



A New Year... and a New Newsletter!

Hello and happy 2025!

Our monthly newsletter has taken off in a new direction! Our previous (and AHH-MAZING!) editor -- Leigh Collazo of MrsReaderPants fame -- needed to step back for a bit due to family obligations. Contributors Cari White (of Library Learners) and Collette Jay (from Mrs J in the Library) also had other pursuits to concentrate on in 2025. So, our beloved [Elementary Ideas for Librarians](#) newsletter has been put on hiatus for a year.

In its place, this "*Library Helpers Newsletter*" has emerged for 2025. It will feature ideas from Laura Trapp (of The Trapped Librarian) Sonya Dykeman (from The Library Patch) and Julie Olson (of That Library Girl). We'll be curating monthly resources, great book suggestions, tried-&-true lesson ideas, and helpful life hacks, recipes, and so on to support your never-ending TO-DO lists!

If you're new around here and would like to access our newsletter back copies from the past few years, you can still find them on our blogs. (See links below.) So, grab a cup of something warm and dive right in!

Take care,
Julie, Laura, and Sonya



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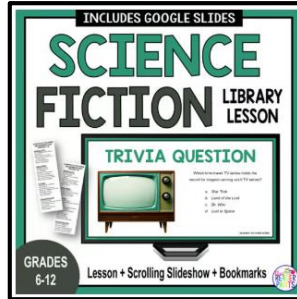
Email



[The Library Patch Store](#)

10 "National Days" for January 2025

2nd Science Fiction Day



This sci-fi genre lesson is perfect for middle school and high school classes. It covers characteristics of the sci-fi genre, trivia questions, and lit quotes – with fun extras like bookmarks and a scrolling slideshow!

From MrsReaderPants

4th Trivia Day

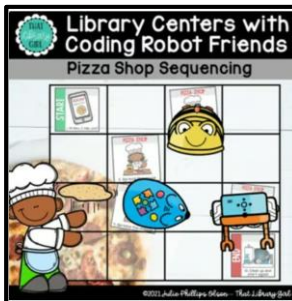


If your 2nd-4th grade students love "The Questioners" series by Andrea Beatty (Rosie Revere, Iggy Peck, Ada Twist, and Sofia Valdez) they'll really enjoy this trivia review!

From The Trapped Librarian

[See also, Reading Week Trivia!](#)

6th Technology Day

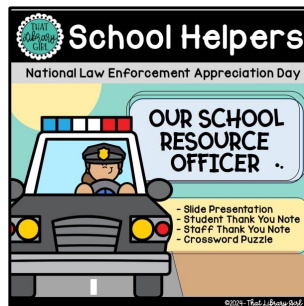


Put your coding robots to work teaching computer science and sequencing skills as your K-3 students use Bee-Bot, Coding Mouse, and other robots to help run a busy little pizza shop!

From That Library Girl

[See also, Coding Robot Cards for Valentine's Day!](#)

9th Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



To celebrate, read *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathman and then teach about the training and responsibilities of your SRO. Finish up by writing thank you notes. Older students can work on a crossword puzzle, too!

From That Library Girl

January FREEBIE

10th Save the Eagles Day



Free Resources from the EPIC! E-Books Website

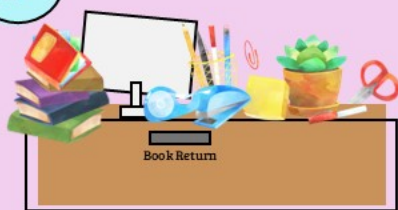
E-BOOK: *Is a Bald Eagle Really Bald?* By Martha E.H. Rustad <https://www.getepic.com/app/read/9695>

SONG: *Powerful Bald Eagles* by Pinkfong <https://www.getepic.com/app/read/53620>

Plus, there are MANY more nonfiction selections!

10 "National Days" for January 2025, cont.

13th Clean Off Your Desk Day



THE
Clean
OFF
YOUR
DESK
CHALLENGE



STEPS:

1. Remove everything from the top of your desk.
2. Declutter by sorting and deciding what to keep, repurpose, put away, file, or discard.
3. Wipe all surfaces with disinfectant.
4. Organize and label any remaining items.

