Welcome to the first issue of the Scoop published by yours truly. Some of you know me from working in public libraries in Idaho or as part of the Idaho Library Association. I am looking forward to meeting the rest of you out there in library-land over the next several years in my role here at ICfL. Until then, help me get to know you by submitting a bit for the Scoop or just dropping me a line. I love hearing about all of the amazing things that staff in Idaho libraries are doing.

Spring into a Good Conference

Being new to the Idaho Commission for Libraries, I am spending a lot of time training and in need of professional development. Fortunately, there are many opportunities out there. The Idaho Library Association is wrapping up planning of their regional spring conferences. These one day events offer a showcase of innovative happenings in Idaho libraries and an opportunity to connect with library staff. For more information visit the Idaho Library Association’s website.

Public Library Association is holding their annual conference this year in Denver on April 5-9, 2016. This is a great place to learn some new tricks if you are working in a public library. Have lunch with Sherman Alexie or Nikki Giovanni, attend an Every Child Ready to Read preconference, and more.

Idaho Conference on Youth and Children’s Literature and Writing

This conference is for readers, writers, teachers and librarians of youth and children’s literature. Speakers include authors N.D. Wilson and Valynne Maetani. Saturday, April 16 at Boise State University.
Library to Library

Make It at the Library

At the end of February, staff from 16 libraries across the state of Idaho came to Boise and participated in the annual Make It training. ICFL’s Make It at Your Library program is in its fourth year of providing training and resources for libraries wanting to dabble in Maker Culture and the plethora of programing ideas that go along with it. While this program started out as a technology-focused training for library staff working with teens, ICFL is changing it up a bit this year. We realize that Maker Culture is not just about 3D printing and robots, but about providing experiential opportunities for customers of all ages. Applications for next year’s program will be open in the fall. If your library is in need of ideas for Making, check out Make it @ your library or like our Facebook page.

Family Passes = Family Learning and Family Fun

Lizard Butte Library in Marsing is blazing the trail with a program that allows families to check out passes to the Discovery Center of Idaho. Janna Streibel, Lizard Butte’s library director, heard of libraries in other states providing passes to local museums. She spoke with the Development Officer at the Discovery Center, Diana Burrell, about the possibility of developing a program like this in Idaho. Burrell had been applying for grants to develop a program that would provide free passes to organizations but was not selected for funding. She encouraged Janna to apply for grants on her own, which she did. She was successful in being awarded $6,000 in grant money from two different sources to buy family and individual passes to the Discovery Center.

A yearly pass costs $1,200, plus an administrative fee. The library purchased two family passes to circulate in their community. They have enough money to purchase two more passes but are waiting to see how circulation goes. They may wait and purchase two more next year to extend the program. Janna hoped to be able to buy more passes for a larger range of distribution, but is pleased that families of any size can go to the museum for free.

Passes can be checked out for a week at a time and patrons can reserve them on a waiting list. The pass will be held for up to a day after the reservation date and then is put back into circulation if it’s not picked up. Individuals or families can check out passes quarterly, as the goal is to allow as many people as possible to use them. Fines are in place to encourage timely returns and no losses. It is $10 per day if the pass is returned late and $50 if the pass is lost. The passes are laminated to allow for heavy usage.
The program kicked off in January of this year and patrons are thrilled to have access to the passes. The passes make it affordable for a family to drive to Boise and spend the day exploring and enjoying the Discovery Center at their leisure. General admission is $10, and a Family Membership can be purchased for $90, so being able to check out a pass from the library is a real savings. It provides an opportunity to visit the Discovery Center for families who may not otherwise have the means to do so.

Meridian Library District circulates a pass for a family of four to attend the Basque Museum. It is a part of their Basque Culture Kit which includes books, CDs, DVDs and artifacts, as well as the museum pass. The artifacts include a flag, dancer’s shoes, a beret, a dancer’s belt, and a doll in a Basque dance costume. The library purchased these items from the museum and they donated the family pass for the kit. The kit is listed in their collections catalog and is available for a two week checkout period. It is a popular item, having been circulated 14 times since June 2015. Passes to the Basque Museum are normally $5 for adults and $3 for children.

**Apply by April 22 for the My First Books Program (2016-2017)**

My First Books is a Read to Me program that has been successfully implemented since 1997. Formerly titled "Read to Me First Book," this program strengthens partnerships between public libraries and local schools, preschools, Head Start sites, and child care providers. The program is designed to increase "underserved" children’s access to quality print materials and strengthen family reading practices at home.

