

Dear Educator,

The Byron V. Garrett Life and Literacy Skills Library offers books for PreK to Grade 5. For each grade, the library features lively, appealing books perfect for read-alouds, paired reading, and independent reading that have been selected because they demonstrate the importance of key life skills. These library books have been categorized into five distinct themes, with an additional take-home book that encompasses all themes.

Your Grade 2 Library includes: 1 Take-Home/Whole-Class title per grade, 31 copies of each, and 20 high-interest trade books, 2 copies of each.

Take-Home Book



Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos

written by Monica Brown and illustrated by John Parra

This inspiring picture-book biography talks about the accomplishments of world-renowned Mexican artist Frida Kahlo by examining her relationships with her *animalitos*—her little animals—throughout her life. Through vibrant illustrations and text, readers will learn about Frida's many admirable qualities, her use of self-reflection, and her determination to succeed and create art despite setbacks. This book relates to all five library themes and is supported by both a Read-Aloud Lesson resource for teachers to use in the classroom as well as a Read Together resource for families to share with children at home.

Talk About It: How did Frida's *animalitos* help her learn more about herself, others, and the world around her?

Understanding Myself

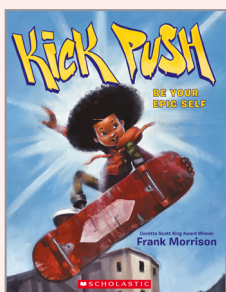


Exclamation Mark

written by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

This exclamation mark is different from the others he's surrounded by. He tries to fit in with the periods, or even hide that he's different, but he can't. This makes him upset and confused. Why can't he be like everyone else? It's only when he meets a question mark that he realizes the value of being different and how wonderful exclamation marks can truly be.

Talk About It: How does the question mark help the exclamation mark realize how special he is?



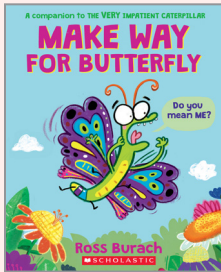
Kick Push: Be Your Epic Self

written and illustrated by Frank Morrison

Epic loves to show off his skateboard tricks, so when he moves to a new neighborhood, he's ready to show the neighborhood kids his moves. The only problem is that no one else seems as into skateboarding as Epic. What's the point of skateboarding if he has no one to share it with? Epic must learn how to be himself, even in new situations.

Talk About It: How does Epic learn that it's important to be himself around new people instead of trying to be someone else?

Understanding Myself *continued*

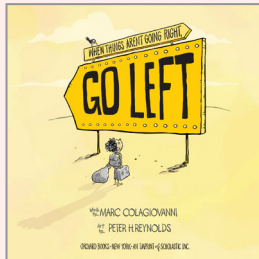


Make Way for Butterfly

written and illustrated by Ross Burach

Butterfly learns all about pollination and immediately wants to be the best at it: He wants to collect the most pollen, carry the most pollen, and bring the pollen to the most flowers. But butterflies don't carry, collect, or bring nearly as much pollen as bees do. So Butterfly knows what he needs to do: Become a bee! This funny story about an overeager butterfly will teach readers an important lesson about being okay with who you are.

Talk About It: How does Butterfly finally come to realize that his job as a butterfly is just as important to pollination as a bee's job? How can understanding your own skills help you contribute?



When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left

written by Marc Colagiovanni and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

A young child decides he needs to try something new when nothing is going right. A change of direction seems to be just what the boy needs! This witty story will have readers engaged as they learn about changing their mindset for a better outcome.

Talk About It: What does the boy find out about himself when he starts leaving his worries, doubts, and fears behind?

Managing Myself



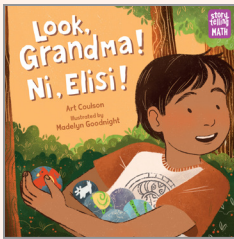
Lola Levine Is Not Mean

written by Monica Brown and illustrated by Angela Dominguez

Lola is fine with not fitting in, but when her classmates start calling her "Mean Lola Levine" after a competitive game of soccer with Juan Gomez, she starts to change her mind. With help from her best friend and her family—and a few special letters from Lola herself—maybe Lola can get a new nickname: "Lola Levine, Soccer Queen."

Talk About It: How does writing letters help Lola express her feelings in a positive way when she's upset?