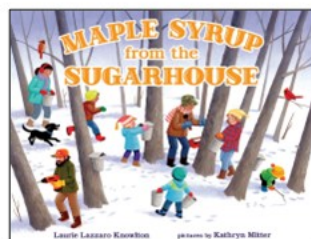
Share your BEFORE / AFTER shot on our Facebook page -- [Library Bulletin Boards and Displays!](#)

14th Shop for Travel Day



If you're already longing for spring break, go ahead and plan your trip! Fellow school librarian, Jana Dixon, can help you find a great deal. When she's not busy at school... Jana doubles as a travel agent and can be followed on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can reach her by calling/texting 1-501-609-6461, or by email at adventuresbyjana@gmail.com.

18th Maple Syrup Day



READ-ALoud IDEA

Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse

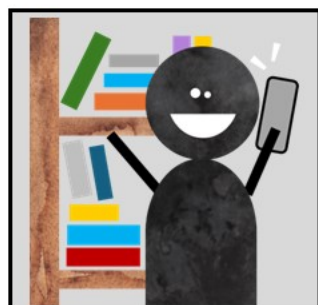
Written by Laurie Lazarro Knowlton

Pictures by Kathryn Mitter

©2017 | Published by Albert Whitman & Co.

[YOUTUBE Clip](#)

22nd Library Shelfie Day



This Montana public library shares fun ideas for staging a social-media-worthy "shelfie" for this national day that honors books and the shelves that support them. Use [#libraryshelfie](#) and join in the fun on our Facebook page!

<https://lewistownlibrary.org/2020/01/22/celebrate-national-shelfie-day-by-brittney-uecker/>

28th Data Privacy Day



4 KEYS TO PROTECT *your* DATA

- Never use unsecured Wi-Fi, especially for online shopping, banking, or peer-to-peer payment apps.
- Create long, strong password phrases.
- Avoid clicking unprompted links, scanning QR codes, and sharing your personal information.
- Stop taking online quizzes that ask nosy questions.



The Great Kindness Challenge.

January 27th-31st, 2025

Over 41,000 Schools in 115 Countries Participate!
From the GKC Website:

*"All kids deserve to learn in a safe, supportive and caring environment. **The Great Kindness Challenge** provides powerful tools that actively engage students, teachers, administrators, families, and communities in **creating a culture of compassion, acceptance, unity and respect.**"*



Learn more about it here.

<https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/>

And... here's a little kindness from Laura's kitchen...

Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

Need an easy and delicious recipe idea for dinner? Laura says, "I've been making this yummy soup. We even served it to our neighbors at a gathering last month, and it was a big hit!"

Prep Time: 20 minutes | Cook Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes | Serves: 8

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons unsalted butter
3 celery ribs, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
2 carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1 medium onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped thyme
Salt and Pepper
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup wild rice (5 ounces)
2 quarts chicken stock or low-sodium broth
2 cups water
4 cups bite-size pieces of roasted chicken or turkey
1 cup heavy cream

Directions:

In a large saucepan, melt the butter. Add the celery, carrots, onion, garlic, thyme and a generous pinch each of salt and pepper and cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables just start to soften, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and cook, stirring, until evenly coated and lightly browned, about 3 minutes.

Add the wild rice to the saucepan and gradually stir in the chicken stock and water. Bring to a boil, then simmer over moderately low heat, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes. Add the chicken and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the wild rice is tender, 10 to 15 minutes longer. Stir in the cream and season with salt and pepper. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve.



Source: <https://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/chicken-and-wild-rice-soup>

