

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY



# A guide to storytime



Reading  
by 9  
Los Angeles Times



# welcome

Encouraging a child to read allows them to enter a world of imagination. But once a child learns the art of storytelling, they learn the skill of self-expression. At the Los Angeles Times, we remain committed to serving the youngest learners in our community and encouraging them to explore new ideas through reading and writing.

Reading by 9, a program of the Los Angeles Times, aims to support youth and family literacy. Established in 1998, we continue our work to aid parents, guardians and educators to meet child literacy goals.

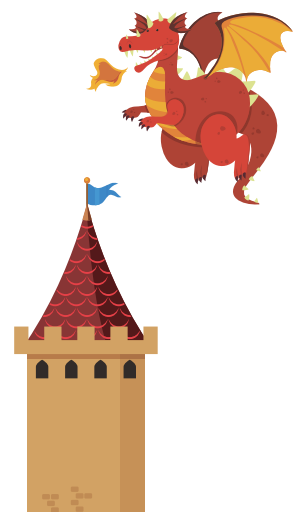
The Reading by 9 annual parent reading guide was developed in partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library, whose mission is to provide free and easy access to information, ideas, books and technology that enrich, educate and empower every individual in our city's diverse communities.

Our 2022 guide includes a diversity of child authors and main characters in stories. The diverse book recommendations allow children to read and learn from the experiences of others. The guide is available in both English and Spanish, and offers resources to promote literacy as a routine in a child's life.

As we look ahead, we aim to provide year-round opportunities for our community to engage with literacy. If you are interested in supporting our efforts, please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to the [Los Angeles Times Community Fund](#) as we strive to expand literacy resources for families.

**Monika Khare**  
Director, Public Affairs

**Los Angeles Times**



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# A note from the Los Angeles Public Library

Traditionally we think of writing as the process of thoughts being formed into words which make their way onto the page or screen via a writing utensil or keyboard. But what does writing look like for very young children?

At a library storytime that focuses on early literacy, you're likely to see scarves swirling through the air, forming the alphabet. Parents and/or caregivers will take their babies' hands to trace out the letters on name tags, books, signs, or other printed material. There will be all kinds of fun movements and stretches as participants mimic letters with their bodies. Brightly colored felt pieces are available for families to talk about what letters have the same shape.

As babies become toddlers, more rhyming fingerplays can be heard from the storytime room. "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" is either a tickling hand on someone's own arm or fingers alternating on top of one another as the spider crawls up the water spout. Whether chanted or sung along with hand movements, fingerplays build the motor skills for gripping future writing tools. And whether that tool happens to be a crayon, marker, or a piece of chalk, the resulting scribbles mark the first steps of writing and self expression.

From these initial building blocks, creativity and writing is further supported at the library by the books and resources that feature a diverse range of experiences. When children see characters that look like them in the pages of picture books or read narratives that find a way to magically mirror their inner thoughts, they become inspired and empowered to tell their own stories.

Library programs also give children access to authors, illustrators, and other storytellers. During the "Your Author Series," available on Los Angeles Public Library's YouTube channel, the subjects are almost always asked what advice they would give to youth who want to become authors. My personal favorite comes from Laurel Snyder, who wrote "Endlessly Ever After," a pick-your-path fairy tale book illustrated by Dan Santat. She advised turning off devices and staring at the ceiling. After five distraction-free minutes of staring, write down a sentence. Do this every day and become a writer.

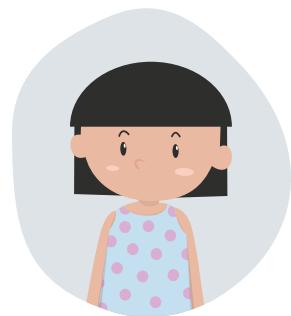
With all that the library does to support literacy by way of imagination and inspiration, the various contributors from Los Angeles Public Library are honored to once again participate in this year's Reading by 9 to offer support, ideas and tips for children's creative expression.

