

Your resource for happenings at the Ventura County Library

Ventura
County

READER

Explore, Discover, & Connect

Summer 2023

CELEBRATING
THE FREEDOM
TO READ!



IN THIS ISSUE

Pride Month Reads • 5-6

Summer Reading Challenge • 9

Curated Reads • 7-8, 10-14

Megaphone Craft • 15



LIBRARY UPDATE

NANCY SCHRAM
VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY DIRECTOR
CONTACT INFO: (805) 677-7158
NANCY.SCHRAM@VENTURA.ORG

As the 4th of July allows us to focus on the panoply of freedoms Americans enjoy, we here at the Ventura County Library wish to celebrate the freedom to read! It is interesting to explore public libraries and First Amendment rights over the past century. In 1938, the "Library Bill of Rights" was first drafted in the United States. The bill was designed to speak out against the "growing intolerance, suppression of free speech and censorship affecting the rights of minorities and individuals." One year later, the revised document was adopted by the American Library Association. It has since evolved to include topics such as book banning, race and gender discrimination, and exhibit spaces. Based on the First Amendment, the Library Bill of Rights guides librarians in serving their communities and protecting the rights of all patrons to this day.

A "Freedom to Read" statement was written in the United States in 1954. The first line of this document, "The freedom

to read is essential to our democracy" remains the influential opening sentence today. According to the American Library Association website, "In 1953 a group of professors, directors, librarians, publishers and businessmen met to discuss the ...wave of censorship and attacks on books and libraries. They created a document that defined the responsibilities of publishers and librarians to protect Americans' freedom to read. Since its inception, the statement has been altered during times of violence and prosecution to defend the reading choices of readers - it remains a rallying proclamation for all literary community members."

Public libraries have long been known as one of our truly democratic institutions. Public libraries champion First Amendment rights and promote free access to information for all. Public libraries offer services and educational resources that promote inclusion and diversity to all in the community.

At the Ventura County Library, we reaffirm:

- The Ventura County Library values connection, fairness, diversity, empowerment, unity, compassion, and community.
- The Ventura County Library provides service to all races, genders, sexual orientations, religions, abilities, ages, national or ethnic origins, languages, citizenship statuses, economic statuses, political affiliations.
- The Ventura County Library is an inclusive community hub where people explore, discover, and connect.

The Ventura County Library believes libraries are for everyone. We are committed to free and open access to its collections and to connecting people with the world of ideas, information, and materials they wish to explore. The library strives to offer a collection that represents the needs of our diverse community. The library has a responsibility to provide a balanced collection with access to material reflecting diverse ideas through which any side of a question, cause, or movement may be explored.

We take this responsibility seriously, and work hard to fulfil the library's mission to support your freedom to read.

COUNTY OF VENTURA CELEBRATES



A Brief History of the Ventura County Library System

The year 2023 commemorates the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the County of Ventura (CoV). The Ventura County Library System (VCL) is enthusiastic about celebrating and honoring the deep history of our diverse communities. VCL celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2016. For over 100 years our community libraries have served the people of Ventura County, and our own history is interwoven into that of the county.

The Ventura County Library System has been governed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors since its inception in 1916. Today, VCL is a public library system with 12 community library locations and a Mobile Library that provides services to nearly 300,000 cardholders. VCL currently serves the cities of Ventura (3 branches), Ojai (1 branch), Fillmore (1 branch), and Port Hueneme (1 branch), as well as all of the unincorporated areas of the county (6 branches, including Saticoy, Piru, Oak Park, El Rio, Oak View, and Meiners Oaks.) Each of these libraries has its own rich history. Here are some examples from the VCL System.

Ojai Library

The Ojai Library officially became the first branch of the VCL in 1916. The original library in Ojai was constructed due to the generous donation of \$500 from the Thatcher Family and friends and was named The George Thatcher Memorial Free Library.



Here the interior of the Ojai Library where it is still located today is pictured in 1929.



Here is the E.P. Foster Library building pre-construction in 1958:

E.P. Foster Library, Ventura

The E.P. Foster Library opened in 1921 with funds donated by the generosity of Eugene Preston Foster and his wife, Orpha Mae Foster, and originally housed both the public library and city hall. In 1959, an adjoining building was added to the front of the 1921 building. This two-story building that opened in 1959 houses the E.P. Foster Library today.



Here is the E.P. Foster Library building at the beginning of construction of the new addition in August 1958.