Libraries partner with a local child care provider or school and do outreach storytimes each month from September through May. The ICfL provides books to give to the children each month so they can build their home libraries.

*Continue reading…*

To see program objectives and requirements visit [http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book](http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book). Only publicly-funded public libraries in Idaho are eligible to apply.
**Young Adult Corner**

**Teen Tech Week**

Teen Tech Week will be celebrated March 6-12, 2016. This year’s theme is “Create it at your library.” While ICFL’s participation deadline has passed. You can still download free graphics from YALSA. [Sign up here.](http://www.yalsa.org/) Watch for voting later in the month as Idaho libraries submit their cool programming ideas and we vote for the top three. If you are struggling for programming ideas, take a look [here.](http://www.yalsa.org/)

**March Madness: Battle of the Books**

![March Madness: Battle of the Books](image)

Basketball frenzy is heating up on the backcourt. Why not get in the zone and use the tournament style format to have your very own battle of the books. It’s a slam dunk! School Library Journal’s [recent article](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/2016/02/02/battle-of-the-books/) is the fast break needed to get you in the paint. No need to flop or foul, whether you are in a public or school library. If you need a roster of teen books to get started? Check out [YALSA’s Best of 2015 lists.](http://www.yalsa.org/bestof)

If the shot clock is running down and you feel like the full court press is on, participate in [SLJ’s Battle of the Books](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/2016/02/02/battle-of-the-books/). You can use their titles and have your kids participate in a nationwide contest. Anyway you play it, it’s a buzzer beater of a good time!

**Encourage Teens to Participate in the CSLP Teen Video Challenge!**

Teens who create a 30- to 90-second video promoting summer reading at the public library, including their interpretation of the 2016 CSLP teen slogan “Get in the Game--Read” can win $150, and their public library will receive prizes worth at least $50 from CSLP and Demco/Upstart. Entries are due March 12, 2016. The contest is sponsored by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), and this year the Idaho contest is organized by our friends at the Idaho Library Association. See contest rules, entry forms, and resources at [http://idaholibraries.org/idaho-teen-video-contest/](http://idaholibraries.org/idaho-teen-video-contest/).

**School Zone**

**Professional Development for those Interested in Starting a Maker Program Available through School Library Journal!**

Lead the Change is offering a four-week course for those interested in Making in the library. This is the third installment of this training, and included in registration is access to the previous two courses. This is no regular webinar series; instead it is a class with guest speakers, interactive sessions and small group work led by experienced facilitators. This training is not free, but for those who are serious about a Maker
program, it may well be worth the investment. Classes begin March 9th. For more information, visit www.slj.com/maker-workshop, and for registration, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/maker-workshop-tickets-20975625661?aff=SLJLanding.

Camas County School District Receives Five New Cube 3D Printers through YALSA Program!

Good news! Maker programs are not limited to big school districts and libraries. Smaller districts can take advantage of the STEAM benefits of making, too. Librarian Shirley Cobble and Camas County schools were able to kick start a maker program that includes all ages and integrates language arts, math, science, and other subjects, while supporting the needs of the Camas County business community. Read the article here!

Kindle Short Stories for those who Can’t Get Enough Rick Riordan:

Rick Riordan is one busy guy. Not only does he release a new adventure or two every year, he has been writing short stories for Kindle featuring Carter Kane, Percy Jackson, Annabeth Chase, and Sadie Kane! The four heroes battle new monsters in stories that can be part of your ebook collection for $1.99 each.

Titles include:
- *The Son of Sobek* with Carter Kane and Percy Jackson
- *The Staff of Serapis* with Annabeth Chase and Sadie Kane

In other news from Olympus, a new series from Riordan kicks off with The Trials of Apollo, Book 1, *The Hidden Oracle* in May, 2016. In addition, the next installment from Asgard will arrive in October with *Magnus Chase: The Hammer of Thor*.

Summer Summit Update:

Summer Summit 2016 for Idaho public school librarians is scheduled for July 19-21 in beautiful Coeur d’Alene! We are just about ready to open registration, so watch The Scoop, the ICfL website, and LibIdaho for registration news.

