



Children's Chatter

Greetings from the Children's Department!

To say that this has been a strange summer is quite the understatement! By this time last year, we had already held 25 in-person programs, including two of our biggest events of the summer (the Dessert Truck Rodeo and Little Critters Petting Zoo). Now hosting large gatherings at the library is completely inconceivable. I wish I could tell you when we will resume in-person programming, but I have no idea. (Obviously, it will not be this summer.) By mid-August I will know for certain whether or not it will happen this fall. Unfortunately, it is not likely.

I do have some good news, however! We may not have in-person programs this summer, but we are hosting **Zoom Storytimes** and have "Grabbies" (grab-n-go crafts) available for any kid who visits the library. We are holding an all-ages **Reading Challenge**, and "Reading for Charity" is back for the fourth year in a row. And — best of all — once again you can reserve and check out books, so you are saved from reading the same books over and over! Read on for more details.

Remember: pandemic or no pandemic, I am your librarian, and I am here if you need me. Stay safe, stay sane, and reach out if you need anything!

Happy reading!

~Ms. Emily

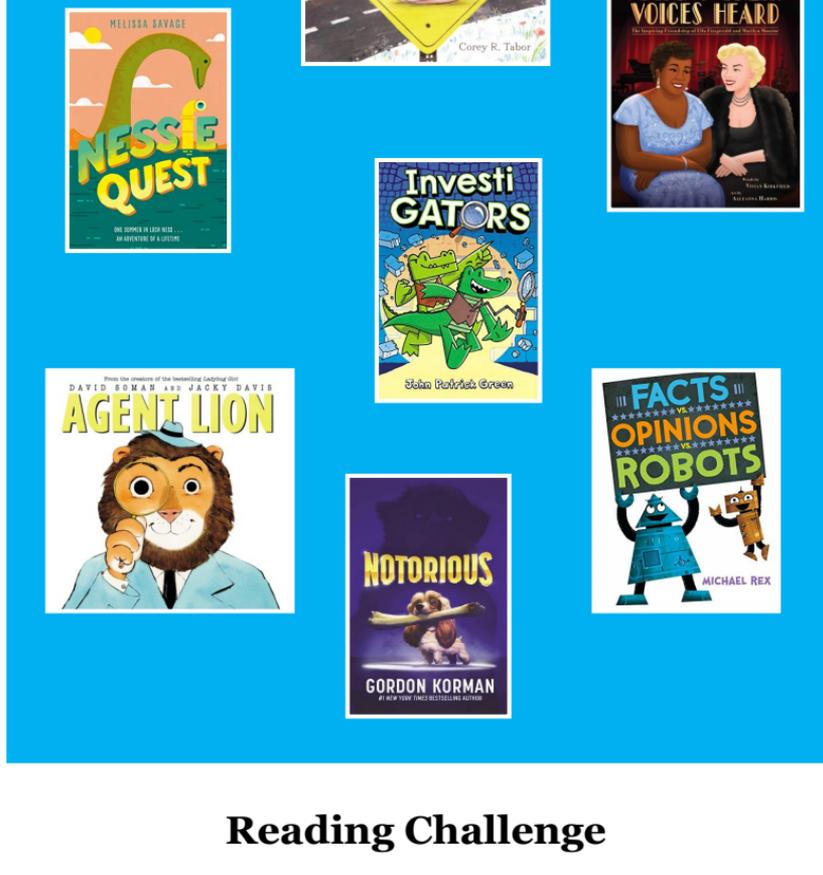
Come Visit!

As of now, the Salem Public Library is open by **appointment only**. I know it seems weird to make an appointment to visit a library, but this is the safest way for us to limit the number of people in the building. (Personally, I thought we should hire a bouncer. I was outvoted.)

Appointments are available in 45 minute time slots **Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm**. Please call us during these hours to reserve a spot. You do *not* have to make an appointment if you just want to pick up items you have on hold! Come to the side entrance (the one facing the parking lot) between 10 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday, and give us your name. We will get your books for you!

Can't make it to the library during the week? We have **contactless pickup** on Saturday and Sunday between 10 am-4 pm. Please call the library if you are interested in this service.

Have questions? Check our [website](#) for more details or give us a call!



Reading Challenge

This year our Reading Challenge is **open to all ages**. This gives everyone in the family a chance to win a gift card from one of the businesses shown below! Every challenge you complete earns you an entry in a monthly drawing. The Reading Challenge will continue through the end of December, so you have lots of chances to win.

