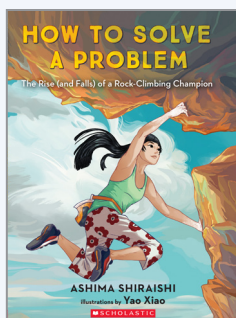


## Dear Educator,

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 5 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



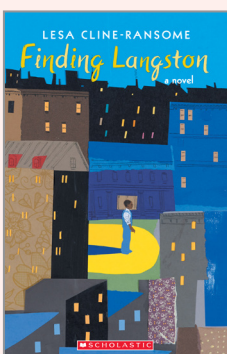
### How To Solve a Problem

written by Ashima Shiraishi and illustrated by Yao Xiao

From her first climbs at the age of six, Ashima Shiraishi has shown an extraordinary gift for rock climbing, and gradually gained fame and awards because of it. The way she “solves problems”—her way of thinking of a rock climb—makes it seem easy. But in this first-person narrative, Ashima describes the immense effort, imagination, and mental discipline that must be applied to each climb. 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 do you think Ashima’s success at climbing connects to her habit of viewing the boulder as a source of useful information rather than as an adversary to fight against?

## Understanding Myself



### Finding Langston

written by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Lesla Cline-Ransome’s lyrical novel is about one boy’s experiences during the Great Migration. When 11-year-old Langston’s father moves the family from their home in Alabama to Chicago’s Bronzeville district, Langston feels like he’s losing everything he loves. But soon Langston is introduced to the Chicago Public Library, where he discovers another Langston—the poet Langston Hughes. Through the power of poetry, Langston learns more about his family, his culture, and himself.

**Talk About It:** Why do you think Langston feels more connected to his mom when he finds the letters under the bed? How does he learn more about himself as he learns about both his mother and Langston Hughes?

## Understanding Myself *continued*

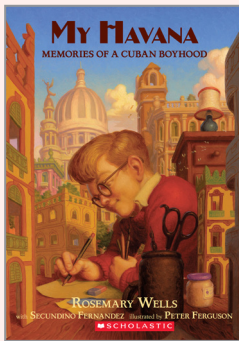


### Hummingbird

written by Natalie Lloyd

When Olive finally convinces her parents that she should go to public school instead of being homeschooled, she is thrilled! She expects a school with endless opportunities to make friends. But things don't go exactly as Olive thought, and her first day is a disaster. That's when she hears about a magical hummingbird not too far from the school that can grant her ultimate wish. However, she can't get there on her own; she'll need help from a team of friends. Olive must learn throughout her journey the values of differences.

**Talk About It:** How does Olive's ultimate wish change—from getting rid of her disability to helping her friend—show how her perception of herself has changed? How has the hummingbird helped Olive and the people around her grow?



### My Havana

written by Rosemary Wells with Secundino Fernandez and  
illustrated by Peter Ferguson

In this story based on real-life events, Dino is devastated when his hometown of Havana is overtaken by Fidel Castro and he has to move away to New York. But Havana is still alive and buzzing in his heart, the way it used to be. So, to keep his memories of Havana alive, Dino begins to make a model of Havana, complete with all the archways, ancient doors, and birds-of-paradise window panes that he loves. This way, Dino will never be too far from home.

**Talk About It:** Why does Dino's replica of his hometown make him feel closer to an important part of his identity? How does where we call home affect us?



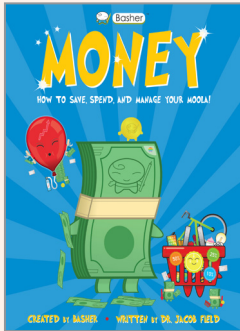
### Squished

written by Megan Wagner Lloyd and illustrated  
by Michelle Mee Nutter

Avery Lee loves everything about where she lives except one thing: her home is too crowded by her six siblings! Avery wants nothing more than to have her own room where she could have space for her hobbies and privacy. But when her older brother Theo gets his own room instead, leaving Avery to share her room with yet another sibling, she's had enough. She comes up with a plan to get her own room, but getting her own room might have to come after a move across the country.

**Talk About It:** How does finally expressing how she feels to her parents and brother help Avery feel better? Why does that experience, as well as her siblings running away, help Avery see her family and herself in a new way?

## Managing Myself



### Money: How to Save, Spend, and Manage Your Moola!

written by Dr. Jacob Field and illustrated by Simon Basher

Managing money is one of the many things everyone has to learn to do in their lifetime. Making money, saving money, and spending money in the right ways aren't very easy. What investments produce the most money? What are discounts and loans, and how are they used? What are the different ways that people get paid? Read along as Dr. Jacob Field uses humor and detailed illustrations to teach the basics of finance.

**Talk About It:** How can learning about money and managing it help bring you closer to thinking about your own goals? Why might a better understanding of how to manage money allow you to do more of the things that you would like to do?