Get Motivated with a School Librarian Game

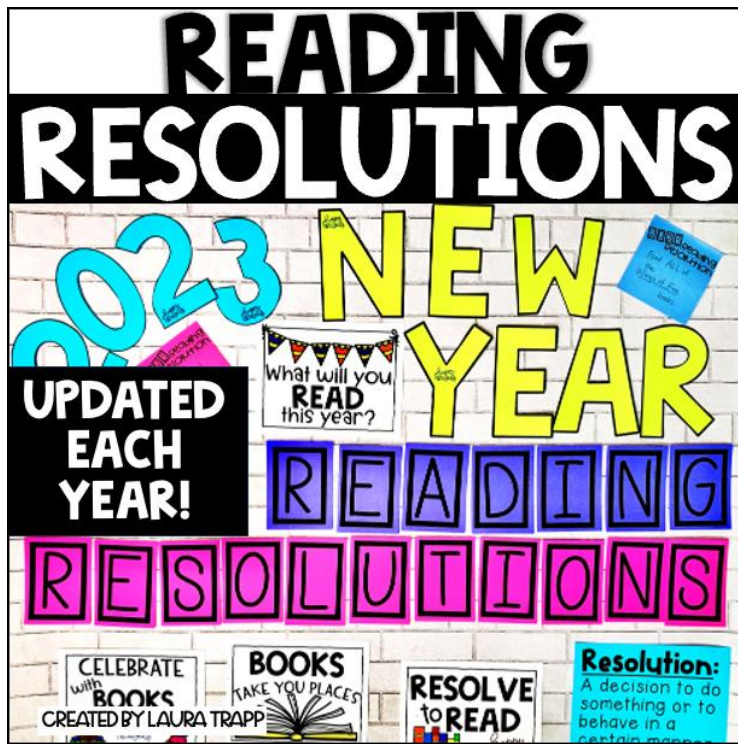


Are you a bit overwhelmed at the thought of starting the second semester? Maintaining our libraries requires so much work, sometimes it's hard to know where to start!

Never fear... we've devised a plan to help you get going... a little game of sorts. Just choose your tasks and mark them off when you've completed them... ahh!

B	I	N	G	O
I made a fun display of winter-themed books.	I helped students make a new "TBR" (to be read) list for 2025.	I ordered (or used up) some book repair supplies.	I found 3 new school librarian accounts to follow on social media.	I created a "Cozy Corner" reading area in our library.
I made my own "TBR" (to be read) list for 2025.	I shelved EVERYTHING on our return cart!	I decided on one library activity that we'll do in February.	I made a big pot of soup to use for this week's lunches.	I read one of my favorite winter picture books to a class.
I said, "Walk please" all day long!	I recently calculated my number of years until retirement.		I dusted off the tops of our library shelves.	I cleaned off my desk on January 13.
I started planning ahead for "I Love to Read" month.	I repaired a torn page or two... or twenty...	I prepped some new January bookmarks.	I downloaded the "School Resource Officer" freebie.	I reflected on the things that brought me joy in 2024.
I looked on TPT for a spring research project idea.	I ordered new books – or worked on a book list.	I took a library "shelfie" shot on January 22 and shared it on social media.	I relaxed with a well-deserved, warm beverage after school.	I felt thankful to be a school librarian!

TPT RESOURCE IDEAS FOR BUSY LIBRARIANS



Reading Resolutions

New Year Bulletin Board for 2025 for all ages!

Inspire your students to make New Year Reading Resolutions! This low-prep bulletin board kit is just what you need to help your students set their own reading goals.

Get your students talking about good books and fun reading habits after a long winter break!

From The Trapped Librarian

Media Literacy

Advertising Techniques

Teach important media literacy concepts as your students learn about advertising techniques in this engaging unit.

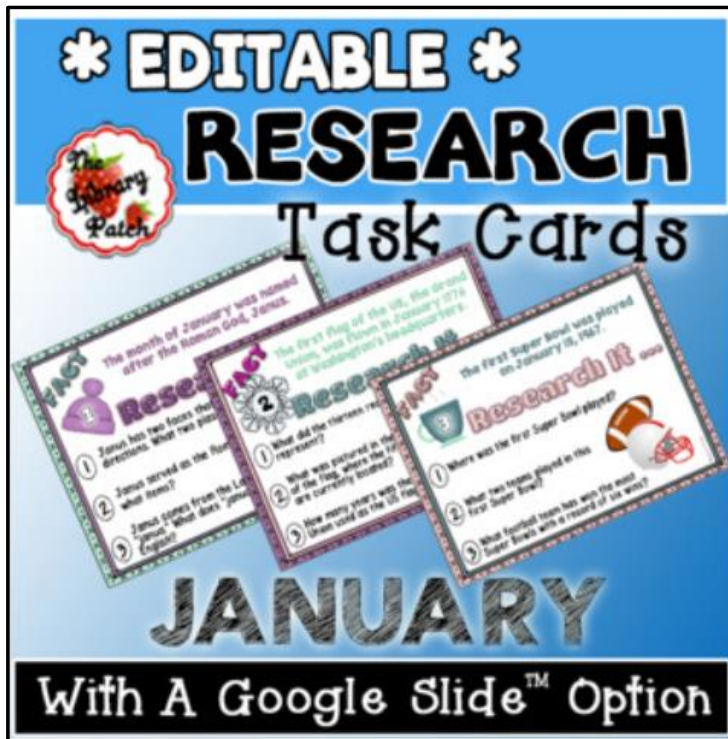
Commercials from the Big Game are always popular, so use that football excitement to liven up your library lessons!