You can find the challenge list and entry form on our [website](#). Happy reading!

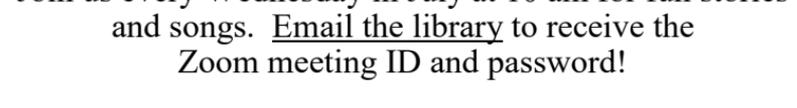


Reading for Charity

Vote in our 4th annual Reading for Charity contest!

Which charity will win the \$500 grand prize? You decide! **Every book** you read this summer counts as a vote, and **everyone** in the family can vote!

You can access the ballot on our [website](#). The contest ends August 31, so read on!



Zoom & Grabbies

We are having a ton of fun at our **Zoom Storytimes!** Join us every Wednesday in July at 10 am for fun stories and songs. [Email the library](#) to receive the Zoom meeting ID and password!

Visiting the library with your kiddos? Grab a **Grabbie!** These fun crafts are perfect entertainment for a hot summer day.

Too much screen time? DO something!



Final thoughts...

“Read. Read anything. Read the things they say are good for you, and the things they claim are junk. You’ll find what you need to find. Just read.”

~Neil Gaiman

Children's Chatter

How are you doing?

Before you answer “fine” to the above question, I invite you to pause for a moment and reflect: how are you *really* doing? Odds are pretty good that the answer is not “fine”. Very few of us are fine right now. And that’s okay. We are all doing the best we can during these difficult and uncertain times.

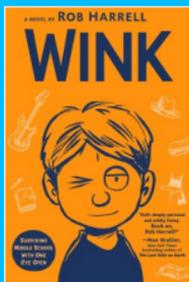
As we inch closer to reopening the library, I ask you to please remember that: **We are all doing the best we can.** When the library reopens — which will likely be in mid-June — it will not resemble the library you left in March. New policies and procedures will be in place to keep you and the staff safe. Many people will be unhappy or anxious about these changes, and that’s okay. You are allowed to be unhappy. We simply ask that you remember that we are doing the best we can, that everyone around you is doing the best they can, and that acts of compassion and kindness will solve more of the world’s woes than acts of anger.

Unfortunately, I cannot report reopening specifics right now, but hopefully that will change soon. That information will be made available on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) when it is finalized. You can also [email](#) us at any time or sign up to receive email notifications from the [Children’s Department](#). We will try to respond to you in a timely manner.

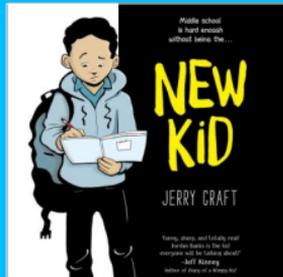
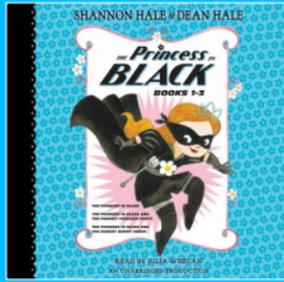
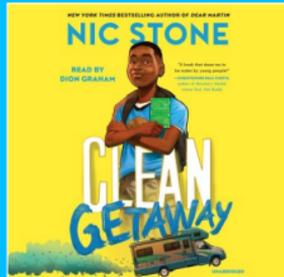
Hang in there, everyone. We will get through this!

~Ms. Emily

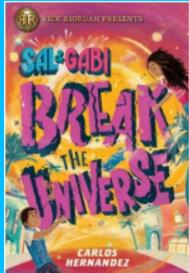
I’m finally catching up on my reading!
So far I’ve read...



...and listened to...



...and am currently reading...



What about you?

Online Resources

If you have spent any time online since the virus hit, then you have probably been bombarded with web links for a million online resources. It’s a lot to keep up with! I don’t want to overwhelm you even more, so here are just five important websites to add to your list:

Salem Public Library: www.salemlibrary.info

Roanoke Valley Libraries e-catalog: rvl.overdrive.com

Salem Public Library Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/SalemVaLibrary

Virginia Department of Health: www.vdh.virginia.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov

Children's Chatter

The Power of Play

We are all about play here at the Salem Public Library. We provide toys in the children's area, a dino dig in the Children's Garden, regular board game programs for elementary-aged kids, and end every storytime with a period of unstructured play.

Why all the goofing around, you ask? Great question!

