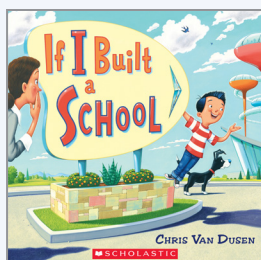


Dear Educator,

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 3 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



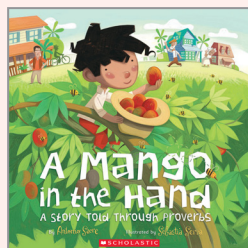
If I Built a School

written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

On the playground one day, Jack tells his teacher, Miss Jane, all about the amazing school he would build if he were given the chance. Told in humorous rhyme, *If I Built a School* is a whimsical story about making decisions for the benefit of the group—and in the name of fun. 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 would the school that Jack imagines benefit him, other students, and even the teachers and staff of the school?

Understanding Myself



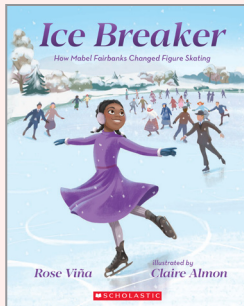
A Mango in the Hand

written by Antonio Sacre and illustrated by Sebastià Serra

This year Francisco's papá thinks he is old enough to pick mangoes for his feast day celebration. But this task sounds a lot simpler than it turns out to be. Francisco learns about problem-solving and persistence as he works toward his goal. This colorfully illustrated story is told through Spanish proverbs translated seamlessly into English. Each proverb helps Francisco think deeply about his actions and his motivations. His hard work is rewarded during his wonderful feast day meal.

Talk About It: What do the proverbs help Francisco learn about himself? How does this help him enjoy his feast day celebration?

Understanding Myself continued

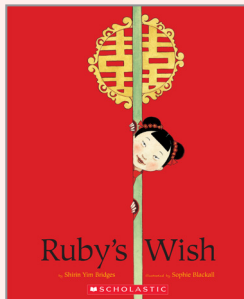


Ice Breaker: How Mabel Fairbanks Changed Figure Skating

written by Rose Viña and illustrated by Claire Almon

Mabel Fairbanks went from being alone on the streets of New York to an established figure skater who advocated for more inclusion within the sport. Mabel grew up in the 1920s and 30s, when professional figure skating was limited to white skaters, but Mabel continued to pursue her dream of figure skating professionally. Her perseverance was rewarded when experienced mentors saw her potential, and Mabel eventually went on to help tear down racial barriers in ice skating.

Talk About It: Why do you think Mabel decided to coach ice skaters later in her career? How do you think she felt when her students achieved success?

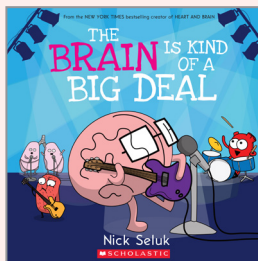


Ruby's Wish

written by Shirin Yim Bridges and illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Ruby has grown up in a society that expects one thing from her: to get married. However, Ruby has never wanted that for herself; she wants to go to university just like the boys, and she does. Based on a true story, this tale of acceptance and understanding will inspire young readers.

Talk About It: When her grandfather asks about why she wrote her poem and what it meant, why do you think Ruby answered him honestly? How do you think she felt in that moment?



The Brain Is Kind of a Big Deal

written and illustrated by Nick Seluk

This humorous informational picture book explains the science behind everything the brain helps you do: the brain keeps hearts beating, tells us when we are sleepy, remembers things, and more. The brain is in charge of everything we do—and that is kind of a big deal! Funny, smart, and informative, each spread features bite-sized text and comic-book-style art with sidebars sprinkled throughout.

Talk About It: How does knowing more about the inner workings of your brain help you understand more about how you think and experience emotions?

Managing Myself

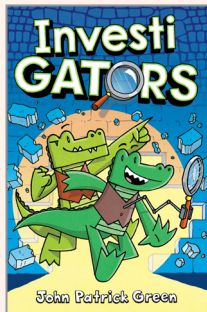


Jo Jo Makoons: Fancy Pants

written by Dawn Quigley and illustrated by Tara Audibert

Jo Jo's Aunt Annie's wedding is coming up, and it requires one thing: fanciness! Jo Jo doesn't know how to be fancy, so to learn how before the wedding, she ventures out into her community with her notebook in hand!

Talk About It: How does Jo Jo stay motivated to achieve her goal of learning how to be "fancy" before her aunt's wedding? What events at the wedding help her realize that she would rather be helpful than worry about being fancy? Do you agree with Jo Jo about being fancy? Why or why not?

