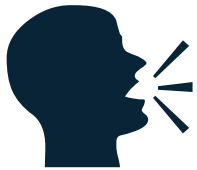




The Governor's Summer Reading Program

Play is one of the ways we learn to relate to others, to think in new ways, and to foster friendships, new and old. Whether you're playing with STEM concepts or gamifying your reading logs, learning to play chess or how to code video games, **iREAD 2025: Level Up at Your Library** reminds us that libraries are not just a space for knowledge, they are a space for fun!



Denotes that the book is available as a Talking Book from the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB - bit.ly/ct-lab).

Talking Books are specially formatted audio books that are made available from CT LAB and its federal partner, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS). CT LAB lends books and magazines in audio and braille formats, for free, to any Connecticut resident who is unable to read regular print due to a visual, reading, or physical disability.



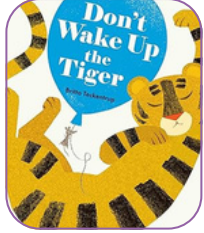
Denotes that the book is available as an ebook in the Palace App (egoct.org). eGO is the Connecticut State Library's statewide digital book platform, currently being rolled out to academic, school, and public libraries.



Denotes that the book is available as an ebook and eaudiobook in the Palace App (egoct.org). eGO is the Connecticut State Library's statewide digital book platform, currently being rolled out to academic, school, and public libraries.

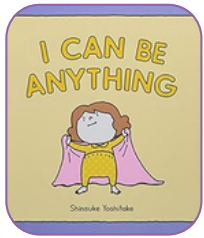
LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

Preschool



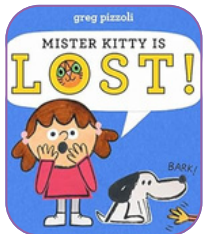
Don't Wake up Tiger by Britta Teckentrup

"Tiger is fast asleep. But — oh dear! — she's completely blocking the way. Just how will the animals get past without waking her up? Luckily, Frog has an excellent idea."



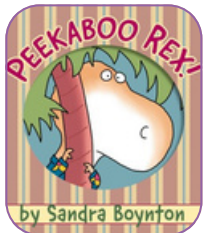
I Can Be Anything by Shinsuke Yoshitake

"It's time for bed, but Natsumi has a brilliant idea, even better than going to sleep: She'll pretend to be something and Mom will guess what she is! Ready? Is she a caterpillar? An arrow sign? An upside-down bug? Take your best guess!"



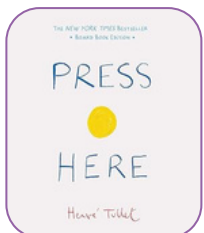
Mister Kitty is Lost by Greg Pizzoli

"Mister Kitty is missing somewhere inside this book! Will you help us find him? Join the hunt for five yellow spots, four orange paws, three purple bells, and more, exploring numbers and colors along the way in an interactive countdown."



Peekaboo Rex by Sandra Boynton

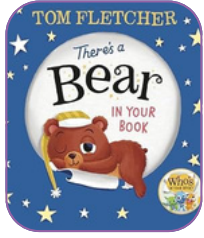
"Two lovable dinosaurs play peekaboo throughout the day, in this fun-filled board book that showcases every toddler's favorite hide-and-seek activity."



Press Here by Hervé Tullet

"Press the yellow dot on the cover of this book, follow the instructions within, and embark upon a magical journey! Each page of this surprising book instructs the reader to press the dots, shake the pages, tilt the book, and who knows what will happen next!"

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There's a Bear in Your Book by Tom Fletcher

“YAAAWN! A sleepy little bear is in YOUR book! Can you help them get ready for bed?”

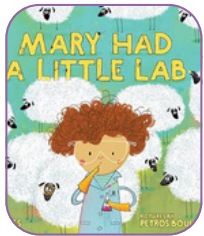


Grades K-1



Let's Play Make Bee-lieve by Ross Burach

“Thinking of fun-filled games and activities for a day of adventure at the pond, Bumble and Bee use their contagious energy to encourage reluctant friend Froggy to join in.”



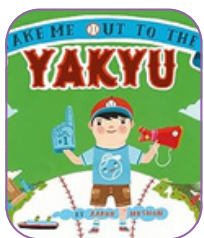
Mary Had a Little Lab by Sue Fliess

“Mary is an enterprising young inventor. She wants a pet, but it isn't one she can easily buy, so she makes one with the Sheepinator! Mary's pet sheep and her new invention make her popular with her classmates. But when she starts making sheep for her new friends, things go hilariously awry. Can Mary invent a way to fix this mess?”