Letters About Literature News:

Thank you to all the librarians and teachers whose students submitted entries in the Letters About Literature contest this year. The letters from Idaho that cleared the first two rounds of judging at the Library of Congress have arrived at our office for rounds 3 and 4. Idaho’s total entries were up from last year by about 20 percent. Well done! We are eagerly reading and sorting now and should have winners selected soon. Stay tuned!
Low Hanging Fruit:
March’s edition of Low Hanging Fruit is about informal learning, a hot topic now in education. Check out page one with an article and related resources, and then add your own local news and information on page two. Add or subtract the elements, insert your own headings and, (voila!) a customized newsletter from your library is ready for your faculty. Check it out at http://libraries.idaho.gov/low-hanging-fruit and send us your feedback about what you like and how to make Low Hanging Fruit work better for you at Jeannie.standal@libraries.idaho.gov.

March’s Nonfiction Book:
March is Women’s History Month! For some wonderful biographies on women, check out http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/non-fiction-books-month. As it turns out, four of the last five books in this ongoing project have been biographies about women. Although there are more very interesting biographies (just read a fine picture book about Coco Chanel last week), five out of six seems excessive. Lest this list become predictable, a change of genre is in order! We are moving on to rats; Dirty Rats, at that!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Idaho Libraries Encouraged to Apply for Día de los niños Books
El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day), known as Día, is a celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates every year on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy and reading fun for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Día events support literacy and bridge cultures through bilingual storytimes, family literacy fairs, community events, and other programs that encourage family reading and increased understanding of other cultures. Idaho public and school libraries are encouraged to work with at least one local partner to host a Día event and work to reach out to families who might not be library users. Libraries that host events and complete a Día application by April 4, 2016 will receive books for participating families and posters to help promote events.

Register

D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read
In celebration of Beverly Cleary’s birthday on April 12, school and libraries across the nation will be joining in the fun. Visit the official website for upcoming ideas and events.
Who can tell me the literary reference for D.E.A.R.?
TIPS AND TOOLS

Eastern Idaho Grant Cycle Open

The Idaho Community Foundation and the Idaho Future Fund are accepting applications from libraries in eastern Idaho until April 1. Idaho school libraries should consider applying for grants of up to $20,000 from the Idaho Future Fund. See www.idcomfdn.org/document.doc?id=745 for more information.

LearnStorm Underway in Idaho

Over 30,000 Idaho students have registered for the LearnStorm Math Challenge. Libraries can encouraged students in grades 3-12 to participate. Students can sign up any time. Additional resources include:

- Encourage students: see ideas from teachers on the Forums
- Create a your own LearnStorm banner
- Print Handouts and Posters

If you have any questions about how libraries can support LearnStorm, please contact Stephanie at ICfL, 1-800-458-3271.

Literacy Grants for Libraries

Libraries looking for funds to better serve the needs of under-served populations might consider a grant from Better World Books. Applications for grants up to $15,000 are due on April 1, 2016.

First Book Open eBooks App

Last week the White House announced that the Open eBooks app is now available for iOS and Android smartphones and tablets. This app, part of the White House ConnectED initiative, allows youth in low-income communities to access thousands of free eBooks on smartphones or tablets.

First Book is providing full access to Open eBooks to every educator in its Network. If you work at a library that serves at least 70% of children from low-income families, and your library hosts a program specifically focused on supporting these youth, you may sign up with First Book at http://firstbook.org/openebooks. Once signed up, librarians and educators can request access codes for Open eBooks at http://fbmarketplace.org/openebooks.

Open eBooks is an app containing thousands of popular and award-winning titles that are free for children from in-need households. These eBooks can be read without checkouts or holds. The goal of Open eBooks is to encourage a love of reading and serve as a gateway to children reading even more often, whether in school, at libraries, or through other eBook reading apps.
Open eBooks is a partnership between Digital Public Library of America, The New York Public Library, and First Book, with content support from Baker & Taylor. This effort is made possible by generous commitments of publishers, with funding support provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

**Celebrate Ezra Jack Keats' Centennial**

This year marks the 100th birthday of the late children’s book author-illustrator Ezra Jack Keats, born March 11, 1916. In honor of Keats’ centennial, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation has planned a year-long birthday celebration, including special events, performances, and activities at schools, libraries, and cultural institutions around the country. A Keats Birthday Kit is available at no cost and will remain online throughout 2016. It features illustrated, printable PDFs that are suitable for hanging up or handing out. [www.ezra-jack-keats.org/h/keats-birthday-kit/](http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/h/keats-birthday-kit/)