Believe it or not, **play is educational**. Through play children learn cognitive skills, like problem solving, and develop their social skills. It builds self-control and persistence, both of which are vital for academic success. Play encourages creativity and experimentation, too, and it is through play that children make sense of the world around them.

Play is healthy. It helps build physical abilities, from gross motor skills like running and jumping to fine motor skills like fitting tiny Lego pieces together. It provides an outlet for stress and anxiety.

Most importantly, **play is fun**.

That alone makes it a worthwhile activity for everyone.

This is why play is so important to us, and why we encourage it as much as we encourage reading.

Hope you have a playful and bookful Spring!

~Ms. Emily

January & February Program Recap

2020 is off to a busy start! We kicked it off with **Bookies & Cookies** and a **Lego Block Party**, and then launched right into weeks of **storytime** and after-school activities like **Barks & Books** and **Gimme Games**. We had two Saturday musical events featuring the talented **Opera Roanoke** and **Alma Ensemble**, and five rambunctious weeks of **Saturday Story Explorers**.

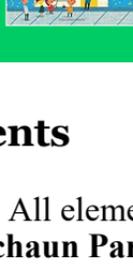
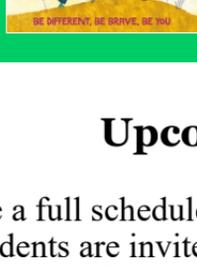
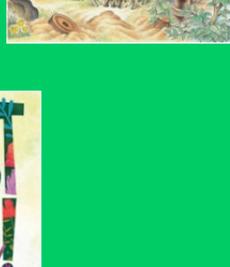
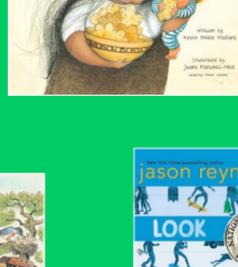
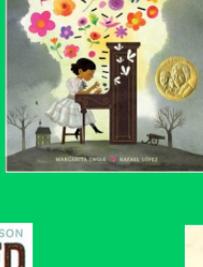
In between all these events, we visited Kindergarten classes at *six* elementary schools! 146 students returned library card applications, and we mailed them invitations to our first-ever **Kindergarten Library Card Party**.

The party was a huge success, and we cannot wait to do it again next year!

Overall, we held **54** children's and family programs with a total attendance of **1,756**. That's an attendance increase of **38%** over the same two months last year! Thank you all for visiting the Salem Public Library.

Hope to see you again this Spring!

2020 Award-Winning Books



Upcoming Events

We have a full schedule this Spring! All elementary-aged students are invited to a **Leprechaun Party** on St. Patrick's Day (wear green!), and can read with a therapy dog every Thursday in March during **Barks & Books**. Kids of all ages can come to our **Lego Block Parties** every Tuesday in April, and children five and under have weekly **storytimes** from March 24-April 29.

You will want to frequent our Facebook page or website once the weather warms up to find out if a "Pop-up" Library on the Lawn event is taking place!

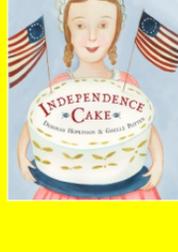
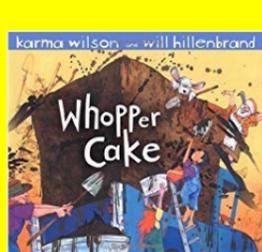
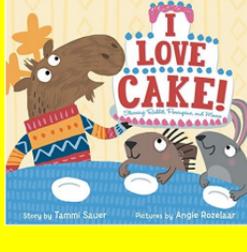
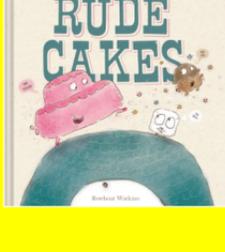
You never know when we will pull out the lawn games and bubbles...

You can read more about these events and others by visiting our [Facebook](#) page, or asking a librarian. Many programs have age limits; please make note of these before you come. Contact us if you have questions!

Book Suggestion?

Is there a book you want to read but can't find at the library? Did you read a great book and think it would be a perfect addition for our children's collection? Let us know! We try to accommodate patron requests as often as we can. Email us at library@salemva.gov with "Children's book recommendation" in the subject line!

These books take the cake!



Children's January & February Circulation Highlights

You have checked out **9,452** items so far this year! Here are the top circulating items:

Picture books: 2,808
 Nonfiction & biographies: 1,638
 Fiction: 1,364
 DVDs: 1,137
 I Can Read: 631
 New books: 491
 Boardbooks: 474
 Graphic novels: 402
 Audiobooks & read alongs: 216

Final thoughts...