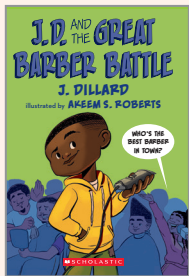


Investigators

written and illustrated by John Patrick Green

Mango and Brash are on the case! And it's not one case, but two. Will the gator duo be able to solve both mysteries, even when things get stressful?

Talk About It: How do Mango and Brash show their planning and organizational skills as they try to solve the case? Why do you think they are willing to keep trying to solve the case even when things get stressful?



J.D. and the Great Barber Battle

written by J. Dillard and illustrated by Akeem S. Roberts

J.D. is mortified when he gets a terrible home haircut from his mom the day before school starts. All the kids make fun of him, but J.D. has a brilliant idea. What if he cuts his own hair? He is pretty good at it, and soon his small business is the talk of the town—but will it fall to the budding rivalry with the only barbershop in town?

Talk About It: How does J.D. show courage and flexible thinking as he starts his own haircutting business?



Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Makes a Splash

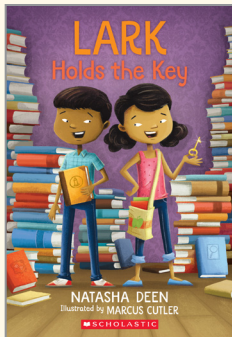
written by Jacqueline Jules and illustrated by Miguel Benítez

Freddie Ramos is ready to continue his superhero adventures! However, summer is off to a rough start. A bully shows up at Starwood Park, and Freddie's high-tech superpowered shoes are missing. Could this be a coincidence? Did the bully take them? Find out if Freddie can do an investigation without his super-speed zapatos.

Talk About It: How does Freddie control his emotions when he deals with Erika the bully when she is mean to him and others? What do you think is the best way to deal with a bully?

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Respecting Others

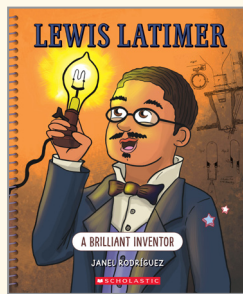


Lark Holds the Key

written by Natasha Deen and illustrated by Marcus Cutler

It's the third day of summer vacation, and Lark's *halmoni*, or grandmother, has promised to take Lark and her twin brother, Connor, to the library. The only trouble is they arrive to discover that the town librarian is missing her key to the library. Lucky for her, Lark just happens to be a budding private investigator. Rookie detectives Lark and Connor must solve this mystery and recover the lost key.

Talk About It: How does Lark show that she cares about Mrs. Robinson's feelings as she tries to help her find her lost key to the library?

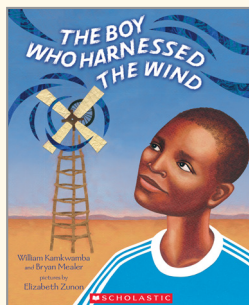


Lewis Latimer

written by Janel Rodríguez and illustrated by Subi Bosa

Lewis Latimer was a true renaissance man: an inventor, artist, teacher, and leader. He accomplished many things, including helping to design the lightbulb—an invention that improved the lives of many.

Talk About It: Working in the patent office, Lewis began to think like an inventor about how he could make things better for people. What impressed you most about the things he accomplished during his lifetime? How did he make things better?



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

written by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer and
illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

William Kamkwamba's life turns upside-down when a drought strikes his home in Malawi. Many crops are lost, but William does not give up. He figures out a new way to get electricity and farm his family's land: windmills!

Talk About It: How do the hardships his community faces motivate William to find a solution? How does he find a way to use what is available to him?



Vera Vance: Comics Star

written by Claudia Mills and illustrated by Grace Zong

Vera loves comic books, so she can't wait for the comics after-school class to start—even though her mother wonders whether it's educational enough. Vera starts developing her own comic about Big Spoon and Little Spoon with the encouragement of her friend Nixie and instruction from her teachers. When students have an opportunity to enter a page from their comics in a local convention's contest, Vera knows she has to convince her mother to let her participate. Maybe Big Spoon and Little Spoon can convince her mother to accept her passion.

Talk About It: How does Vera recognize the strengths of her friends in the comics class?

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Building Relationships

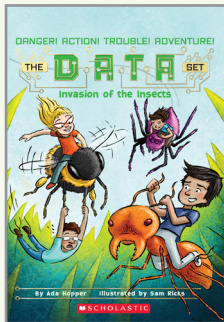


Bunny Bonanza

written by Saadia Faruqi

Imaan and her friends love to work with animals in their small pet-sitting business, so when they get an adorable rabbit named Doc to pet sit, the girls are overjoyed. They are even more excited when they find out that Doc is training to become a trick rabbit that competes in events. Imaan and her friends plan to have Doc perform at an upcoming event, but when things don't go according to plan, they must work together to set things right.