**Joanna Fabicon**

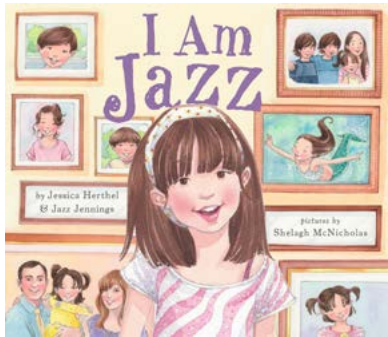
Senior Librarian for Children's Services Los Angeles Public Library

# By Kids, For Kids

In this year's reading guide, Reading by 9 is spotlighting child authors to inspire the next generation of young storytellers. Here are three featured stories.



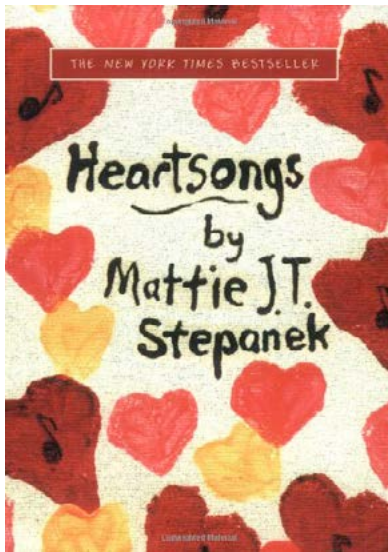
## BABIES TO KINDERGARTEN

**I Am Jazz** 

From age 2, Jazz Jennings knew she was a girl. Since then, she has become a spokesperson for trans children everywhere. At age 13, Jazz published a children's book about her trans experience.

Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings

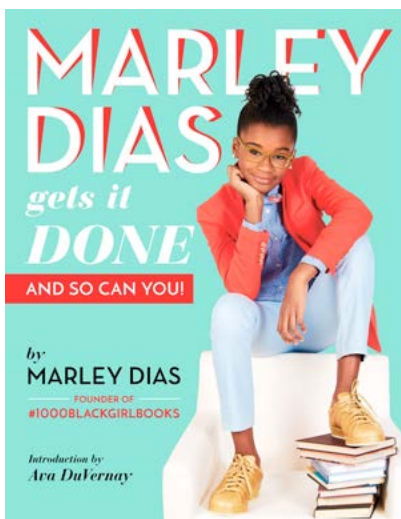
## 1ST TO 2ND GRADE

**Heartsongs** 

Mattie J. T. Stepanek wrote poetry from age 3 until his death at 13. Some of his poems reflect his reality of living with a rare form of muscular dystrophy and the grief of the loss of his three siblings to the same condition. But most of his poetry reflects his hope, wisdom, and light-hearted spirit of childhood.

Mattie J. T. Stepanek

## 3RD TO 4TH GRADE

**Marley Dias Gets It Done:  
And So Can You!** 

In 2015, Marley Dias founded the #1000-BlackGirlBooks campaign to collect and donate books with Black girl protagonists.

She published this book at age 14 to share her passion for making our world a better place. Throughout the book, Dias offers advice to children on how to become lifelong readers and achieve their dreams.

Marley Dias



I love reading because there's always an interesting story in every book. There's a book for everyone even when you don't think so, you just have to find the right one. Another reason why I love reading is because whenever the main character expresses their feelings, it's just like writing their life in one book. It's like they are one with the book and write what they feel and then just write what they want to write.

I love writing because it expresses my feelings. Writing a story or a poem is like my whole life in one book. To become a writer you need to think: who are the characters? What's the problem? And what is the story about? To tell stories you will need to focus and be brave. I always love to write whenever I'm feeling down or bored.