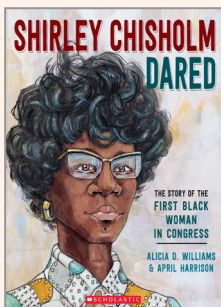


### Save Me a Seat

written by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Joe has lived in the same town all his life and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common, but they realize they have both been victims of the biggest bully in their class. Joe and Ravi unite on a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single week. Told in alternating chapters through Joe's and Ravi's points of view, this book celebrates two memorable characters.

**Talk About It:** How does Joe and Ravi's friendship allow them to manage and take control of their experience in school?



### Shirley Chisholm Dared

written by Alicia D. Williams and illustrated by April Harrison

This biographical picture book focuses on the amazing life of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress. Full of energy and questions, Shirley was motivated to work hard from the time she was a child on her grandmother's farm to her time as a student at school, and later on as a candidate on the campaign trail. Her time in government was a testament to her enduring mission to make the world around her better for all.

**Talk About It:** Why do you think Shirley was able to brush off the criticisms and put-downs throughout her career and continue to do what she set out to do? How did her courage and persistence help her community and the country?

## Managing Myself continued



### The Grand Plan to Fix Everything

written by Uma Krishnaswami and illustrated by Abigail Halpin

Dini has the script of her life all planned out—that is until her family picks up and moves to a small village in India. But things in Swapnagiri aren't as bland as she thought, when her favorite Bollywood star Dolly shows up. Now it's up to Dini to manage the new script of her life in India, but will her plans get out of control?

**Talk About It:** Dini tries to manage her life by seeing it as a script she is writing. Why do you think Dini slowly changes her mind about Swapnagiri? What are some examples that show that Dini's mindset has changed? How did she become more open to accepting that not everything will go the way she expects?

## Respecting Others



### Each Tiny Spark

written by Pablo Cartaya

Emilia Torres is curious about the people who matter to her. She takes on a research project for school and works with her friend to create a documentary film that reveals some surprises about her community's past and present. She also pursues her fascination for welding with her dad as they work to restore an old car and, along the way, come to understand each other better. Her enthusiasm for figuring out the "why" makes Emilia's journey one worth following.

**Talk About It:** How does Emilia's journey into finding out more about her family and community help her relate to them better? What does connecting with others teach Emilia about herself?



### Invisible

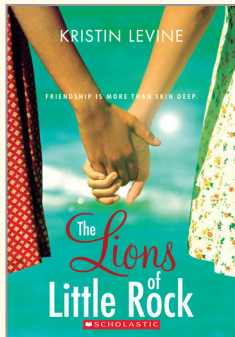
written by Christina Diaz Gonzalez and illustrated by Gabriela Epstein

While five Latino kids work toward completing their school's community service hours together, they come across a homeless woman and her daughter. Now the group must work together to find a way to help them, without alerting the cranky lunch lady who monitors their community service hours.

**Talk About It:** How does each of the kid's personal struggles relate to why they are so willing to help Lisa and her mom? Why do you think the term *invisible* resonates with the group so much?



## Respecting Others *continued*

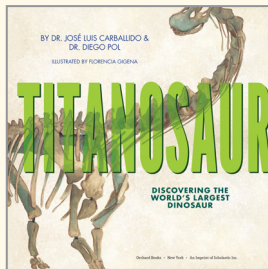


### The Lions of Little Rock

written by Kristin Levine

It's 1958 and Marlee starts middle school feeling like her whole life is not what it should be. But when she meets Liz, everything changes. Liz makes Marlee want to be better, more confident and outgoing. When Liz is forced to leave her school because she isn't White, Marlee decides nothing will get in the way of her friendship with Liz, even if other people disagree. This inspiring story will help readers understand the importance of treating everyone with respect and appreciation.

**Talk About It:** How does Marlee's persistence in her friendship with Liz and the effort to end segregation in her city slowly change her mother's mind? Why is it important to be open to changing your perspective and weigh the impact of your actions on others?



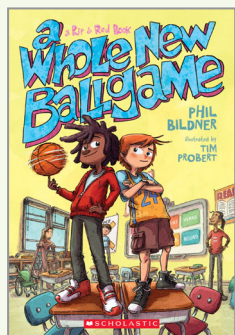
### Titanosaur

written by Dr. José Luis Carballido and Dr. Diego Pol and illustrated by Florencia Gigena

This informational text recounts the incredible contribution to paleontology by Dr. José Luis Carballido, Dr. Diego Pol, and their team. In a story packed with exciting facts and illustrations, the authors detail their team's discovery of the mighty titanosaur, the biggest animal to ever walk the Earth, and its complex and demanding excavation and preservation.

**Talk About It:** How does the way the gaucho and the paleontologists treat each other show that they respect each other? How does the gaucho show he is interested in learning about the fossils on his property?