And here is the E.P. Foster Library building after the construction of the new addition when it reopened in 1959.

VCL has increased services to County of Ventura residents, with 24/7 access to its eLibrary where cardholders can download books, stream movies and music, and access a wide variety of career path learning tools right from the VCL website.

As the County of Ventura celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, we invite you to check our website for upcoming 150th events at the libraries and look forward to seeing you and our Mobile Library at events throughout the celebration.

LUNCH at the LIBRARY

Ventura County Library

**offers free lunches for kids up to 18 years old this summer
June 20 - August 10, 2023**

Lunch is served:

ALBERT H. SOLIZ LIBRARY

2820 Jourdan Street
Oxnard, CA 93036
Monday - Thursday, 12pm - 1pm

AVENUE LIBRARY

606 North Ventura Avenue
Ventura, CA 93001
Monday - Thursday, 11am - 12pm

SATICOY LIBRARY

1292 Los Angeles Avenue
Ventura, CA 93004
Monday - Thursday, 11:30am - 12:30pm



Lunch at the Library - Farm to Summer program will include daily fun activities, book giveaways, performers, and speakers to encourage children to come to the library and eat lunch all while learning about planting, composting, and the science behind growing food.

For more information, please contact:
Molly Krill, Youth Services Manager, molly.krill@ventura.org



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The Summer Food Service Program is a program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, administered in California by the California Department of Education. Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California.

PRIDE MONTH

National LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Revel in rainbows! The ups and downs of love dominate our list of great LGBTQIA+ fiction reads in celebration of Pride Month. Meanwhile, nonfiction picks run the gamut from fierce memoirs to revealing history to the best way to be an ally. Enjoy!

FICTION



NONFICTION



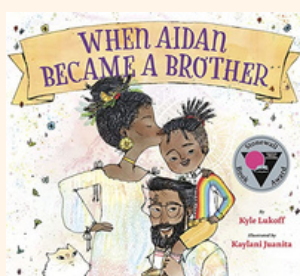
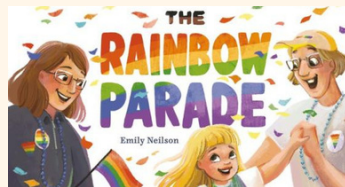
PRIDE MONTH

YOUTH TITLES

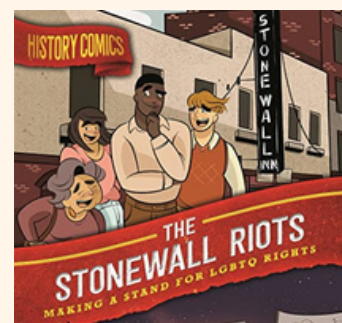
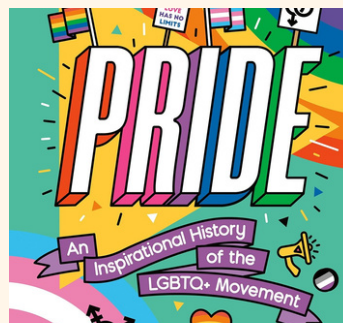
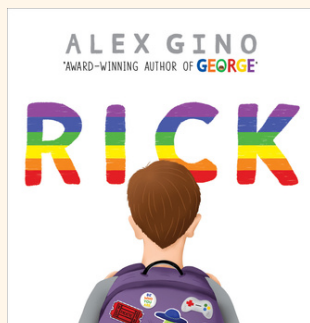
LOVE WHO YOU ARE