Your students will have fun as they critically examine persuasive techniques used in advertising.

From The Trapped Librarian



MORE TPT RESOURCE IDEAS FOR BUSY LIBRARIANS



January Research Task Cards *For 3rd-5th Grade Students*

Encourage kids to practice their researching skills by finding the answers to interesting and engaging questions with these editable January research task cards.

Each one of the 20 research task cards presents a single fact about the month. Each fact is followed up with three research questions pertinent to that fact.

Each question is easily researched, and the answers could be found in multiple resources.

From The Library Patch

Winter Call Number Hunt *For 3rd-5th Grade Students*

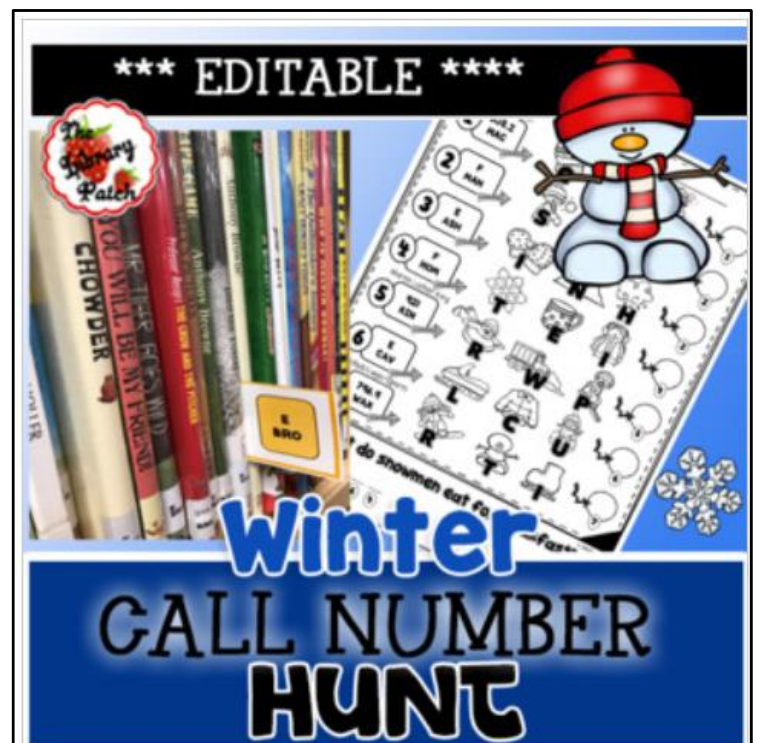
An engaging library call number activity + secret code decipher + silly riddle = ALL FUN!!

Kids need TONS of practice using call numbers to locate library books on the shelves! This scavenger hunt will have your kiddos locating a book on the shelves in the picture book, chapter book, and nonfiction sections of your elementary library!

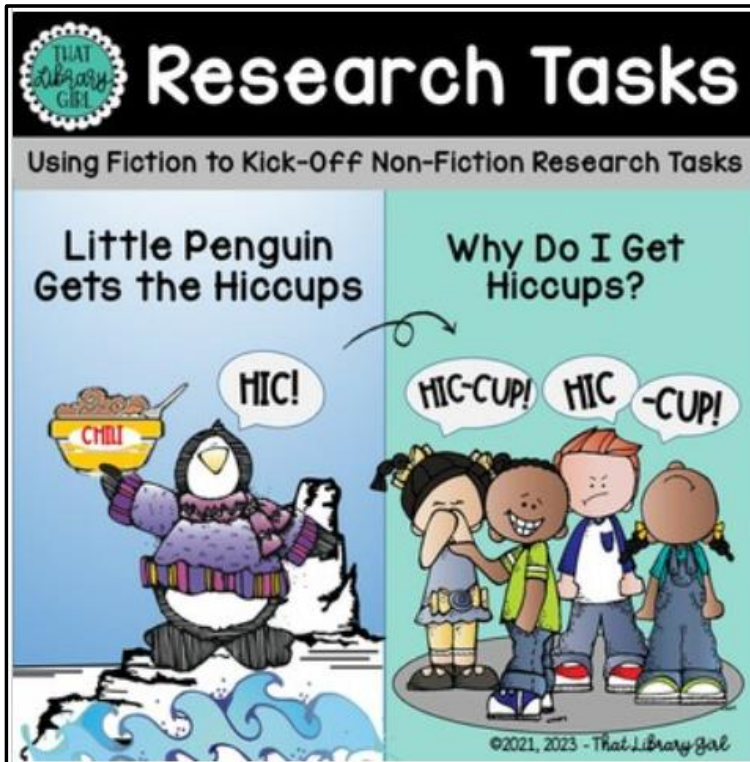
In this fun seasonal activity, students read call numbers, search for the call numbers on the shelf, and look for picture clues that will help solve fun winter riddles!