On a Magical Do-Nothing Day by Beatrice Alemagna

“It's an awful, boring, rainy day, and Mom doesn't want her boy on screens! Off he goes into the woods, where he accidentally drops his precious video game into a pond! NO!”



Take me Out to the Yakyu by Aaron Meshon

“A little boy's grandfathers, one in America and one in Japan, teach him about baseball and its rich, varying cultural traditions.”

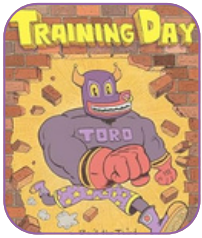
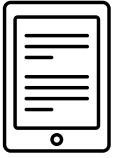


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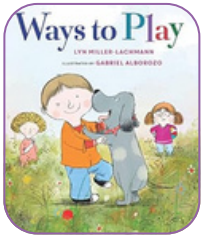
This Book Just Ate My Dog by Richard Byrne

“When her dog disappears into the gutter of a book, Bella calls for help, but when the helpers disappear too, Bella realizes it will take more than a tug on the leash to put things right!”



Training Day by Raúl the Third

“Getting out of bed isn't always easy, especially for Mexican wrestling star El Toro. But his coach, Kooky Dooky, knows that it's important for the wrestler to stay in shape and keep training—even when he doesn't feel like it. Can Kooky Dooky raise El Toro's spirits and get him to practice before his next big wrestling match?”



Ways to Play by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

“Riley has plenty of ways to play; like lining up dolls and stuffies by size and shape. But bossy cousin Emma thinks those ways are wrong, wrong, and wrong. Fortunately, there are MANY ways to play; and all of them are right.”

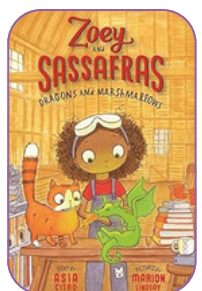


What happened to you? by James Catchpole

“Joe, a young boy trying to play pirates at the playground, keeps getting interrupted with questions about what happened to his leg, and gets more and more fed up until the kids finally understand they don't need to know what happened.”



Grades 2-3

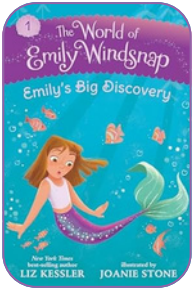


Dragons and Marshmallows by Asia Citro

“Learning an amazing secret while discovering a glowing photo, young Zoey assists injured magical animals that begin showing up in her family's backyard barn, an effort that includes caring for a particularly challenging baby dragon.”



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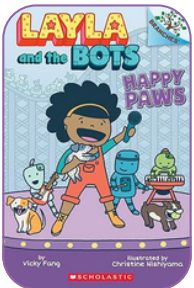
Emily's Big Discovery by Liz Kessler

"Emily Windsnap doesn't know how to swim and it's hard to make friends at the beach when everyone else is having fun in the waves! When swimming lessons start at school, Emily is excited! Standing beside the pool, she feels the water calling her, but when she jumps in, she gets a strange, kind of scary sensation . . . like her legs are stuck together."



Get on the Ice, Mo! By David Adler

"Mo and his dad are practicing before the big ice hockey game against the Ducks later that day. Mo is having trouble staying upright as he skates across the rink, but everyone tells him to keep his head up."



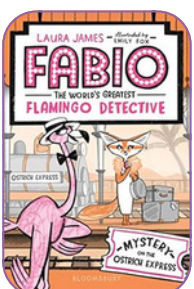
Happy Paws by Vicky Fang

"Using their collective problem-solving talents and creativity to build cool inventions, rock band members Layla and the Bots help transform a run-down amusement park into a theme park for dogs."



The Magic Day (Sparkleton) by Calliope Glass

"Begging his big sister to give him wish-granting powers for one whole day, Sparkleton the shaggy purple unicorn resolves to prove how glittertastic he will be when performing magic, before unleashing mayhem in the form of zany wishes and neglected homework."