# Why I Love to read and write

By Anthony Aguilar

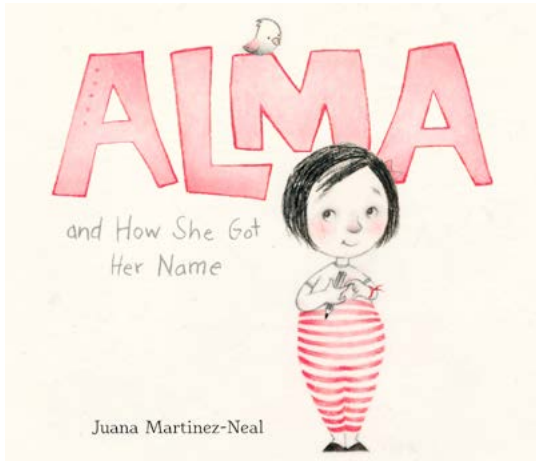


## BIO

Anthony is 10 years old. He likes to play scary games and draw. His favorite color is blue and his favorite food is a sandwich.



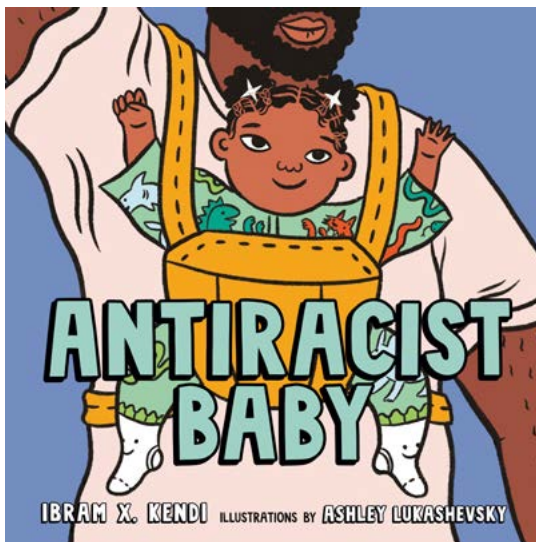
## BABIES TO KINDERGARTEN



### **Alma and How She Got Her Name**

Alma learns about the family members she was named after. Inspired by their stories, she hopes to someday have her own legacy.

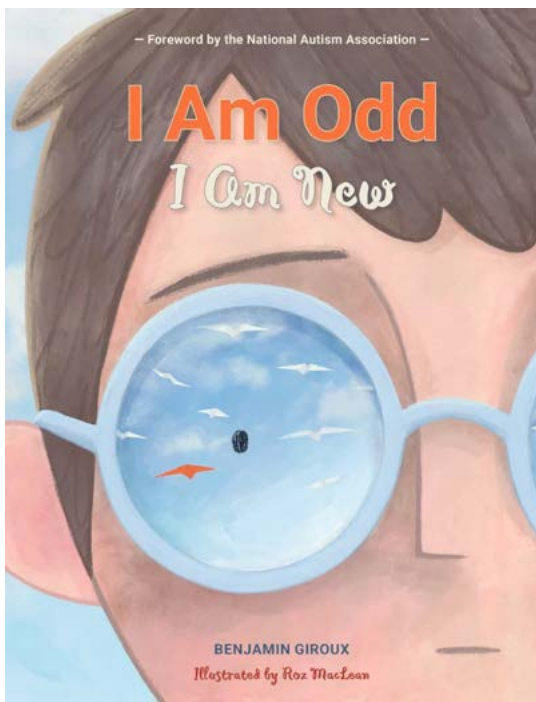
**Juana Martinez-Neal**



### **Antiracist Baby**

This picture book teaches young readers the power of antiracism and offers nine steps to build a more equitable world.

**Ibram X. Kendi**



### **I Am Odd, I Am New** 🖍️

At age 10, Benjamin writes that it's a good thing to be odd and different. His poetry is about self-expression and what it's like to live with autism.

**Benjamin Giroux**



## BABIES TO KINDERGARTEN



### Isabel and her Colores Go to School

On Isabel's first day of school, she learns a new way to communicate with friends. This vibrant picture book validates the experience of English language learners and teaches empathy to young readers.

Alexandra Alessandri



### Raise Your Hand

When an 11-year-old realizes the boys in her class speak up more than the girls, she creates a Girl Scout patch to encourage young girls' confidence.

Alice Paul Tapper  
& Marta Kissi



### Something About Grandma

On her first solo trip to her abuela's house in Mexico, Julia discovers there's something magical about her abuela and her enchanting home.