From The Library Patch

[See also, Valentine's Day Call Number Hunt](#)



MORE TPT RESOURCE IDEAS FOR BUSY LIBRARIANS



Mini Research on Why We Get Hiccups! *Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups*

When winter days tend to drag on, toss some beginning research tasks about a funny topic like hiccups into your library lesson plans!

Start off by reading the book *Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups*. Enjoy the surprise ending -- and then let the work begin! During their research, students will learn about why we hiccup -- as well as names of specific body parts.

They'll also practice:

- fact and opinion
- story elements,
- table of contents
- note-taking,
- author's purpose
- and more!

From That Library Girl

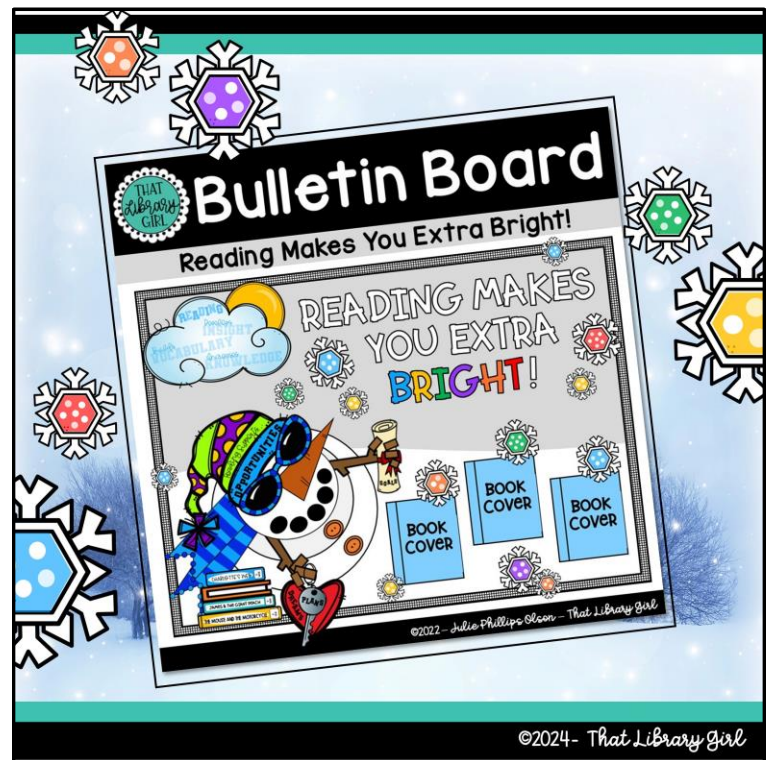
Winter "Snow-Dude" Bulletin Board *Promotes Reading All Winter Long!*

Do you love winter bulletin boards that show a snowman looking up into the sky in wonder?