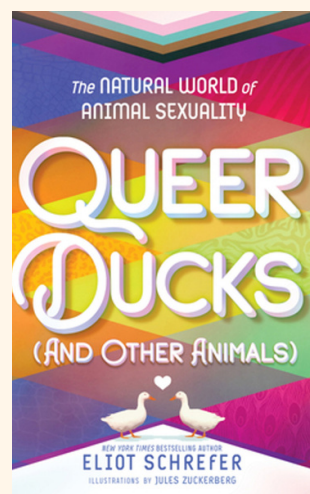
Picturebooks



Middle Grade



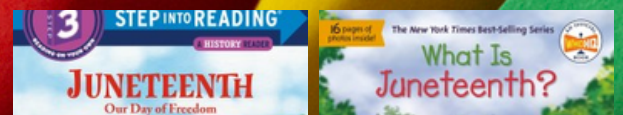
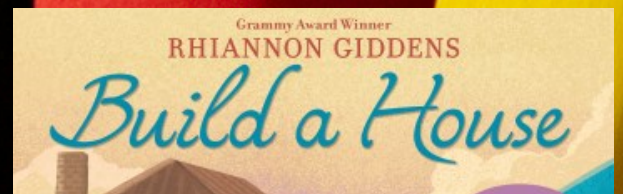
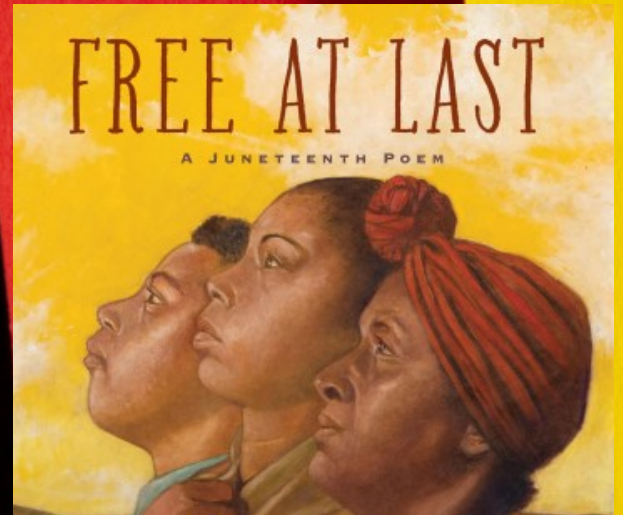
Young Adult



Juneteenth

for youth (all ages)

The more we share history with children, the stronger their sense of history and time will become. Storytelling, and retelling, especially when you incorporate details that children have experienced themselves, supports children's brains to better hold complex and abstract ideas such as freedom, justice, slavery, and resistance. Hearing these stories from people they love and trust lets children know that learning about events or people from a long time ago is relevant and not something to be afraid of. Rather, history teaches us valuable lessons, inspires resilience, and affirms the worthiness of ourselves and others to exist freely and fairly. - National Museum of African American History & Culture



ADULT SUMMER READING CONTEST

Adults in this challenge may submit an entry every time they read a book. Enter titles as you finish them, be they traditional books, audiobooks, or eBooks. You can log up to 100 titles throughout the duration of the challenge, and each title is a chance to win a prize.

VENCOLIBRARY.BEANSTACK.ORG

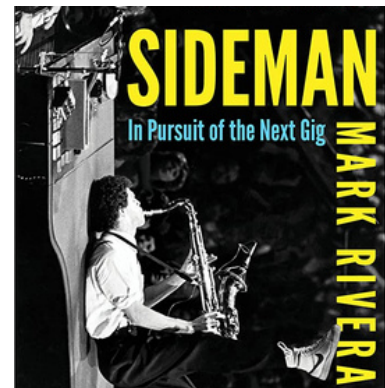
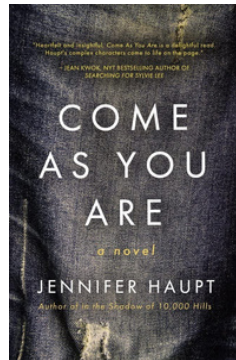
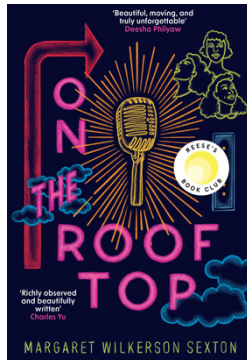
May 15 - August 4

In nonfiction memoirs, those who've built a life around music tell their stories of finding voice, instrument, sidekick, and place. Meanwhile our fiction choices feature protagonists whose lives play across their love of musical genres you might prefer too. (For instance - love country? Pick "The Farewell Tour." Grunge? Try "Come As You Are.") Happy reading!