Tania de Regil

# Look what a book can do!

By Lauren Wagman  
Executive Director, Ready, Set, Read!



Ready, Set, Read! provides books, resources, and support to Los Angeles families, helping them lay the foundation for their children's lifelong learning. We love supporting parents in using books to bolster children's healthy development, starting from birth. Beyond building knowledge and curiosity about the world, reading with your child has other benefits. These include:

**Parent/child attachment:** Children whose caregivers read to them daily enjoy warm, attentive bonding time with a cherished adult. They benefit from the predictability of this routine. While laying the foundation for future cognitive learning, regularly reading together reinforces children's sense of emotional security. This sets the stage for future social emotional growth.

**Sensory exploration:** When babies chew and throw books, they are doing important exploration.

Infants use all five senses to learn: they love to look, touch, taste and feel books, exploring their colors, shapes, textures and weight. Hearing your voice share sounds and stories helps their own language development.

**School readiness:** Interacting with books builds children's early literacy skills. They discover how books work: turning pages; finding the top, bottom, front and back; and seeing text read from left to right. They learn that shapes form letters, letters make words and print has meaning. Hearing a variety of words improves children's vocabularies, preparing them for independent reading. Time spent reading aloud with children fosters a love of reading and readiness to succeed in school.

There's much more to share! Ready, Set, Read!'s parent workshops showcase how books can be a launchpad for limitless learning.

## 1ST TO 2ND GRADE



### **Sarai and the meaning of awesome** 🖋️

When a young girl's grandparents are forced to move, she hatches a plan to buy their house back.

**Sarai González  
and Monica Brown**

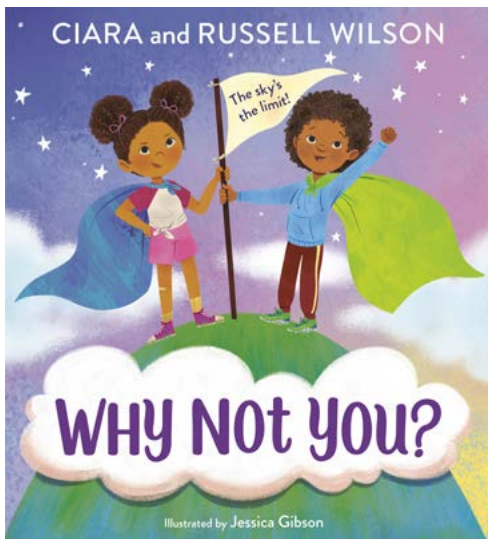


### **The Coquíes Still Sing**

A young girl feels at home when the coquí frogs sing to her from her family's mango tree, but her home is forever changed when a hurricane strikes. This story about community is full of hope, inspired by the rebuilding of Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017.

**Karina Nicole González**

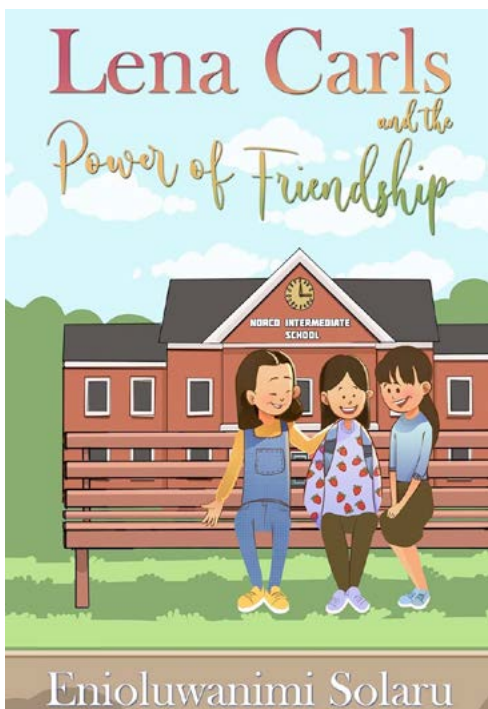
## 1ST TO 2ND GRADE



### Why Not You?

Whether it's becoming a musician, a scientist or the president, why not you? This story encourages young readers to achieve their dreams, no matter how big they might seem.