Managing Myself continued

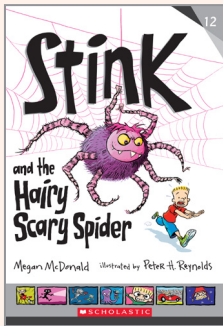


Look, Grandma! Ni, Elisi!

written by Art Coulson and illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

With the Cherokee National Holiday Festival coming up, Bo wants to showcase his collection of traditional marbles at his family's booth—but he doesn't have a container! The container must be big enough to fit all of his marbles without being too big to fit in the booth with all of the other items. Bo will need all the help he can get to find the container that's just right!

Talk About It: What do you think helps motivate Bo to keep looking for the perfect container for his marbles after several unsuccessful attempts?



Stink and the Hairy Scary Spider

written by Megan McDonald and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

Stink loves everything related to science, but there's one exception to the rule: spiders. He can't stand them! Their furry bodies and eight legs creep Stink out. When duty calls and Stink has to face his number-one fear, will he overcome it or stay scared?

Talk About It: Why is it so important to Stink to get over his fear of spiders to save Lula?



The Used-to-Be Best Friend

written by Dawn Quigley and illustrated by Tara Audibert

Jo Jo Makoons Azure is a spirited seven-year-old who moves through the world a little differently than anyone else on her Ojibwe reservation. It always seems like her mom, her *kokum* (grandma), and her teacher have a lot to learn—about how good Jo Jo is at cleaning up, what makes a good rhyme, and what it means to be friendly. But Jo Jo is worried that she needs to figure out how to make more friends because Fern, her best friend at school, may not want to be friends anymore.

Talk About It: How does Jo Jo show courage as she tries to make new friends?

Respecting Others



Imagine

written by Juan Felipe Herrera and illustrated by Lauren Castillo

Juan Felipe Herrera, the son of migrant farmworkers, describes his childhood in the fields and small agricultural towns of California. At school, he learns his first words of English and starts to write poetry. The book culminates with Herrera addressing a crowd in Washington, D.C., as the 21st poet laureate of the United States. Herrera uses his life story to inspire children to imagine what they can do and become.

Talk About It: How does this story about Juan Felipe Herrera's life help you understand the strength he had as he learned English in a school far from his home? How can Juan Felipe Herrera's story help inspire you and those around you?



Magic Ramen

written by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz

After World War II, many people in Japan were going hungry and spending the little money they had on a bowl of ramen for the whole family. Momofuku Ando (1910–2007) saw this and wanted to help. He wanted to make affordable, nutritious packaged ramen that would feed the masses: magic ramen. And he did just that!

Talk About It: Why do you think it was so important to Ando to devote his life and career to helping feed his community with affordable, nutritious food?

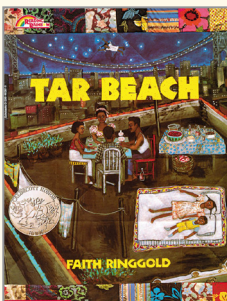


Standing on Her Shoulders

written by Monica Clark-Robinson and illustrated by Laura Freeman

Standing on Her Shoulders is a celebration of the strong women who influence us—from our mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers, to the women who fought for equality and acceptance in the United States and to the legends who paved the way for girls and women everywhere. This lyrical text encourages young readers to learn about these powerful, trailblazing women and empowers them to become role models themselves. Illustrations showcase a loving multigenerational family and encourages readers to find the heroes in their own lives.

Talk About It: Why is it important to know about the lives of the women who fought for their rights and the rights of others?



Tar Beach

written and illustrated by Faith Ringgold

Cassie dreams of a night on "tar beach" with her parents, her brother, and the neighbors, all spending time together under the starry night sky. She thinks of all the things they can do together and knows that she will never forget the times she's gotten to spend with them.

Talk About It: How does Cassie think it will help her family if she gives her daddy the union building?

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Building Relationships

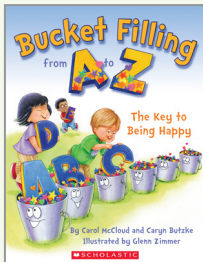


Blackout

written and illustrated by John Rocco

A family is in for a big surprise when the power suddenly goes out in their city. Now they have to stop everything they're doing! It doesn't seem like a fun night at all, but things change when they go up to the roof. The stars are out, and neighbors are also on their rooftops and in the streets. People are eating ice cream and playing games. Everyone is brought together under the light of the stars. Maybe the blackout wasn't so bad after all!

Talk About It: Think about the family's experience during the blackout. What did they do together? How did this experience help the family's relationships?