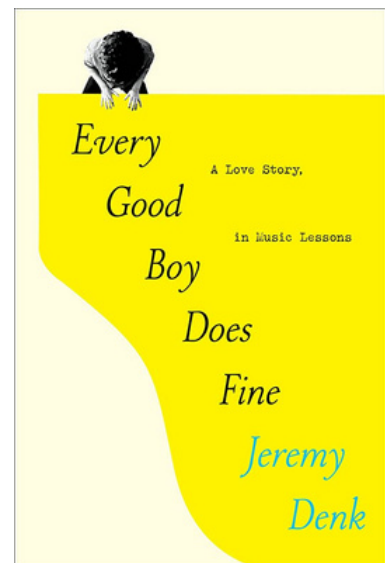
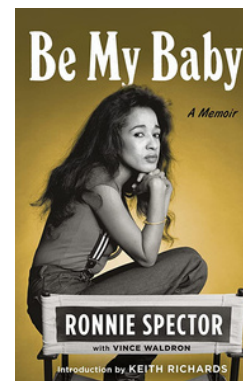
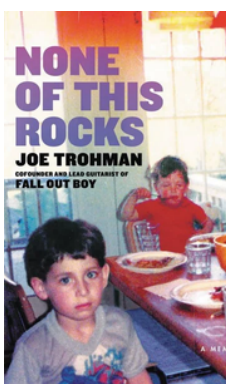
P.S. can you pick out all the book titles inspired by real songs and lyrics?



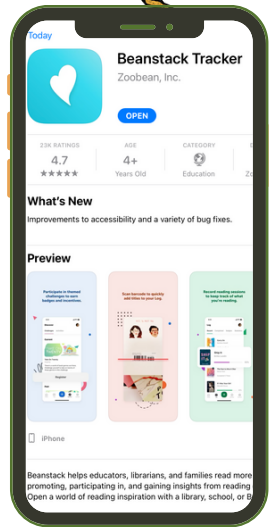
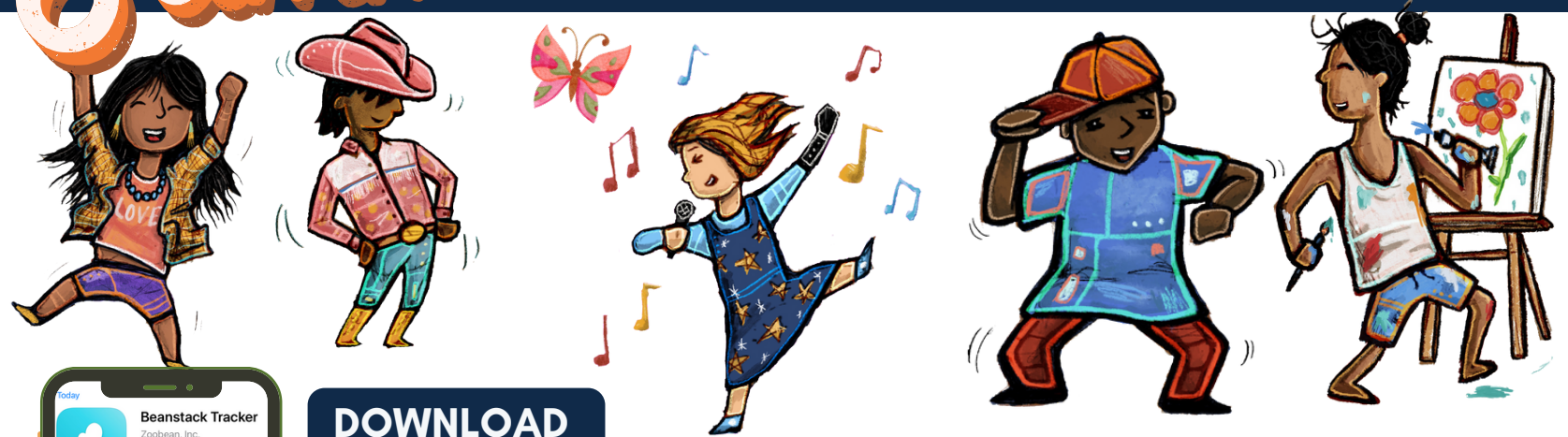
FICTION



NONFICTION



Summer Reading Challenge



**DOWNLOAD
BEANSTACK
TRACKER APP**

**PICK UP A
PAPER LOG
@ THE LIBRARY**

FIND YOUR VOICE

Complete the Challenge by earning 500 points between
May 15 - August 4

FREE for kids and teens!

Ventura County Library's 2023
Summer Reading Challenge runs
May 15 - August 4th

Read books, play games, and win prizes!

**500 POINTS = FREE BOOK
FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY**

For every 100 points Earned, you will automatically
be entered into the online GRAND PRIZE DRAWING.



Prizes for Children ages 0-17

[VENCOLIBRARY.BEANSTACK.ORG](https://vencolibrary.beanstack.org)

Ventura County Library urges families to get ready, get set, go to the library, and sign up for the "Find your Voice!" summer reading challenge.