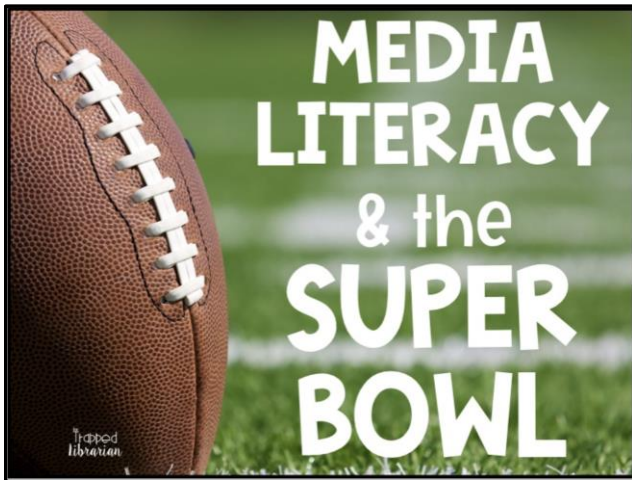
In my version, that little snow-dude is an avid reader, and he's happily sharing ALL the benefits that book lovers enjoy, while proudly proclaiming "Reading Makes You Extra BRIGHT!"

This is a bulletin board that can stay up until the spring thaw! See all the details on TPT!

From That Library Girl



SOME FREE RESOURCE IDEAS FOR YOU!



FREEBIE ALERT!

Media Literacy and the Super Bowl

As the Big Game draws near, seize the teachable moment with engaging activities to help your students critically examine TV commercials.

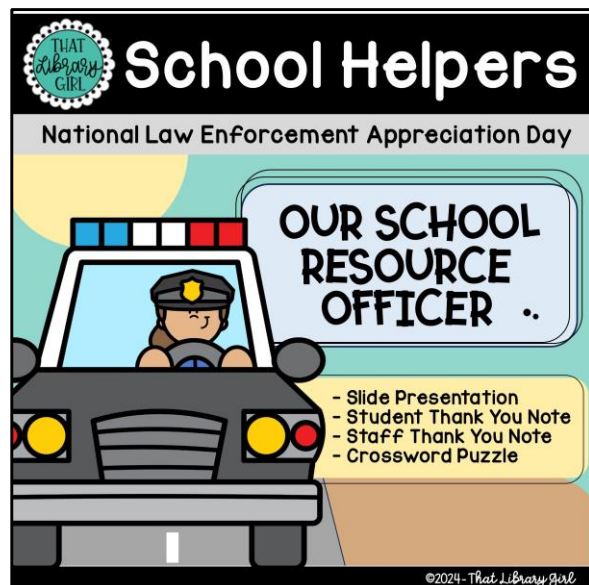
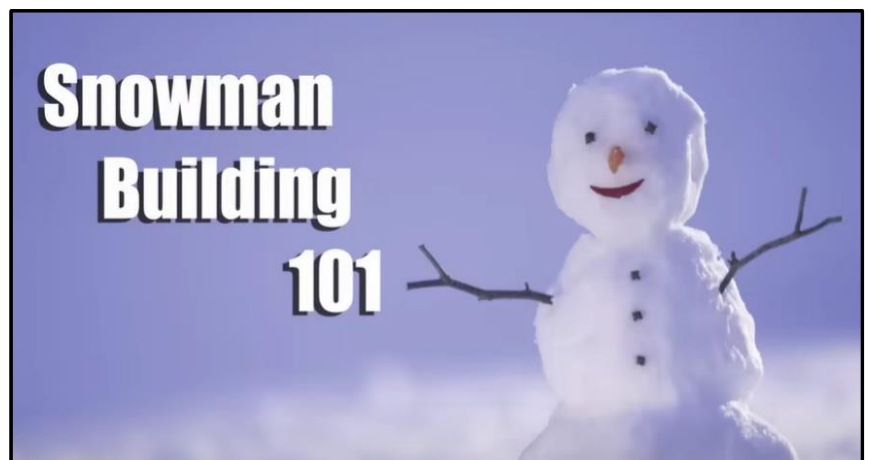
Scroll to the bottom of the article for your free Advertising Techniques printable from the Trapped Librarian.

Snowman Building 101

This fun YOUTUBE video clip describes how to build a snowman and then accessorize him (or her!).

The fast-moving clip will definitely inspire some recess activities -- if you have snow on your playground -- and it might even help southern students live vicariously during their mild, snow-less winters!

Time: 1:39 min.



A School Resource Officer Thank You

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is January 9th

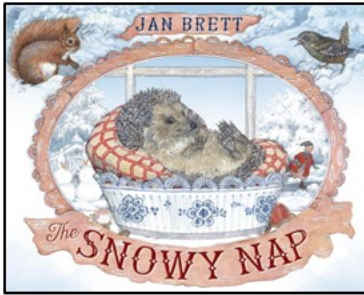
Use these slides and printables to teach about the required training and a variety of responsibilities that fall upon your school resource officer.