**28th Annual Mini-Grant Proposals with a Keats Birthday Twist**

The 28th Annual Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant Program celebrates Keats with a call for proposals that reflect the work and vision of the program’s namesake. Approximately 60 grants of up to $500 each will be awarded to qualifying teachers and librarians at public schools and libraries across the country. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2016, and decisions will be emailed to all applicants in early May, allowing educators to plan for the next academic year. To learn more about the grants, including this year’s criteria: [www.ezra-jack-keats.org/section/ezra-jack-keats-mini-grant-program-for-public-libraries-public-schools/](http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/section/ezra-jack-keats-mini-grant-program-for-public-libraries-public-schools/)

Additional information and resources are on the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation website: [www.ezra-jack-keats.org/](http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/)

**SUMMER READING NEWS**

**Don’t Miss Out on Great Free Backpacks for Students in Your Community!**

The ICfL will provide backpacks for each student supporting the importance of maintaining a consistent reading routine over the summer. Here are the details:

- Classroom visits, assemblies, school family events, and field trips to the public library are all considered "school visits."
- Junior high schools can qualify, due to special funding
- Preschools, daycares, Head Start and other community programs do not qualify for this outreach option.
- No limit to the number of schools with which the library may visit.
- Public libraries and community libraries may apply.
• Applicants will need to submit enrollment numbers for each school.
• This offer is part of our Bright Futures “School Visits” program, and applicants must agree to all program requirements.

Learn More/Apply

Free 2016 Public Service Announcements: Order Now

As Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) members our state is allowed to order a limited supply of Public Service Announcement (PSA) promotional materials free from the CSLP for the Children’s On Your Mark, Get Set, Read 2016 summer program. The primary Public Service Announcements are each 30 seconds in length and produced in English and Spanish. There will also be additional promotional spots featuring the National Summer Reading Champion, Kate DiCamillo! These spots will be included on the same DVD as the primary PSA.

We've ordered 12 copies of the On Your Mark, Get Set, Read PSA on DVD. The first 12 public libraries to respond to Staci will receive one. Staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov

The PSA will also be available for viewing and downloading free of charge for members from the CSLP website. There are many benefits to using a digital download versus a traditional disc or tape. The benefits include lower cost (free), minimal carbon footprint, ease of sharing, and a higher visual quality on LCD screens, flat monitors, tablets, and handheld devices. Digital files may be downloaded to/stored on/and played on computers, linked to websites and newsletters, and sent to TV stations accepting these types of files. Instructions will be available on the CSLP website and ICfL’s summer reading resources website, as well as in the April and May issues of The Scoop.

PSAs for the teen program, Get in the Game—Read, are produced by each state through the Teen Video Challenge. Idaho’s winning PSA will be announced in the April 7 issue of The Scoop and will be available as a link on ICfL’s summer reading resources website.

To learn more about Idaho’s Teen Video Challenge, see the Young Adult Corner section above.

CSLP Annual Meeting April 19 – 21, Salt Lake City

At this year’s meeting, state representatives will choose the slogans for the 2018 “music” theme, and the general theme for 2019. (CSLP solicited your ideas for these back in January, through a survey we sent on LibIdaho and in The Scoop.) For 2017, only one slogan was chosen for all age groups, “Build a Better World.” We’ve gotten some feedback already that libraries really like the one slogan for all concept. If you prefer one slogan or prefer going back to having three different slogans, please send Staci a note before the meeting so she can take your preferences into consideration when voting.

We will also be doing some committee work at the Annual Meeting. Staci currently sits on the Early Literacy Committee and the Vendor Committee. A few other Idaho librarians are also members of various committees. This is your chance to have a say in CSLP decisions, from how the website is designed to
membership to content and artwork. If you are interested in sitting on any of the CSLP committees, please email Staci. You can see a list of committees at www.cslpreads.org.

FEATURED

Library Service to Children with Visual Impairments

By Tammy Hawley-House

Have you ever had a library request to help a child with a visual impairment and you didn’t know where to turn? While at a conference last month, I ran into a former storytime mom-Andrea Amestoy, a parent outreach coordinator for Health and Welfare and mother of two children with a medical condition that will likely result in vision loss as they age. We talked about the importance of early literacy skills for all children, but especially for those with vision loss. She appreciates the work that libraries currently do for children, but the conversation spurred me to think about how libraries could do some additional things especially for this population.

