorer in the arctic . . . Robert! But even though Frederick rescued him, Robert refused to leave, determined to be the first person to reach the North Pole at any cost. So, a competition started between the two men.

Frederick's next expedition was in 1907, a year ahead of Robert's next attempt. Frederick's group walked four hundred miles north. On April 21, 1908, Frederick reached the North Pole! He and his group left a note to prove they had been there. But the journey back took such a long time that people believed Frederick had disappeared. His team finally reached civilization again in April 1909. Then news started to spread of Frederick reaching the North Pole. When Robert found out, he became angry and did everything to take the credit for himself. Robert claimed he got to the North Pole first in his own 1908 expedition, before Frederick reached it. To this day, it's still unknown who actually got to the North Pole first.

This is an amazing book that will hook you until the end. First, it's not just a fact book. It tells a really interesting story behind the North Pole. Second, the illustrations are amazing, and the author gives detailed descriptions with fun facts that help readers picture everything more. Lastly, it teaches about different cultures like the Sami and the Inuit and how they survive in the arctic. This is an interesting book that you will fall in love with!

The author, Megan Stine, was born in Ohio.

I'M CECI OLSEN, AND I GO TO COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS. I LOVE READING, DANCING, AND WRITING.

Wang, Andrea. *The Many Meanings of Meilan.*

New York, NY: Kokila, 2021.

The Many Meanings of Meilan by Andrea Wang is about a girl named Meilan who moves from Boston's Chinatown, where her cousins and friends live, to Redbud, Ohio, where she doesn't know anyone except her parents and grandfather. The family has to move after Meilan's grandmother dies.



Meilan's name means many things: blue, beautiful orchid, basket, and mist. She starts making connections to the different meanings of her name because the principal at her new school tells everyone to call her Melanie. Meilan acts as a basket with her parents, helping with jobs and chores. With her new friend, Logan, she acts as blue, answering questions and trying to be a good friend. At school, Meilan tries to be invisible like mist. Finally, Meilan is a beautiful orchid with her grandfather because her grandparents, before her grandmother passed away, gave her that name.

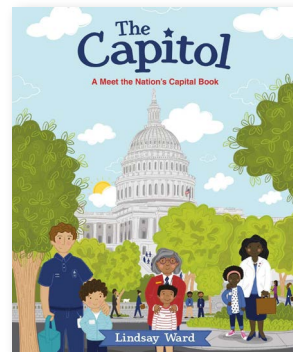
I loved this book because the main character is about my age. I would recommend this book to readers who are around my age (nine years old) because there are tricky words. For example, *benevolence* on page five or *beseeking his conscience* on page twenty-nine. I liked how the story is fictional, but also has factual information. For example, it talks about how Meilan's grandfather was a veteran of the Vietnam War. I really loved this book and would strongly recommend it!

MY NAME IS GLORIA GRIFFITH. I AM IN FOURTH GRADE AT COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS. IN MY FREE TIME, I LIKE TO DO ART AND READ. I ALSO LOVE SOCCER AND PLAYING OUTSIDE WITH MY FRIENDS.

Ward, Lindsay. *The Capitol: A Meet the Nation's Capitol Book.*

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2022.

The Capitol is a beautiful book by Ohio author and illustrator Lindsay Ward. This book has awesome, vibrant pictures. It shares amazing information all about the Capitol building. One way this book captivates the reader is by using speech bubbles to share information. The book explains when the Capitol was built and what's in it.



During the book, the characters go looking for a cat that got paw prints on the building. While they're looking for the cat, they go all around the Capitol, and the reader gets to see inside the rooms.

The facts in this book are so interesting. It gives fantastic details about what people do in the Capitol. I learned why everyone's role is important, like the janitors who keep the building clean, and the office manager who makes sure everyone in the office is taken care of, orders supplies, and handles payroll. Over 2,000 people work in the Capitol! There are three pages with illustrations that show all the different jobs people have. This book is awesome!

MY NAME IS ECHO WRIGHT. I AM IN MS. DOLCE-BUN'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS. I ENJOY DRAWING, DANCING, AND MAKING JOKES WITH MY FRIENDS. ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS IS *STONE FOX*.

Thank You!

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Why I Support Ohioana

I support the Ohioana Library Association because winning the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant in 2015 was the catalyst for my writing career. The 2015 Ohioana Book Awards was the first time I had an actual seat at the table alongside published authors, and that experience and award funding provided me with the tools and confidence I needed to navigate the first year of my MFA program.

As the youngest winner of the Marvin Grant, I feel that a lot of my success as an essayist stems from talking with board members about my work at that awards ceremony. Having that experience at the start of my writing career—with several of the pieces in that submission being included in my debut essay collection, *Ripe*—gave me a new goal: winning an Ohioana Book Award.

I joined the Ohioana Board of Trustees in 2020, bringing my experience as a previous award winner, while also learning about *everything* Ohioana has to offer. I have been heavily involved in the annual Ohioana Book Awards process since joining, which, in my opinion, is one of the most important programs that the organization provides for Ohio writers, poets, and illustrators. I have also been involved in the marketing of the organization because that is how I discovered Ohioana almost a decade ago, and it has become a huge, important part of my life.

One of my goals as a supporter and board member of the Ohioana Library is to continue helping young Ohio writers and emerging authors learn more about our programming, as well as everything the library can offer them to jumpstart a fruitful writing and publishing career.

Negesti Kaudo is an essayist and staff writer for BuzzFeed Shopping. Her debut collection, Ripe: Essays, was published by Mad Creek Books in 2022. She has taught at Columbia College Chicago, Columbus College of Art and Design, and Vermont College of Fine Arts. Currently, she spends summers teaching at the Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop. She is the youngest winner of the Ohioana Walter Ramsey Marvin Grant (2015), and has served on the Ohioana Board of Trustees since 2020. Her free time is spent thinking about writing, taking care of her puppy, Tormund, and working on a second book at a snail's pace.



Negesti Kaudo receives the 2015 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant from Steven Moore of the Columbus Foundation. (Photo by Mary Rathke)

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