Finish up by having students write a brief thank you note -- and there's a card for adults to send, too. Older students can work on a crossword puzzle of related terms as well.

This is a limited-time freebie from That Library Girl.

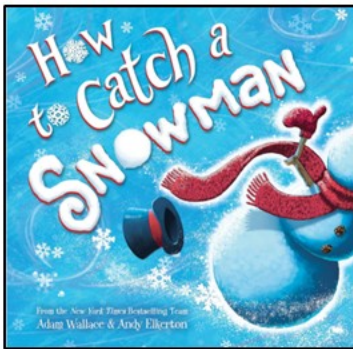
FREEBIE ALERT
through January 2025

Winter Read-Aloud Favorites



The Snowy Nap by Jan Brett

Tired of missing all the winter fun with his friends, Hedgie decides to stay awake instead of snuggling down in his burrow as usual. Then, the snowstorm begins... br-r-r-r-r! Luckily, Lisa finds him and takes him to her home so he can enjoy seeing the wonders of winter... from inside!
©2018 | Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons for Young Readers



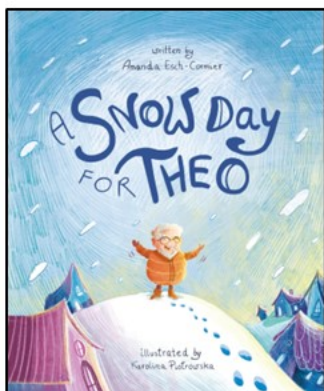
How to Catch a Snowman by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton

When "the heroes" create an amazing entry for the snowman contest, they didn't expect it to magically come to life and take off running! Can your readers help them catch it in time to compete for the winning prize?
©2020 | Published by Sourcebooks Wonderland



Fox Versus Winter by Corey R. Tabor

Fox – that wily trickster -- may have found his match in an unlikely opponent! When winter comes, Fox feels lonely and bored...some of his friends have flown away... others have gone to sleep. UGH! When will it be over?! Finally, he decides, if he can't escape winter, he can certainly fight it! (Well, maybe...)
©2020 | Greenwillow Books



A Snow Day for Theo by Amanda Esch-Cormier

During his 76 years on earth, Theo had lived in a sunny, tropical village, so he had never experienced the wonders of winter weather. One day, the weatherman shared that there was an unusual chance that the village would see a snowfall! Nobody believed him, of course...but... Theo couldn't stop imagining how much fun it would be to see snow!
©2024 | Little Adventures Press

More Winter Read-Aloud Favorites



Winter is the Warmest Season by Lauren Stringer

Use this one to teach about backing up an opinion with evidence. The narrator explains why he considers winter the warmest season with reasons such as cold chocolate milk turns to hot cocoa, fans are hidden away while radiators fire up, cats rest on laps rather than windowsills, cool summer swims become warm winter baths, and so on.

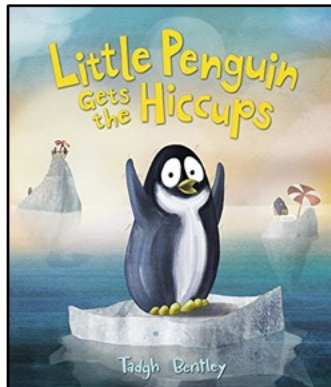
©2006 | Published by Harcourt, Inc.



The New Year's Resolution Checklist by Brittany Plumeri

This book describes what a new year's resolution is and then helps students decide upon some easy, medium, and hard self-improvement goals. This is part of a new holiday series featuring checklists.

©2024 | Published by Brittany Plumeri



Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups by Tadgh Bentley

After eating very spicy chili, Little Penguin is hit with a bad case of hiccups. Not to worry, his friend tells him that someone will be along to help soon. (As the reader begins the book, Little Penguin assumes that the reader IS the helper.) And so begins a series of old remedies to attempt a hiccup cure, including giving someone a good scare... BOO!

©2018 | Published by Balzer + Bray

[See also, That Library Girl's Mini Research Lesson on Hiccups](#)

Need support and ideas? Julie and Laura host two large Facebook groups for school librarians. Come join us!



TPT Resources for School Librarians

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tptschoollibrarians>

Library Bulletin Boards and Displays

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/librarybulletinboards>

For more book talks, find That Library Girl on social media!