Ciara  
and Russell Wilson

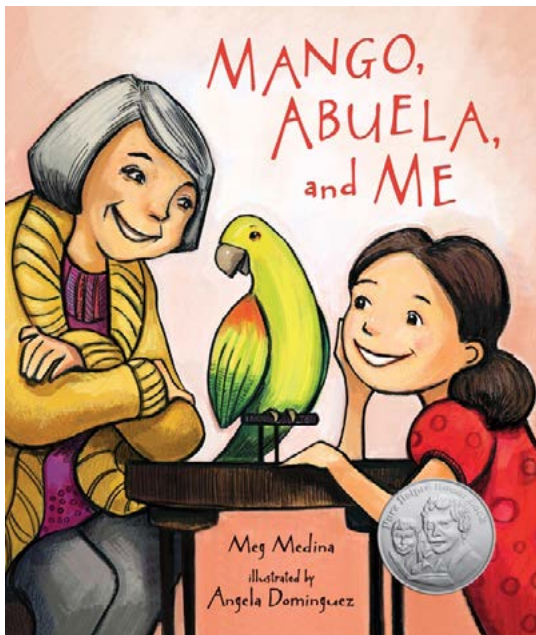


### Lena Carls and The Power of Friendship

When Lena Carls moves, she becomes the new girl in a new city. She manages to make friends, but can she get them to like each other?

Enioluwanimi Solaru

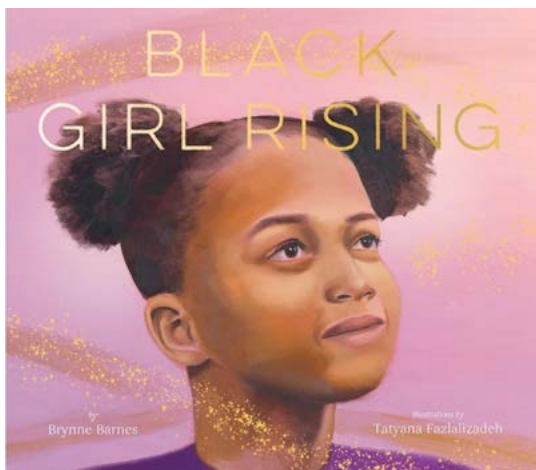
## 1ST TO 2ND GRADE



### **Mango, Abuela, and Me**

When Mia's abuela comes to live with her, they transcend a language barrier through love and patience.

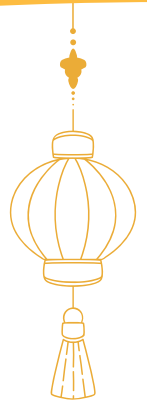
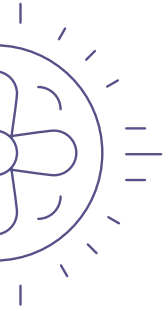
**Meg Medina**



### **Black Girl Rising**

This poetic anthem for Black girls celebrates their power and selfhood.