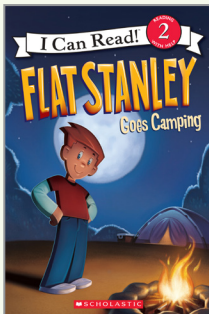


Bucket Filling From A to Z

written by Carol McCloud and Caryn Butzke and illustrated by Glenn Zimmer

Everyone has an invisible bucket that they carry around. If the bucket is empty, you feel sad; if it is full, you feel happy. Read along to find out ways to fill up someone's bucket and about the importance of kindness and friendship.

Talk About It: Why is it good to focus on filling up others' buckets when you are able?



Flat Stanley Goes Camping

written by Jeff Brown and Lori Haskins Houran and illustrated by Macky Pamintuan

Flat Stanley can fly like a kite and slide under doors, but his newest adventure is camping with his family! There are many good things about being flat, but lately Stanley has only been seeing the downsides. Nobody else is flat like him, and sometimes people make fun of him. To cheer him up, Stanley's family goes on a camping trip. But things get tough when Stanley and his brother are trapped between a skunk and a cliff. It's up to Stanley and his special skills to save them both!

Talk About It: How does working together help Stanley and Arthur get back to the campsite and help Stanley feel better about himself?

Building Relationships continued



Hey, Wall

written by Susan Verde and illustrated by John Parra

A boy notices a big, bleak wall in his neighborhood and feels like it doesn't match the vibrant surroundings and people in his community. So he gathers his friends, family, and neighbors, and they work as a team to paint a beautiful mural. The new mural highlights community members and their contributions to the neighborhood.

Talk About It: How does the boy's leadership in this story help everyone in his community build a stronger relationship with one another?

Making Decisions

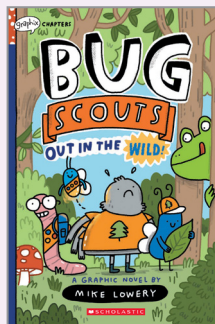


Fast-Forward to the Future

written by Wendy Mass and illustrated by Oriol Vidal

When Chase and Ava find a glowing cube in their suitcase, they are transported to the future! Their excitement about the trip doesn't last long: Bay Guy Randall is on their tail, and if they don't return the cube to where it belongs, it could fall into the wrong hands. Who knows what Randall would do with the cube? Will Chase and Ava be able to return the cube in time?

Talk About It: Think about the choices that Ava and Chase make. Why is it so important to their community that Ava and Chase put the cube where it belongs instead of allowing Randall to have it?



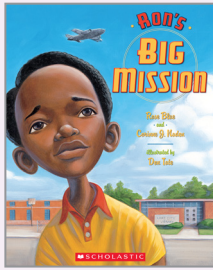
Out in the Wild

written and illustrated by Mike Lowery

Being in the Bug Scouts has many perks, like free snacks, cool badges, and a super-secret headquarters. When new Bug Scout Luna joins the group, the scouts go on an adventure to get the Practical Plants badge. When they search for plants to make paint, the four scouts must work together to earn the badge and make it back to headquarters intact!

Talk About It: How do the Bug Scouts demonstrate curiosity and openness to learn new things as they go out to collect plants for their bug badge?

Making Decisions *continued*

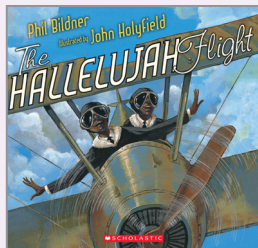


Ron's Big Mission

written by Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden and illustrated by Don Tate

Lake City Public Library is Ron's favorite place in the world. He especially loves looking through the books on airplanes and flight. Ron is ready to get his own library card, but getting it won't be easy because of the segregation laws in South Carolina. Based on astronaut Ron McNair's childhood in the 1950s, *Ron's Big Mission* is about Ron's courageous plan to get his own library card.

Talk About It: Why was it important for Ron to fight for his library card, even though he knew it was against the law at the time?



The Hallelujah Flight

written by Phil Bildner and illustrated by John Holyfield

The Hallelujah Flight tells the extraordinary true story of James Banning, the first African American pilot to fly across the United States. Before the mission, Banning repaired a dilapidated plane with his copilot and mechanic, Thomas Allen. Faced with stormy skies, short supplies of food, and prejudiced townspeople who nicknamed them "The Flying Hoboes," Banning and Allen remained determined. Along the way, they let friends and family sign their names on the wings of the plane in exchange for materials needed to complete the flight. Banning and Allen landed in New York on October 9, 1932, as symbols of strength and resiliency amid the Great Depression.

Talk About It: How was Banning's idea of asking people for help and materials and allowing them to sign their names on the wings of the plane not only good for Banning and Allen during their flight but also good for those who helped them along the way?