Talk About It: Imaan eventually allows Amir to help when Doc goes missing. How does Imaan allowing Amir to help show her respect for him?

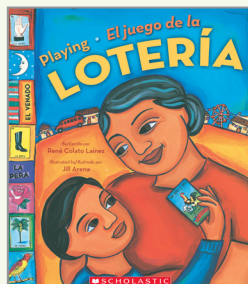


Invasion of the Insects

written by Ada Hopper and illustrated by Sam Ricks

Dr. Bunsen's house is being crowded by all sorts of creepy crawlies, from grasshoppers to spiders, just as Laura is shrunken down to the size of an insect! Now the DATA Set have to find their friend and help Dr. Bunsen with his insect problem!

Talk About It: How does working together help the DATA Set get back to the lab safely and show that they respect each other's skills and talents?

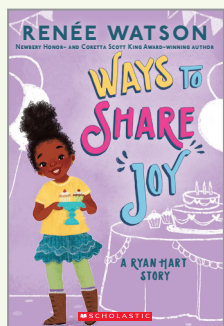


Playing Lotería/El juego de la lotería

written by René Colato Laínez and illustrated by Jill Arena

This bilingual book shares the story of a boy who visits his *abuela* in Mexico. He worries that they won't be able to communicate because she speaks Spanish and he speaks mostly in English. As they spend time together, they find creative ways to communicate and to bond over their love of playing *la lotería*.

Talk About It: How does learning new ways to communicate in each other's languages help the boy and his *abuela* strengthen their relationship?



Ways to Share Joy

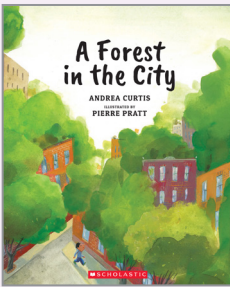
written by Renée Watson and illustrated by Niña Mata

Ryan is in the middle in several ways: in-between her siblings, in-between her two best friends, and in conflicts at school. It all just feels too much! Still, Ryan looks for ways to spread her joy and not let her circumstances get in the way.

Talk About It: How does trying to see the joy in everything help Ryan resolve conflicts with her friends and classmates? How might looking for joy be good advice for people in our school community?

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Making Decisions

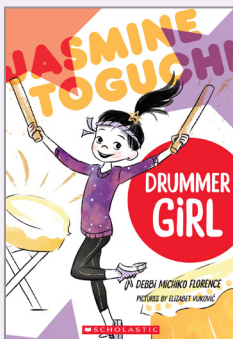


A Forest in the City

written by Andrea Curtis and illustrated by Pierre Pratt

Cities are known for their concrete, buildings, and lights, but not for their trees. But what if cities could be known for their trees, or even... a forest? Readers will discover how more cities can and should adopt putting forests in their urban areas and how it helps the environment.

Talk About It: Why is it important to include trees in cities? How are they good for the communities?

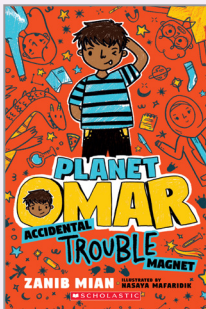


Jasmine Toguchi, Drummer Girl

written by Debbi Michiko Florence and illustrated by Elizabet Vuković

In this engaging chapter book, when Jasmine's mom introduces her to the *taiko*, a traditional Japanese drum, Jasmine finally finds an arts activity that feels just right. But will she be good enough at *taiko* in time for the talent show?

Talk About It: Why do you think Jasmine plays better on *taiko* when she focuses more on how much fun she has when playing instead of trying to play perfectly?

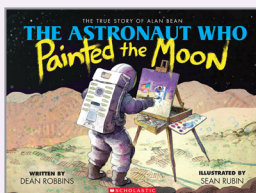


Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet

written by Zanib Mian and illustrated by Nasaya Mafaridik

Omar is starting at a new school after moving, and he's worried. What if the teacher is an alien? What if the kids are mean? Things seem okay when Omar makes a new friend, but it all goes downhill when he begins to get bullied by a kid named Daniel. Daniel says all kinds of terrible things to and about Omar. How can Omar convince Daniel that his ideas are all wrong?

Talk About It: How does Omar help himself and his community by becoming friends with Daniel and helping Daniel understand more about Muslims?



The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon

written by Dean Robbins and illustrated by Sean Rubin

While in the sky as a Navy pilot, Alan Bean wished he could paint the view he saw among the clouds. He began taking painting classes, never even thinking of the amazing feat he would achieve—painting the moon, after walking on it! His curiosity and openness to learning a new skill made him the first artist to have visited and painted outer space.

Talk About It: How does Alan Bean's decision to paint help others connect with the moon in a whole new way?

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