**Brynne Barnes  
and Tatyana Fazlalizadeh**



# Multicultural programming at the Los Angeles Public Library

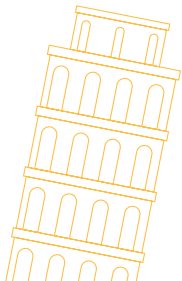
By Kadie Seitz

Youth Services Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library

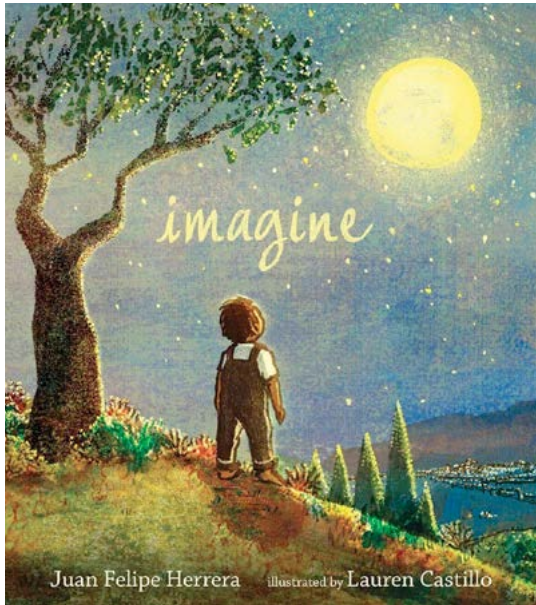
Are you interested in Incan music? Curious about Chinese paper art? Itching to practice your Italian? You might be surprised to learn that your public library offers free programs on these topics and hundreds of others every month, both in-person and online. The multicultural programming offered by the Los Angeles Public Library offers you the chance to celebrate both your own culture and experience some of the many other cultures that make Los Angeles such a special place.

Exposing children to different cultures from an early age is vital to raising well-rounded and confident young people. Even as early as infancy, children are starting to observe others, and by two years of age may start to comment on the difference they see between other people and themselves. The way that caregivers respond to these differences helps children to shape their own perceptions of those different from themselves — that, for example, “different” does not equal “bad.”

The multicultural programming offered by the library gives little ones ample opportunities to experience new things and allows caregivers to practice positive, healthy responses to differences. So whether it's bilingual storytime, a drum circle, a new craft or a chance to taste something new, the library's multicultural programming has you covered!



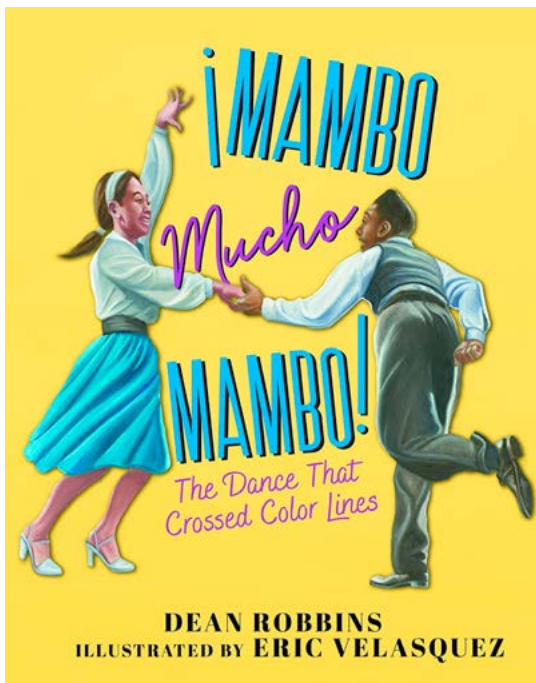
3RD TO 4TH GRADE



## Imagine

A poem by Juan Felipe Herrera encourages readers to imagine what they might be when they grow up.

Juan Felipe Herrera

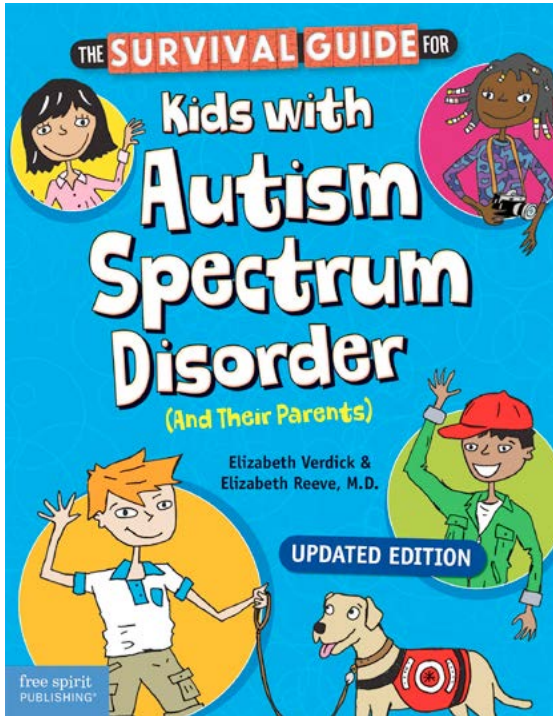


## ¡Mambo Mucho Mambo! The Dance That Crossed Color Lines

In 1940s New York City, the newly desegregated Palladium Ballroom blends genres of mambo and Latin jazz.

