

September 2023 Booktalks

Title: *Brush! Brush! Brush!*
Author: Douglas Florian
Illustrator: Christiane Engel
Ages: 0-3
Copyright Year: 2022
Publisher: Little Bee Books
Call Number: Juv BoardBk Florian

This vibrant, rhythmic board book is a sure bet for getting young children excited about brushing their teeth! The rhyming text chants its way through the teeth brushing process and just begs to be repeated each time: "Brushing up and down! down! down! Move the toothbrush round! round! round!" The colorful illustrations show children taking their toothbrushes in hand, happily cleaning their teeth. It sure does look "fun! fun! fun!"

Title: *Pete the Kitty's Outdoor Art Project*
Author: Kimberly Dean & James Dean
Illustrator: James Dean
Ages: 4-8
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: Harper
Call Number: Juv Primer Dean, Kim

Pete the Kitty loves his art class. He loves to draw, paint, and use clay to make things. As he enters his art class one day, he sees that things are going to be different this time. His teacher tells the class that they are going to go outside and find things in nature to make art with. At first, Pete does not feel good about this. He does find some leaves, flowers, and sticks to put in his bag, but how can he make art with all that? Read this book to see how Pete the Kitty gets inspired and creates something very cool!

Title: *Bo and the Community Garden*
Author: Elliott Smith
Illustrator: Subi Bosa
Series: Bo at the Buzz (Read woke chapter books)
Ages: 6-9
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: Lerner Publications
Call Number: Juv Reader Smith, Elliott

Bo lives with his family right above the Buzz, his grandfather's barber shop. One day at school, he and his four best friends learn that they get to tend their own plot together in the new community garden. They first must decide what to plant, but they all have very different ideas and get into a terrible disagreement! Bo is not feeling good about this when he goes to the Buzz that afternoon. He talks it over with his Pop Pop, and one of Pop Pop's customers shares his own idea for the plot, one that Bo gets really excited about. Will he be able to win over his friends? Read the story to see how the friends get going on their community garden project.

Title: *Bad Dog*
Author(s): Mike Boldt
Illustrator(s): Mike Boldt
Ages: 3-8
Copyright Year: 2019
Publisher: Doubleday Books for Young Readers
Call Number: Juv PicBk Boldt, Mike

A young girl receives a new pet for her birthday, whom she names Rocky. Rocky is a bad dog. She doesn't like other dogs at all, and she won't come, sit, or fetch! Rocky is, however, very good at climbing trees, taking naps everywhere, and she even likes to dip her paws into the in the fish tank. Does Rocky have a case of mistaken identity?

Title: *A Delicious Story*
Author(s): Barney Saltzberg
Illustrator(s): Barney Saltzberg
Ages: 3-6
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: Hippo Park, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers
Call Number: Juv PicBk Saltzberg, Barney

Little mouse is looking for a story when he meets big mouse. Uh Oh! Even though the mice are in a book, the story and pictures are all gone! Can big mouse help save the book and make a new friend at the same time?

Title: *Mayor Good Boy*
Author(s): Dave Scheidt
Illustrator(s): Miranda Harmon
Ages: 7 to 11
Copyright Year: 2021
Publisher: RH Graphic, Random House
Call Number: Juv Graphic Mayor Good Boy v. 1

A dog is elected Mayor of Greenwood, and not everyone in Greenwood is happy to have a dog for a mayor. Brother and sister duo, Aaron and Abby, have been selected to help out after they save Mayor Good Boy from the outrage of citizens by scaring the crowd with Aaron's smelly socks. What Mayor Good Boy cannot do, Aaron and Abby will do.

Aaron and Abby have to look out for the leader of the group of citizens who are against the Mayor, Old Man Mervis. Old Man Mervis constructs disastrous events to take down Mayor Good Boy. Things usually work out due to Aaron's own shenanigans and Abby's willingness to be a helping hand.

The moral of this story is that you are not too young to make your voice heard about community concerns. You can always lend a helping hand to help a neighbor or make a change no matter how small.

Title: *Unicorn Diaries: Welcome to Sparklegrove*
Author(s): Rebecca Elliott
Illustrator(s): Rebecca Elliott
Ages: 5-8
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.
Call Number: Juv Step-Up Elliott, Rebecca

"Hello there, Diary! It's your favorite unicorn again – Rainbow Tinseltail. You can call me Bo. My friends and I are super excited because a family of JACKALOPES arrived at our forest last night!" (p. 1) The unicorns begin planning a welcome party for the jackalope family, but learn that the family may be in danger and may not be able to stay in Sparklegrove Forest. "...we heard hooves galloping toward the castle. Then – DISASTER!" (p. 62) To find out what happens to the Jackalope family, read the eighth book in the Unicorn Diaries series.

Title: *The Book That No One Wanted to Read*
Author(s): Richard Ayode
Illustrator(s): Tor Freeman
Ages: 10 and up
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: Walker Books
Call Number: Juv Ayode, Richard

This is a strange and at times very silly story, told from the point of view of the (telepathic!) book of the title. It isn't that no one wants to read this book, but that the book itself expects that to be true, and doesn't want to disappoint anyone. Can the book build enough trust with a child reader to come down off the high shelf? What is the book actually about, anyway? You'll have to read more to find out!

Title: *Pluto! : Not a Planet? Not a Problem!*
Author(s): McAnulty, Stacy
Illustrator(s): Stevie Lewis
Ages: 4-8
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: Henry Holt and Company
Call Number: Juv 523.492 M114p

If you are like us, you were surprised to hear that Pluto is no longer one of the main planets of our solar system. Even so, Pluto himself seems to take this news in stride! Discover more about Pluto and other dwarf planets in Stacy McAnulty's newest, funny, and delightful addition to the "Our Universe" series. The book contains adorable illustrations, informational back matter, and an index. While Pluto's "autobiography" targets children ages 4 to 8 and students in grades 1 to 2, everyone will enjoy learning about the newly-donned dwarf planet Pluto!

Title: *Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll, Rosetta, Roll!*
Author(s): Tonya Bolden
Illustrator(s): R. Gregory Christie
Ages: 4-8
Copyright Year: 2023
Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers
Call Number: Juv Bio T366.95b

Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll, Rosetta, Roll! is the free verse biography of a little girl with a big guitar – Sister Rosetta Tharpe, godmother of rock & roll. These words – “little girl/big guitar” are repeated throughout the book emphasizing her abilities from childhood to make “those flying fingers...make a guitar talk!” Rosetta’s story begins in her birthplace of Cotton Plant, Arkansas, and continues as she moves to Chicago as a young child, performing in churches, outdoor revivals, and street corners, then on to Florida and New York as she gets older. Her music began as gospel, but her talent is eventually expanded to boogie-woogie, jazz, swing, and the blues. She was an influence on many younger musicians, including Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and Little Richard, who appear in the book as attendees at one of her concerts.

“Meanwhile lots of younger cats – some future legends –
had been goin’ wow-wow wild over you.
Diggin’ your licks,
Coppin’ your style.”

Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll Rosetta, Roll! is the both the title and theme repeated throughout the book in this delightful biography for young children. At the end of the book are a timeline of Rosetta’s life and Author’s Note, which add more detail to her fascinating story.