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

~Dr. Seuss

Children's Chatter

What is Your Reading Resolution?

Happy New Year!

So tell us — what's *your* Reading Resolution for 2020? Even if resolutions aren't your thing, I do encourage you to set a reading goal this year for you and your child.

(Yes, for yourself, too!) Even small goals make an enormous difference: reading just one picture book a day adds up to over 300 in a year; reading just ten pages of a chapter book totals 3,660 pages in a year. Wow!

Try to read as many physical books as you can, too. Studies have shown that reading comprehension increases when we read a physical book instead of an e-book. Additionally, reading the real deal helps you set a better example for your children. They might not realize you are reading a book when they see you looking at your phone! **Reading is still reading**, however. If you prefer e-books, or if that format is the most convenient at the time (like on trips), then go for it!

Wishing you a year of great reads!

~Ms. Emily

2019 Program Recap

2019 was a busy year! We hosted several large events, like the **Gingerbread Festival** and the **Dessert Truck Rodeo**, that pulled in hundreds of people. In between these hugely popular programs were numerous **storytimes, crafts, parties, and outreach** events.

Overall, we held **227** children's and family programs with a total attendance of **9,810**. We could not have done this without your support and participation! Thank you!

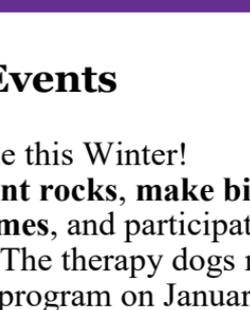
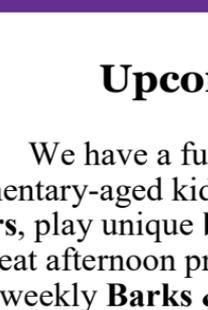
Children's 2019 Circulation Highlights

You checked out **61,218** items last year!

Here are the top circulating items:

Picture books: 16,816
Fiction: 10,346
DVDs: 9,079
Nonfiction & biographies: 8,698
I Can Read: 4,218
New books: 3,071
Boardbooks: 2,847
Graphic novels: 2,427
Audiobooks & read alongs: 1,730

Most popular new books of 2019:



Upcoming Events

We have a full schedule this Winter!

Elementary-aged kids can **paint rocks, make bird feeders**, play unique **board games**, and participate in other great afternoon programs. The therapy dogs return for our weekly **Barks & Books** program on January 16.

Children five and under have weekly **storytimes** throughout January and February, and our ever-popular **Saturday Storytimes** return on February 8.

We're also beating the winter blahs with two free musical events — *in* the library! Join us for a stunning performance by **Opera Roanoke** on February 1 and **"A Celebration of Dance"** with Alma Ensemble on February 8. Both events are family-friendly, so bring everyone along!

You can read more about these events and others by visiting our [Facebook page](#), or asking a librarian. Many programs have age limits; please make note of these before you come. Contact us if you have questions!

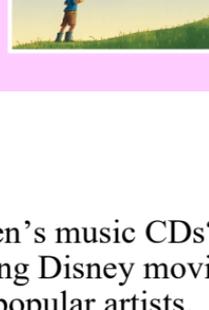
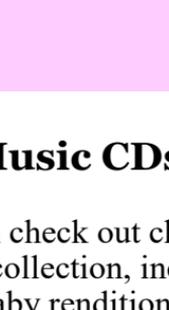
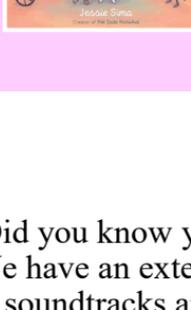
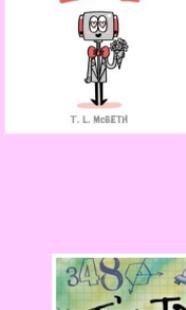
Kindergarten Library Card Party

The Salem Public Library, Main Library, and Fincastle Library are all hosting **Kindergarten Library Card Parties** at the end of February! This invitation-only event is open to students currently enrolled in Kindergarten. The Salem Public Library is sending home information about the party to all Salem Kindergarteners during the month of January. We can't wait to celebrate reading with you!

If your Kindergartener lives outside Salem and wishes to attend the party, please contact us by the end of January.

Thank you!

February is the month of LOVE!