Dean Robbins

3RD TO 4TH GRADE



**Survival Guide for Kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder (And their parents)**

This book includes stories from real children and offers strategies for communicating, making friends and succeeding in school.

Elizabeth Verdick and Elizabeth Reeve, M.D.



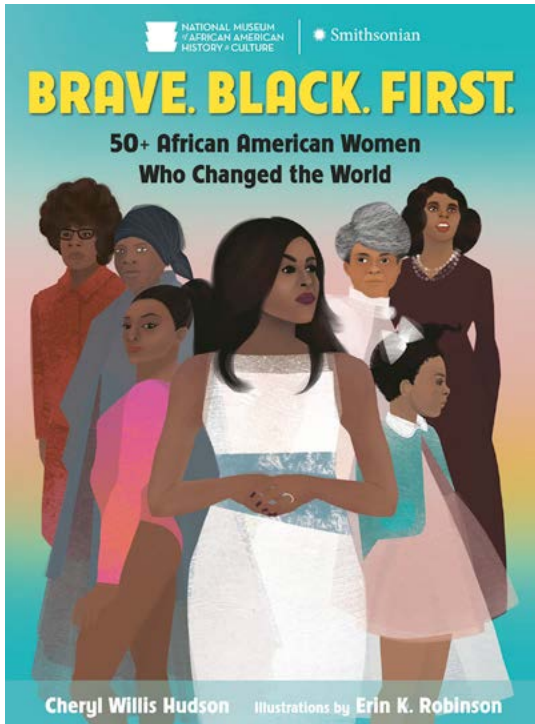
**This can't be happening at Macdonald Hall!\***

In a boy's boarding school, Bruno and Boots are always in trouble. After being separated by the headmaster, they do everything they can to get their room back.

Gordon Korman



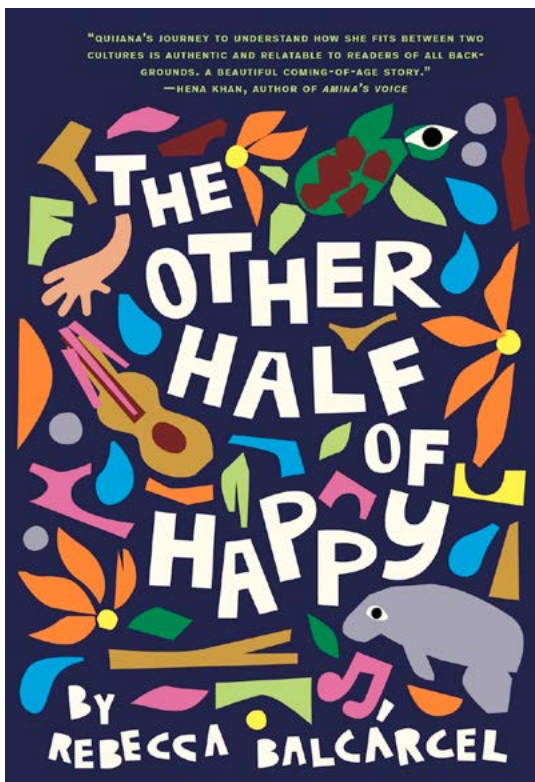
3RD TO 4TH GRADE



## Brave. Black. First.

This biographical compilation includes more than 50 extraordinary African American women such as Harriet Tubman and Serena Williams. Discover the remarkable women who paved the way for the next generation of changemakers.

Cheryl Hudson



## The Other Half of Happy

Quijana learns what it means to belong as she discovers which parts of herself come together to make her whole.

Rebecca Balcarcel

# Treasure Your Time Together

By Madeline Gillette

Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library



The number one way to promote early literacy in children is to spend time talking, learning and playing together. Here's five (free!) things you can do with your child using your LAPL library card.