## Building Relationships



### A Whole New Ballgame

written by Phil Bildner and illustrated by Tim Probert

Rip and Red are two best friends who think they have everything about fifth grade figured out—until they meet their new teacher Mr. Acevedo. He's also the new basketball coach! Both boys step out of their comfort zones and have a hard time adjusting to Mr. Acevedo's ways. They'll need each other more than ever to make it through this school year.

**Talk About It:** At the end of the novel, the friends write about working together. Why is it important to learn how to work together and recognize that different people will contribute to the effort in different ways?

## Building Relationships continued

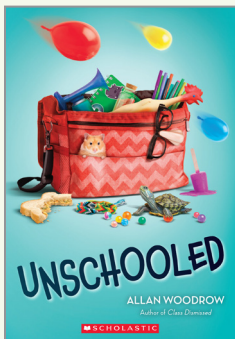


### Bound for Home

written by Meika Hashimoto

After a move from Japan to the United States, Emi is in desperate need of a new friend, so when she finds Max at an animal shelter, it was meant to be. Trouble stirs, however, when Emi decides to go off on her own after issues at home. But the rough wilderness proves difficult to manage, and Emi is separated from Max. Now they must find their way back home, and back to each other.

**Talk About It:** The chapters from Max's point of view are written as "guides." What might a chapter titled "Max's Guide to Being a Good Friend" say?



### Unschooled

written by Allan Woodrow

It's Spirit Week and best friends George and Lily have never been more excited! They can't wait to win the ultra-secret prize Principal Klein has prepared—that is, until they find out they're on opposing teams. George and Lily vow that they won't let Spirit Week get in the way of their friendship, but that promise is broken by the constant pranks from both sides. The pair must find a way to save their friendship—and the rest of the school from yearlong detention—before it's too late!

**Talk About It:** How can friends be supportive of each other even when they're on opposing teams?



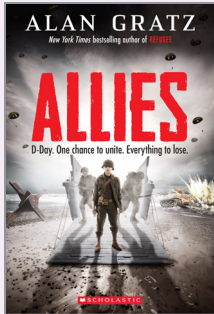
### Ways To Grow Love

written by Renée Watson and illustrated by Niña Mata

Ryan Hart and her family are experiencing a lot of changes. This summer, Ryan goes to sleepaway camp for the first time, learns more about friendship, and wonders how her family life will change when her mom gives birth to a baby girl. Ryan, whose name means "king," knows that she's meant to be a leader. At camp she discovers that she needs to learn patience, find ways to share love, meet new challenges that come her way, and grow into the leader she knows she can become.

**Talk About It:** Ryan's class makes a Memory Wall where they share memories that they wish could happen again and again. How can reflecting on memories shared with friends and family help us appreciate those relationships?

## Making Decisions

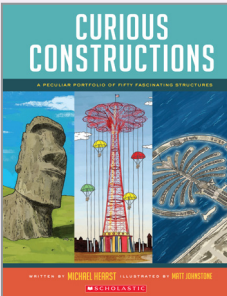


### Allies

written by Alan Gratz

With World War II raging on, the allied nations come together to conduct a top-secret operation to stop Germany's occupation in France. Dee is on the front lines of this attack, and he's afraid—but he's not alone. With the help of a medic, a spy, and his brothers-in-arms, Dee and the Allies will make whatever decisions necessary to win the war.

**Talk About It:** How does Dee's choice to reveal his identity to Sid make Sid rethink his plans of taking revenge on the soldiers? Do you think this change of heart in Sid was good or bad? Why?



### Curious Constructions

written by Michael Hearst and illustrated by Matt Johnstone

There are so many wondrous buildings and structures all over the world, from the Great Wall of China, to a treehouse community in Costa Rica, and a mechanical octopus called El Pulpo Mecánico. In this illustrated guide, the author explores 50 of the most interesting feats of construction, demonstrating the curiosity and open-mindedness on display throughout the world.

**Talk About It:** How might learning about the different wonders of the world widen your worldview? Why is being open-minded and curious about the things you don't know a good thing?



### Playing the Cards You're Dealt

written by Varian Johnson

Anthony Joplin always knew that when he turned 10 he would have to prove himself in the Joplin men's tradition: the spade tournament. If he doesn't win, he won't measure up to his father's expectations. When his best friend can no longer play as his partner, he must make the decision to find a replacement partner, even if that replacement isn't someone Anthony thinks his father would approve of.

**Talk About It:** How does Ant's relationship with his father influence the decisions he makes throughout the book?



### Urban Biologist Danielle Lee

written by Kari Cornell

In this biography, readers learn about Danielle Lee. Danielle Lee has always been invested in science and the scientific method. And as she learned more and more about science and how there are obstacles for people of color, she dreamed of closing the gap. At every turn, she decided she would not let these obstacles deter her from her dreams. She discovered her passion for research and for introducing young people to science in new and exciting ways.

**Talk About It:** How has Danielle's can-do attitude when approaching new issues in her career helped her reach the place she has in her field? Why might both determination and passion factor into how well someone succeeds?