For children with visual impairments, early literacy is critical as these children will need to acquire additional literacy skills such as braille and/or auditory skills. Just like learning any second language, a child who has a larger vocabulary will more easily recognize words in the new language (braille). Libraries should encourage parents to attend storytimes where library staff are good at modeling phonological awareness and print motivation. Public and school libraries could consider providing more manipulatives like those found in literacy play stations and consider having some manipulatives that check out. When offering craft or maker programs, consider making projects that allow tactile experiences like puffy paint for writing. Libraries might offer more large print books with a font of 18 point and provide a larger monitor so children can increase the print size of online resources more easily. If your library has a 3D printer, consider printing out some tactile book tiles, (this might also be a great Eagle Scout project). When I shared this link with Andrea, she said “Concepts such as skyscrapers, rainbows, mountains, clouds, etc. are really challenging to describe and this gives those students additional information through their hands that they can utilize while creating their schema of the world.”

Here are some Idaho resources to better serve children with visual impairments:

- Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind, which includes a campus in Gooding and outreach throughout the state.
- Idaho Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired, a state organization devoted to helping those with visual impairment.
- Idaho Commission for Libraries Talking Books program; available to any Idaho resident who is unable to read standard print. We recently purchased a small collection of braille books especially for children.
• Learning Ally, a nonprofit offering electronic audio books.
• Bookshare, an online library for people with print disabilities.

If you would like to contact a real live person who has their feet on the ground in serving children with visual impairments, here are three contacts who are willing to share their knowledge: Andrea Amestoy, R.N.; Educational Specialist Blind/Visually Impaired Outreach Education-I.E.S.D.B 208:615:6870 or andrea.amestoy@iesdb.org or the librarians at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, Dorothy Ogden dorothy.ogden@iesdb.org 934-8751; or Cora Caldwell, cora.caldwell@iesdb.org 731-8540.

CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Free March Webinars

March 15  1 – 2 p.m. MT / noon – 1 p.m. PT
Purposeful Innovation: Idea Management for Libraries
Gain a clear understanding of the "what" and "why" of idea management, hear lessons learned, and leave with tools to empower staff to lead from any position by sharing their ideas.

Learn More / Register

March & April
Role of Learning in Positive Youth Development
4-H is offering a Professional Development E-Academy focused on the Role of Learning in Positive Youth Development. The focus will be on intentional learning experiences in youth development settings. There will be ten one-hour online sessions spread out from March 30 to April 27. These sessions will address the what, why and how of learning. The target audience is 4-H field faculty, but all positive youth development professionals are welcome to participate. The 2016 E-Academy is brought to you by 4-H National Headquarters in partnership with National 4-H Council and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents participate.

Learn More / Register

March 21 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM MT / 11:30 PM – 12:30 PM PT
Leadership for School Librarians
Erin Downey, School Library Coordinator at Boise Schools, and Carole Robinson, Teacher Librarian at Orofino High School, will be presenting their leadership stories and experience as librarians and as participants in the national LiLEAD – Leadership Development for School Librarians Grant.

More Info
March 29, 2 – 3 p.m. MT / 1 – 2 p.m. PT
Tap, Click, Read: EdWeb Webinar

Young children have access to a dizzying array of games, videos, and other digital media. In this webinar, Michael Levine and Lisa Guernsey, authors of *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens*, will show how educators, librarians, and parents can help children grow into strong, passionate readers who are skilled at using media and technology of all kinds—print, digital, and everything in between.

More Info

**MULTICULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

**Simon & Schuster Launch Muslim Children’s Book Imprint**

Salaam Reads, will launch in 2017 and provide Muslim kids an opportunity to see themselves reflected positively in published works. “There are 3.3 million Muslims in the United States, 1.6 billion in the world, and they are an underserved literary market,” Jon Anderson, president of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing, said in the company’s press release. “Children’s books are a fantastic way to get to know our local and global Muslim neighbors. Simon & Schuster is thrilled to offer a home to books that share the stories of Muslim children, in all their diversity.” Read more at http://about.simonandschuster.biz/news/salaam-reads/

**KNOW THE NUMBERS**

**Kindergarten Today: Less Play, More Academics**

Researchers at the University of Virginia compared the views and experiences of kindergarten teachers in 1998 with those of their counterparts in 2010, and found dramatic differences in what teachers now expect of pupils and how they have structured their classrooms. Generally, teachers now expect children to come in knowing much more, spend more of the day in literacy and math instruction, and

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**Percent of kindergarten classrooms that had a dramatic play area:**
- 1998: 58%
- 2010: 87%

**Percent of kindergarten classrooms that had a water or sand table in the classroom:**
- 1998: 24%
- 2010: 49%

**Percent of classrooms that had an art area in the classroom:**
- 1998: 71%
- 2010: 92%
devote less time to nonacademic subjects such as music and art. You can read more in the report entitled Is Kindergarten the New First Grade?