Music CDs

Did you know you can check out children's music CDs? We have an extensive collection, including Disney movie soundtracks and lullaby renditions of popular artists. Fun fact: the most frequently checked out children's CD in 2019 was "Rockabye Baby Guns n' Roses"!

Take a break from "Baby Shark" and check out a CD today!

Final thoughts...

"Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world."

~Napoléon Bonaparte

Children's Chatter

Happy Fall!

The heat of summer is finally behind us! These shorter days and cooler temperatures are best enjoyed with a warm blanket and a good book. Fortunately, lots of new books hit our shelves last month, so you have plenty to choose from! We know it can be tough finding time to read during the busy holiday season. Don't worry if you have to shorten your reading routine every once in a while. Even just five minutes before bedtime is better than nothing! Please reach out to us if you need assistance finding books, want reading advice, or have any other questions.

Happy reading!

~Ms. Emily

Win a Free Book!

Complete the Picture Book Challenge and get a free book! Read one book from all 23 Picture Book categories, fill out an entry form, and turn it in by **November 30**. Pick up an entry form near "Favorite Friends" in the Children's Area!

Heard a good book lately?

Audiobooks are a fantastic way to fit reading into a busy schedule. We have a large selection ranging in length and difficulty, from *The Magic Treehouse* to *Harry Potter*.

Even young children will listen to a long book, so give one a try! We also recommend Read Alongs for beginning and non-readers. The story includes a "chiming" sound when it is time to turn the page, so they can follow along on their own. Visit our [website](#) for a list of our favorite audiobooks!

September & October Circulation Highlights

You checked out **9,862** items in two months! Here are the top circulating items:

Picture books:	2,915
Fiction:	1,483
DVDs:	1,380
Nonfiction & biographies:	1,287
I Can Read:	648
New books:	567
Boardbooks:	544
Holiday books:	426

NEW!



September & October Program Recap

New and familiar faces joined us this Fall during storytime! **Story Explorers** consistently pulled in the biggest crowds, and several babies joined us for their first library experiences during **Bouncy Baby Time**. Our four weekly storytimes brought in a total of 599 attendees.

Wow!

The kids had a blast making spooky shadow puppets at **Kids Zone** in October. Gales of laughter were heard coming out of the room during **Gimme Games!** Every Thursday the **Barks & Books** therapy dogs spread joy among participants. We are so thankful for the wonderful volunteers who make this program possible.

We are thankful for you, too! We had **795** people attend **36** programs, and we loved seeing all of you. Thank you for including the library in your busy lives!

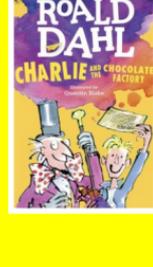
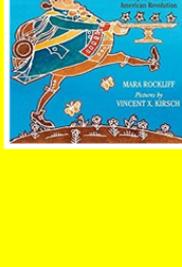
Upcoming Events

Our fantastic Fall programming continues through mid-November. Elementary-aged kids can read to a therapy dog during **Barks & Books**, play Yeti in My Spaghetti at **Gimme Games!**, or make a puppy puppet during **Kids Zone**. Children five and under have weekly **storytimes** through November 13.

We switch gears in December, offering several special events instead of our regular programs. The biggest shindig of the year is the **Gingerbread Festival** on December 7. Be sure to join us for fun Winter Break events like the annual **Box Party** on December 26!

You can read more about these events and others by visiting our [Facebook page](#) or asking a librarian. Many programs have age limits; please make note of these before you come. Contact us if you have questions!

Holidays making you hungry? Read one of these delicious books!



Library Elf

Can't remember when your books are due? Sign up for **Library Elf!** This **FREE** service texts or emails you when your books are due and holds have arrived.

You can even put multiple cards on the same account, making it easier to keep track of your kids' library cards. Simplify your library life — sign up today!

Final thoughts...

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road.
They are the destination, and the journey.
They are home."

~Anna Quindlen

Children's Chatter

Greetings from the Children's Department!

Welcome to the first issue of our new bimonthly newsletter! Every other month, this newsletter will feature stories about the Salem Public Library's Children's Department — event recaps, upcoming programs, recommended reading, new books, and more. Our goal is to provide you with useful information and insight into the inner workings of the library. Feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or suggestions!

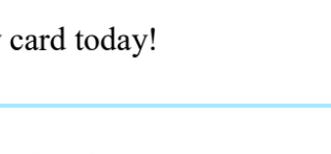
Happy reading!

~Ms. Emily

September is Library Card Sign Up Month...