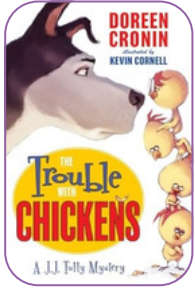


Mystery on the Ostrich Express by Laura James

"While traveling by train to their vacation resort, flamingo detective Fabio and his giraffe associate, Gilbert, investigate the theft of a very expensive necklace from a fellow passenger."



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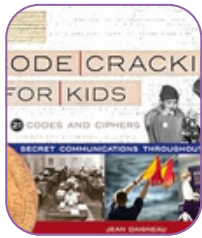


The Trouble with Chickens by Doreen Cronin

“J.J. Tully is a former search-and-rescue dog who is trying to enjoy his retirement after years of performing daring missions saving lives. So he's not terribly impressed when two chicks named Dirt and Sugar (who look like popcorn on legs) and their chicken mom show up demanding his help to find their missing siblings.”



Grades 4-5



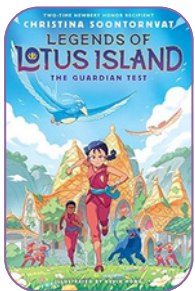
Code Cracking for Kids: Secret Communications Throughout History, with 21 Codes and Ciphers by Jean Daigneau

“People throughout history have written messages in code and ciphers to guard and pass along closely held secret information. Today, countries around the world enlist cryptanalysts to intercept and crack messages. Code Cracking for Kids explores many aspects of cryptology.”



The Friendship Code by Stacia Deutsch

“Looking forward to joining the new coding club at school so that she can develop her app idea, Lucy is disappointed by the lukewarm reception she gets from the club's other members, who work with her to decipher mysterious coding notes that she starts receiving.”



The Guardian Test (Legends of Lotus Island) by Christina Soontornvat

“Young Plum is shocked to discover that she's been accepted to the Guardian Academy on Lotus Island, an elite school where kids learn how to transform into Guardians, magical creatures who are sworn to protect the natural world. To her dismay, Plum struggles at school. If she can't embrace her inner animal form soon, she'll have to leave school and lose the first group of real friends she's ever known.”

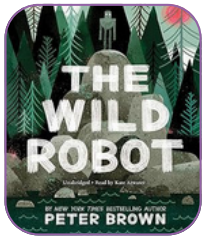


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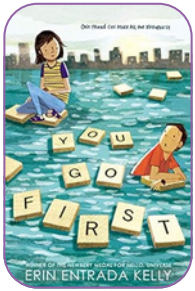
The Secret of Phantom Island by Dustin Brady

“Cooper Hawke and the Secret of Phantom Island is the greatest video game nobody has ever played. The treasure-hunting adventure was supposed to set a new standard for gaming. Then, just one month before its release date, it fell off the face of the earth. Now, for the first time, you get a chance to play the mysterious game, from the inside.”



The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

“When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.”

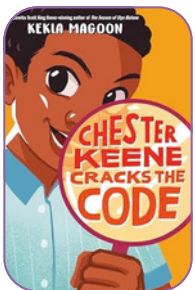


You Go First by Erin Entrada Kelly

“Twelve-year-old Charlotte Lockard and eleven-year-old Ben Boxer are separated by more than a thousand miles. On the surface, their lives seem vastly different. During the course of one week, Charlotte and Ben are connected only by an online Scrabble game' will intersect in unexpected ways as they struggle to navigate the turmoil of middle school.”



Middle School

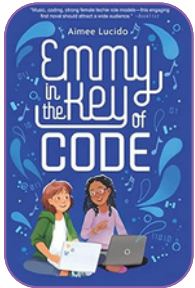


Chester Keene Cracks the Code by Kekla Magoon

“Chester Keene takes great comfort in his routines. After school Monday to Thursday is bowling, and Friday, the best of days, is laser tag! But most special of all is when Chester gets secret spy messages from his dad, who is always on covert government assignments, which is why Chester has never met him. Then, one day at lunch, Chester's classmate Skye approaches him with a clue.”

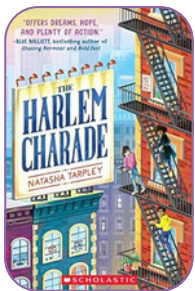


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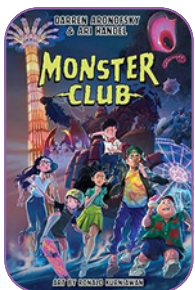
Emmy in the Key of Code by Aimee Lucido

“In a new city, at a new school, twelve-year-old Emmy has never felt more out of tune. Things start to look up when she takes her first coding class, unexpectedly connecting with the material—and Abigail, a new friend. But when Emmy gets bad news about their computer teacher, and finds out Abigail isn’t being entirely honest about their friendship, she feels like her new life is screeching to a halt.”