## **1. Explore Los Angeles with Discover and Go**

- a. <https://lapl.discoverandgo.net/>
- b. Get free and discounted passes to exciting destinations around L.A, including the L.A. Zoo and the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum! Going to new places sparks creativity and a lifetime love for learning.

## **2. Have a dance party with Freegal Music**

- a. <https://lapl.freegalmusic.com/>
- b. Even if you only have a few minutes, you can get your bodies moving and have a dance party with playlists like "Children's Chart-Toppers." Listening to music helps little ones learn to decipher words and leads to literacy skills.

## **3. Learn a new language together with Mango and Little Pim**

- a. <https://lapl.org/kids/birth-5/little-pim>
- b. Learning a new language is a great skill for both kids and adults, and Mango's new Little Pim content helps introduce a new language using children's natural love of play.

## **4. Become a budding scientist with Neighborhood Science kits**

- a. <https://lapl.org/neisci/kits>
- b. Over 20 LAPL branches have Neighborhood Science kits available for checkout! Kids will learn about the natural world around them and discover how they can help professional scientists by doing science in their own neighborhood.

## **5. Read something new with LAPL's Book Bundles to Go**

- a. <https://www.lapl.org/kids/book-bundles>
- b. Let the library surprise you with five new books to read! Indicate your child's age and interests and the library will pick out a bundle of books for you to read together.

# Resources

There are many organizations across Los Angeles and Orange counties through which families can access literacy resources and support services. Take a look at these organizations.

## LITERACY PROGRAMS

### 826LA

1714 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
(213) 413-3388  
826la.org

### Access Books

(310) 284-3452  
accessbooks.net

### Common Sense Media

1100 Glendon Ave. 17th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
commonsense.org

### CSUN L.A. Times Literacy Center

18111 Nordhoff St.  
Northridge, CA 91330  
(818) 677-7394  
bit.ly/2Ym5lDh

### News Literacy Project

(714) 479-0294  
newslit.org

### Parentis Foundation

24012 Calle de la Plata, Suite 400  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
(949) 305-2716  
parentisfoundation.org

### Reading Is Fundamental

7250 Bandini Blvd., Suite 209  
Commerce, CA 90040  
(323) 890-0876  
rifsocal.org

### Reading Partners

5350 Wilshire Blvd., #36216  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(213) 399-8599  
bit.ly/3mXQuQi

### Reading to Kids

1600 Sawtelle Boulevard, Suite 210  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
(310) 479-7455  
readingtokids.org

### Read to a Child

10940 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
(310) 208-5300  
readtoachild.org/los-angeles

### Ready, Set, Read!

1000 N. Alameda St., No. 240  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(818) 570-2838  
readyssetread.org

### The Book Foundation

5429 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016  
(323) 746-5800  
thebookfoundation.org

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

1000 N. Alameda St., No. 240  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 346-3216  
ap-od.org

### Allies for Every Child

12120 Wagner St.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
(310) 397-4200  
alliesforeverychild.org

### Families Forward Learning Center

980 N. Fair Oaks Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
(626) 792-2687  
familiesforwardlc.org

### Hands Together

201 Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
(714) 479-0294  
handstogether-sa.org

### Koreatown Youth and Community Center

3727 W. 6th St., No. 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
(213) 365-7400  
kyccla.org

### Mar Vista Family Center Preschool

5075 S. Slauson Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
(310) 390-9607  
marvistafc.org

### Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

6113 Clara St.  
Bell Gardens, CA 90201  
(562) 928-1357  
maof.org

### Pathways LA

3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
(213) 427-2700  
pathwaysla.org

### Proyecto Pastoral Centro de Alegria

420 N. Soto St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
(323) 685-8501  
proyectopastoral.org

### South Central LAMP

892 E. 48th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90011  
(323) 234-1471  
facebook.com/Southcentrallamp

## LIBRARIES

### Los Angeles Public Library

72 branches throughout the city  
(213) 228-7000  
lapl.org/branches

### Los Angeles County Library

86 branches throughout the county  
(323) 264-7715  
lacountylibrary.org/library-locator

### Orange County Public Libraries

33 branches throughout the county  
(714) 566-3000  
http://ocpl.org/libraries