...and we're rolling out NEW Milestone Cards to celebrate! These cards were designed by local artists specifically for children and teens. At three different "milestones" — ages **5**, **12**, and **18** — all youth are eligible to pick a new card if they choose.

Check out the new designs:



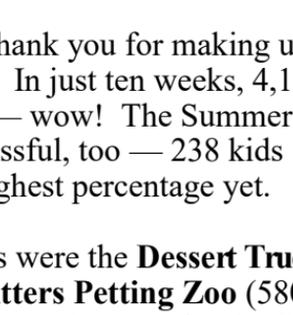
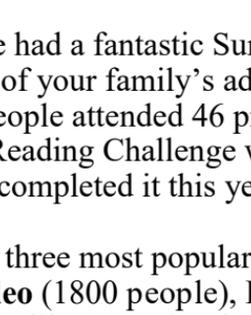
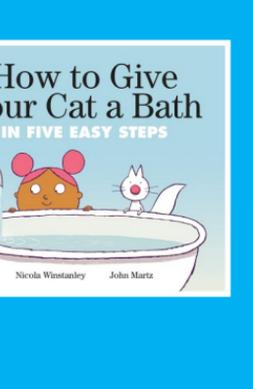
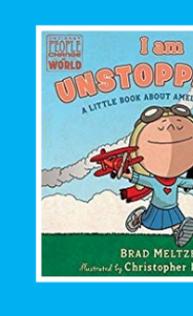
Sign up for a library card today!

Summer Circulation

You checked out piles and piles of books, movies, music CDs, and audiobooks: over **18,600** items! **WOW**. Picture books and fiction were the most popular items, but nonfiction and biographies held their own, too. Some summer circulation highlights:

Picture books:	4,681
Fiction:	3,514
DVDs:	2,752
Nonfiction & biographies:	2,442
I Can Read:	1,560
Graphic novels:	904
Board books:	903
Audiobooks & read alongs:	675

NEW!



Summer Recap

We had a fantastic Summer! Thank you for making us part of your family's adventures. In just ten weeks, 4,157 people attended 46 programs — wow! The Summer Reading Challenge was successful, too — 238 kids completed it this year, the highest percentage yet.

Our three most popular programs were the **Dessert Truck Rodeo** (1800 people), **Little Critters Petting Zoo** (580), and Mill Mountain Theatre's "**Peter Rabbit**" (163). Our three **Library on the Lawn** events were also well attended (240 people total). The most popular storytime this summer was **The Young & the Restless**, a title which sums up the summer nicely.

Thanks again for visiting us! See you this Fall!

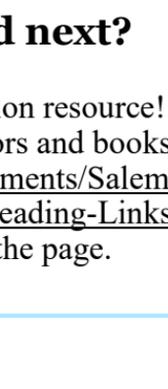
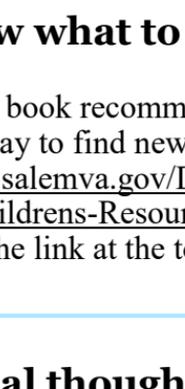
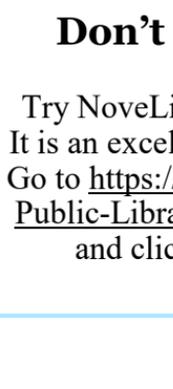
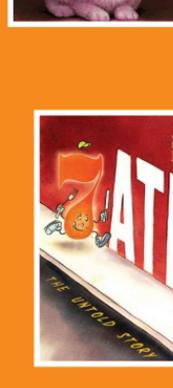
Upcoming Events

Our fantastic Fall programming for school-age children will kick off on September 19th with the return of **Barks & Books**. Then in October we're introducing a new monthly program called **Gimme Games!** for grades K-5. We have a pile of new board games we can't wait to play with you!

Our Fall **storytime** starts the fourth week of September. Currently we offer four different storytimes a week, on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, for age groups ranging from infant to 5 years old.

You can read more about these events and others by visiting our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or picking up a calendar in the library. Many programs have age limits; please make note of these before you come. Contact us if you have questions!

Fall is a great time to read something mysterious! Try one of these:



Don't know what to read next?

Try NoveList, the book recommendation resource! It is an excellent way to find new authors and books. Go to <https://www.salemva.gov/Departments/Salem-Public-Library/Childrens-Resources/Reading-Links> and click on the link at the top of the page.

Final thoughts...

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift."

~Kate DiCamillo