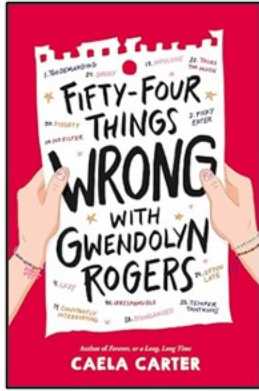


thatlibrarygirl



that.library.girl

That Library Girl is Currently Reading...



Fifty-Four Things Wrong with Gwendolyn Rogers by Caela Carter

"What's your problem?!" Well, apparently, no one knows... not Gwendolyn's mom, or her teachers, or any of the many therapists who've worked with her.

According to a confidential school report that she sneaked a peek at... there are FIFTY-FOUR things wrong with her...and Gwendolyn desperately needs a plan to get her life and her learning disabilities under control before she misses out on everything she dreams of doing. Could her mom's successful 12-step program have an effective cure for her, too?

©2021 | Published by Quill Tree Books (Recommended for grades 3-7)



Northwind by Gary Paulsen

Set in medieval Norway, a 12-year-old orphan boy flees from a deadly disease when a plague ravages the crew that had enslaved him. With raw details and descriptions, this wilderness survival adventure is another gut-wrenching read from the author of *Hatchet* and *Gone to the Woods*.

©2024 | Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Recommended for grades 4-6)



Snoozefest: the Surprising Science of Sleep by Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Although it's a daily essential for our health and happiness, our need for sleep is not fully understood by many. This fascinating, nonfiction read explains what is happening to our minds and bodies while we sleep – and it even dips into some of the mysteries of sleep like why we dream, why some people sleepwalk, and why adults AND children sometimes snore.

2021 | Published by Kids Can Press (Recommended for grades 6-9)

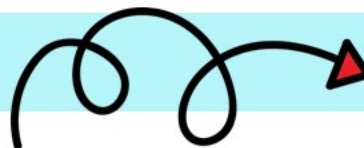


The Reappearance of Rachel Price by Holly Jackson

18-year-old Bel has forever lived under the shadow of her mom's mysterious disappearance 16 years before. Rachel has long been presumed dead, and the case is cold. Then, Bel's family agrees to cooperate with the filming of a true crime documentary. Bel can't wait for the whole production to end, so life can return to normal. Then, her mom reappears out of thin air! That's when Bel realizes that truth is relative and that her life will never be the same again.

2024 | Published by Delacorte Press (Recommended for grades 9-12)

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY!



Get ready for I Love to Read Month!

As we look ahead to the fun month of February, it's the perfect time to celebrate the magic of books and to cultivate a love of reading in our elementary students.

Need ideas? Laura has prepared a blog post to help you get your ideas flowing!

[Head over to The Trapped Librarian blog!](#)

Combining Groundhog's and Valentine's Day Fun For students in K-1 and Grades 2nd-3rd

The book *GroundHUG Day* by Anne Marie Pace is perfect to start February library lessons off right. It's a great story of friendship, party planning, a little fussing, and a big compromise that ends on a funny note.

My library center resource has K-1st grade activities that revolve around the picture book as well as a 2nd-3rd grade center activity that **explores the science behind shadows** -- with the help of a free EPIC e-book called *Discover Shadows* by Pamela Hall.

[See That Library Girl's preview on TPT for more details!](#)



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*** EDITABLE ***
RESEARCH
Task Cards
FEBRUARY
With A Google Slide™ Option

LIBRARY CATALOG
PRACTICE for **FEBRUARY**

FOR GRADES 3-5
CREATED BY LAURA TRAPP

Valentine Hearts
Book-Themed Conversation Hearts

I Loved this
Title _____
Author _____
Why I LOVED IT: _____
Heart Rating: _____

For bulletin boards, Valentine trees, wreaths, pennants, swags, give-aways and more!

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POSITIVE THOUGHTS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS



You are one of a kind.

Rest is an important part of your process.



Every season has its bright spots.



©2025 That Library Gal



The cold of winter makes spring even sweeter.



Give and gather warmth and comfort.



©2025 That Library Gal

Shine your light.



Everything that's frozen has potential to melt.



Try to make the most of the dark days, too.

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Credits:



The book covers are from



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