STEAM IS EVERYWHERE

Early Literacy Apps: What librarians should know

The Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop and New America surveyed language and literacy apps targeted to children, preschool to age eight, and available through the Apple, Google Play, and Amazon app stores. The resulting study, "Getting a Read on the App Stores: A Market Scan and Analysis of Literacy Apps," analyzed the descriptions of the apps as well as their content and offered recommendations for librarians in helping choose and recommend apps for children.

Libraries expand STEM learning opportunities

If you haven’t had a chance to read a recent guest opinion piece by Idaho’s STEM Action Center director Angela Hemingway, you might give it a gander. It was picked up my numerous newspapers across the state. She praised the work libraries in Idaho are doing to provide STEM opportunities for their communities.

BOOK LOOK

Amelia Bloomer Project Highlights Great Books

The Amelia Bloomer Project exists to honor and celebrate exemplary feminist responses provided in literature for readers ages 0 to 18. Be sure to check out their Top Ten titles and printable brochures available on their Resources Page: 2016 Amelia Bloomer Project Brochure–Kids and 2016 Amelia Bloomer Project Brochure–Teens. See the whole list at https://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/2016/01/13/2016-amelia-bloomer-list/. 
Some March releases from favorite authors:

*Forest of Wonders (Wing & Claw #1)*, by Linda Sue Park  
**Release: March 1** This enchanting new series from Linda Sue Park, recipient of the Newbery Medal for *A Single Shard*, richly explores the links between magic and botany, family and duty, environment and home.

*Kindred Spirits*, by Rainbow Rowell  
**Release: March 3** Kindred Spirits is an engaging short story by Rainbow Rowell, author of *Eleanor & Park, Fangirl* and *Carry On*, and is part of a handful of selected short reads specially produced for *World Book Day*.

*Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs*, by Linda Sue Park, Jennifer Black Reinhardt  
**Release: March 8** Funny and informative, *Yaks Yak* presents animals acting out the verbs made from their names. Comic illustrations show hogs hogging and other spirited creatures depicting homographs, words with different meanings that are spelled and pronounced the same.

*Chuck and Woodchuck*, by Cece Bell  
**Release: March 8** From award-winning author Cece Bell (*El Deafo*), a sweetly offbeat story about two shy first-graders and the woodchuck who helps them become friends.

*Lady Midnight (The Dark Artifices #1)*, by Cassandra Clare  

*The Return of the Witch (The Witch’s Daughter #2)*, by Paula Brackston  
**Release: March 8** *Return of the Witch* is another bewitching tale of love and magic, featuring Brackston’s signature blend of gorgeous writing, a fabulous and intriguing historical backdrop, and a headstrong and relatable heroine readers will cheer for.

*Death Weavers (Five Kingdoms #4)*, by Brandon Mull  
**Release: March 15** Trapped in a world where magic is powerful and dreams are real, Cole’s epic adventure continues in book four of the bestselling *Five Kingdom* series, from the author of the *Fablehaven* and *Beyonders* series. (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review)

*Jacky Ha-Ha*, by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein  
**Release: March 21** With her irresistible urge to tell a joke in every situation twelve-year-old Jacky Ha-Ha loves to make people laugh. And cracking wise helps distract her from thinking about not-so-funny things in her life, like her mom serving in a dangerous, faraway war, and a dad who’s hardly ever home.
Mighty Truck, by Chris Barton

**Release: March 29** Clarence was just an ordinary truck until one fateful day when an unplanned trip through a strange truck wash changed him. Foomp, his tires pumped up, and vroom, his engine revved, and…………..Ka-Boom!

Summerlost, by Ally Condie

**Release: March 29 Summerlost** is the touching middle grade debut from Ally Condie, the international bestselling author of the Matched series, that highlights the strength of family and personal resilience in the face of tragedy.

The Great American Whatever, by Tim Federle

**Release: March 29** Quinn is a 16-year-old Hollywood hopeful whose only worry used to be writing convincing dialogue for the movies he made with his sister. Of course, that was all before Quinn stopped going to school, before his mom started sleeping on the sofa…and before Annabeth was killed in a car accident.

A Tangle of Gold (The Colours of Madeleine #3), by Jaclyn Moriarty

**Release: March 29** Worlds apart and with time running out, Madeleine and Elliot find themselves on a collision course to save the Kingdom they love, and maybe even save each other in the Colors of Madeleine trilogy’s brilliantly colorful conclusion.

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**Talk Back:** *We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just email Stephanie, Staci, or Tammy and we’ll print your comments in The Scoop.*

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