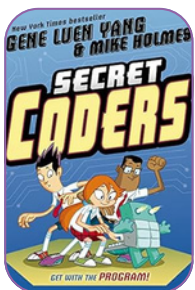
The Harlem Charade by Natasha Tarpley

“Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin come from very different backgrounds and circumstances, but they all live in Harlem, and when Elvin's grandfather is attacked, they band together to find out who is responsible--and the search leads them to an artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune, and into conflict with a politician who wants to turn Harlem into an amusement park.”



Monster Club by Darren Aronofsky

“Twelve-year-old Eric “Doodles” King discovers a long-lost vial of magic ink that brings to life the monster he created for Monster Club, an epic role-playing game Eric and his friends developed together, which could be the key to saving his parents’ amusement park and their marriage.”



Secret Coders by Gene Luen Yang

“Attending an elite school where enterprising students are challenged to solve a variety of clues and puzzles using computer programming, Hopper and her friend, Eni, resolve to crack the school founder's most elusive mystery together.”



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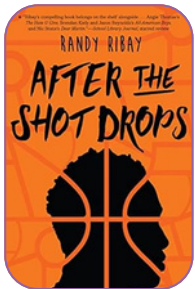


Team Chu and the battle of Blackwood Arena by Julie Dao

"When her brother Clip gets tricked into being trapped with a fellow player, Sadie and the rest of their friends must beat the obstacles to save Clip and fight their way out."

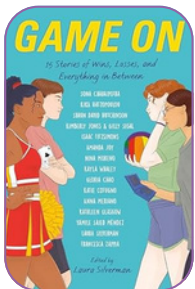


High School



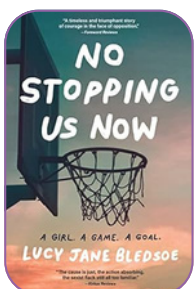
After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay

"Told from alternating perspectives, Bunny takes a basketball scholarship to an elite private school to help his family, leaving behind Nasir, his best friend, in their tough Philadelphia neighborhood."



Game on: 15 stories of Wins, Losses, and Everything in Between

"From the slightly fantastical to the utterly real, light and sweet romance to tales tinged with horror and thrills, Game On is an anthology that spans genre and style. But beneath each story is a loving ode to competition and games perfect for anyone who has ever played a sport or a board game, picked up a video game controller, or rolled a twenty-sided die"



No Stopping Us Now by Lucy Jane Bledsoe

"It's 1974. Title IX has passed two years ago, but Louisa's high school still refuses to fund an all girls' basketball team. After hearing Gloria Steinem speak, Louisa learns an important lesson: "The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." Now what can she do but stand up and fight back?"

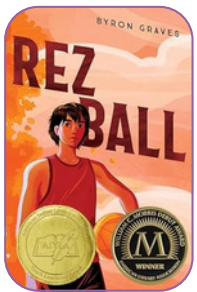


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Queen of the Tiles by Hanna Alkaf

"When her late best friend's formerly inactive Instagram starts posting again during the Scrabble competition, with cryptic messages suggesting that her death was no accident, Najwa Bakri, surrounded by suspects, must find out who's behind these mysterious posts."



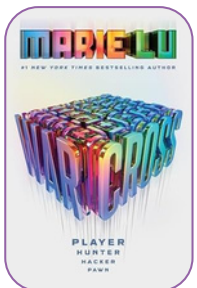
Rez ball by Byron Graves

"When the varsity basketball team members take him under their wing, Tre Brun, representing his Ojibwe reservation, steps into his late brother's shoes as star player but soon learns he can't mess up--not on the court, not in school and not in love."



Slay by Brittney Morris

"An honors student at Jefferson Academy, seventeen-year-old Keira enjoys developing and playing Slay, a secret, multiplayer online role-playing game celebrating black culture, until the two worlds collide."



Warcross by Marie Lu

"After hacking into the Warcross Championships' opening game to track illegal betting, bounty hunter Emika Chen is asked by the game's creator to go undercover to investigate a security problem, and she uncovers a sinister plot."

