

## January 2023 Booktalks

Title: *Nom Nom Nom*  
Author(s): Jeffrey Burton  
Illustrator(s): Sarah Hwang  
Ages: 1-5  
Copyright Year: 2021  
Publisher: Little Simon  
Call Number: Juv BoardBk Burton, Jeffrey

This is a super-cute Lift-The-Flap book about food. Each page shows an animal trying to decide what to eat. Some choices are regular foods, while one is humorous. It shows pictures of the different foods. The opposite page shows the animal, and when you lift the flap the inside of the mouth says "Nom Nom Nom" in giant letters. So much fun to read!

Title: *Fox Tails: The Giant Ice Cream Mess*  
Author(s): Tina Kügler  
Illustrator(s): Tina Kügler  
Ages: 4-6  
Copyright Year: 2021  
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.  
Call Number: Juv Primer Kügler, Tina

Fritz and Franny have a dilemma. Which ice cream flavor should they choose? Find out what happens when the ice cream man runs out of flavors! This is a funny and engaging book written in graphic novel style for upper level beginning readers.

Title: *Ryan's World of Science*  
Author(s): Aubre Andrus  
Illustrator(s): N/A  
Ages: 6-8  
Copyright Year: 2021  
Publisher: Simon Spotlight  
Call Number: Juv Reader Andrus, Aubre

Ryan loves science, and in this book he experiments and gives instructions for doing the experiments. Then he follows up by explaining the evidence. The book teaches the scientific method in simple terms. It's easy to follow and I think most kids can do the

experiments. I personally enjoyed Ryan's fun attitude and personality. My favorite line was "It is not magic. It is science!"

Title: *Mina*  
Author(s): Matthew Forsythe  
Illustrator(s): Matthew Forsythe  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster  
Copyright: 2022  
Ages: 3-6  
Call Number: Juv PicBk Forsythe, Matthew

Mina is a mouse living in her own world. Her father is always bringing home surprises that Mina couldn't care less about. Until her father brings home a cat and insists that it is in fact a squirrel. What happens when a mouse family takes in a cat? Read and find out!

Title: *The Baby-Sitters Club – Jessi's Secret Language*  
Author(s): Ann Martin and Chan Chau  
Illustrator(s): Braden Lamb and Sam Bennett  
Publisher: Scholastic  
Copyright: 2022  
Ages: 9-12  
Call Number: Juv Graphic Baby-sitters Club v. 12

This book is a remake of the original Baby-sitters Club novel in graphic form. It is a wonderful story in which we get to feel what it is like to be in a family with a deaf person. The reader learns that there are many ways to communicate with many different types of people!

Jessi has just moved to Stoneybrook and joined the Baby-sitters Club. She has also joined a new dance school that is bigger and more competitive than the one in her old town. The new school is having try outs for the show "Coppelia" and Jessi would very much like to have a part in the show. Being the newcomer is not always easy and Jessi handles all her challenges (a brief conflict with other dancers) with a positive attitude and determination. She earns a star part in the ballet and takes on a new baby-sitting job. In this new job, she agrees to start learning ASL, as one of the children, Matt, is deaf. Not only does Jessi have to pay attention to Matt as she learns new ways to communicate with him, but she also must pay even more attention to his sister Haley. Haley is having some sibling issues with resentment and coping. Readers get a chance to learn about disabilities and how to interact with others by watching Jessi, Matt, and Haley interact with all the neighborhood children.

Soon, all the neighborhood children want to learn sign language. Jessi spends as much time as she can teaching and playing with all the other children, while she is preparing for her dance school's big show. She also comes up with a surprise plan, a secret to help Matt feel a special part of the community. Will Jessi be able to keep her secret and be the best dancer and baby-sitter she can? Read this beautiful book to find out.

Title: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (first illustrated edition)  
Author(s): J. K. Rowling  
Illustrator(s): Jim Kay and Neil Packer  
Ages: 9 and up  
Copyright Year: 2022  
Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.  
Call Number: Juv Rowling, J. K.

This new edition of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is brought to life with amazing color illustrations by Jim Kay and Neil Packer all throughout the book. See stunning depictions of magic, portraits of characters, maps and diagrams, and more in this book that will captivate readers new and old.

Title: *Maya's Song*  
Author(s): Renee Watson  
Illustrator(s): Bryan Collier  
Publisher: Harper  
Copyright: 2022  
Ages: 4-8  
Call Number: Juv Bio A584wa

Author Renee Watson does a fine job of telling the life story of the extraordinary persona, Maya Angelou while the illustrations of Bryan Collier compliment Watson's timeline of events very well. Maya's life was sprinkled with her parents' separation at an early age, going back and forth to live with her grandmother, then, later being violated by her Mother's boyfriend at age 6, and not speaking for five years. Maya eventually began talking again thanks to visiting with a family friend, Ms. Flowers who recited poetry. After a teenage pregnancy, Maya worked to provide for her son by traveling with other performers to sing and dance. Although her world was seasoned with racism and the civil rights movement, Maya used her most powerful tools, a pen and her voice, to write and speak, to encourage, and to help heal the brokenhearted like herself who knew what it was like to feel pain. Due to some of the book's subject content matter, this book would best be shared with adult guidance.

Title: *Happy Sloth Day!*  
Author(s): April Pulley Sayre with Jeff Sayre  
Illustrator(s): N/A  
Ages: 6-9  
Copyright Year: 2022  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster  
Call Number: Juv 599.313 S275h

The smiling sloth on the cover of *Happy Sloth Day!* by April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre lures the reader in to discover why he is so happy. The sloths are photographed in their natural environment of a Panamanian rainforest and detailed, close-up photos draw us into the world of these slow and gentle animals. The book is written partly in verse with sidebars filled with lots of information. How is a sloth like a cow? How far around can a sloth rotate his head? These and many other questions are answered in *Happy Sloth Day!*