Over the summer, the library is hosting a range of free activities for children, teens, and adults to encourage and support a love of reading. Participants may win prizes for reaching their reading goals.



JOIN US for our
featured performer

ZANY ZOE
BILINGUAL MAGICIAN



KONA ICE

**DON'T MISS OUR END
OF SUMMER PARTY
WITH KONA ICE**

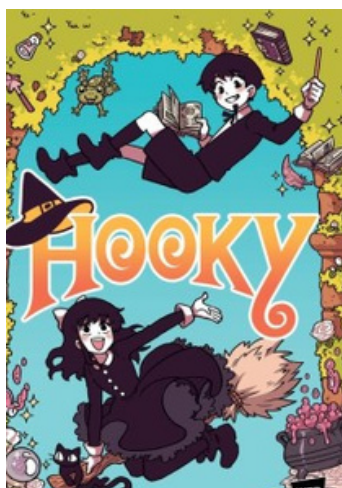
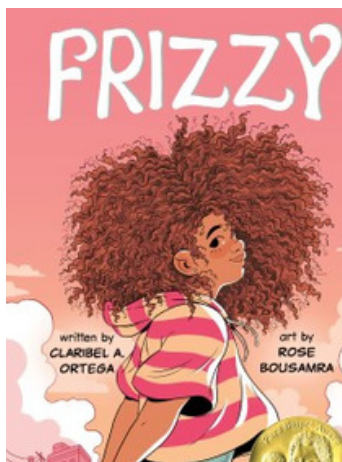
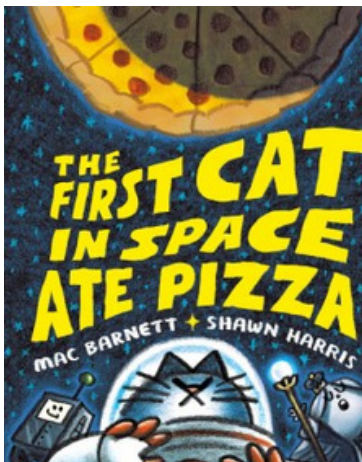


Summer Reading Challenge

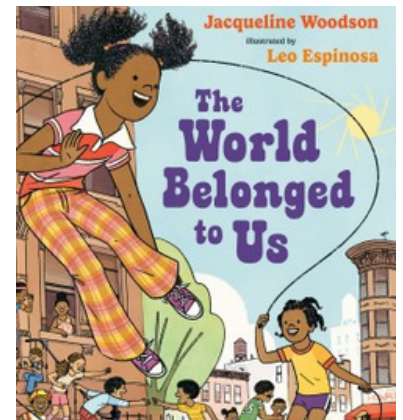
FIND YOUR VOICE



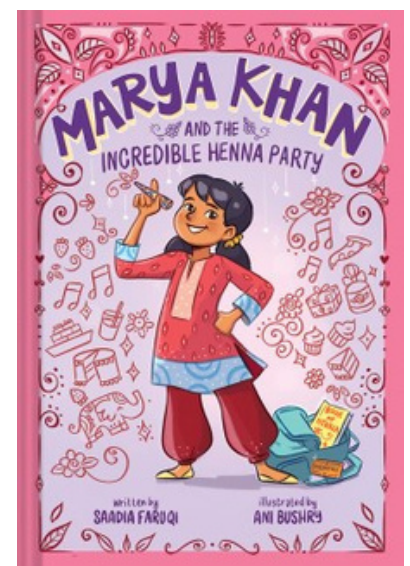
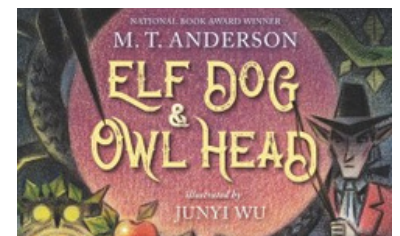
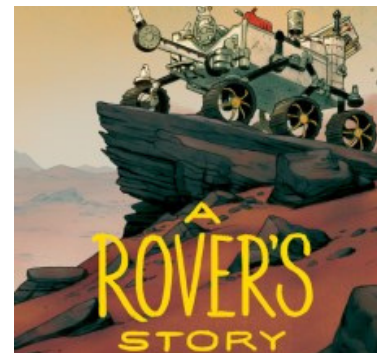
Children's Graphic Novels



Picturebooks



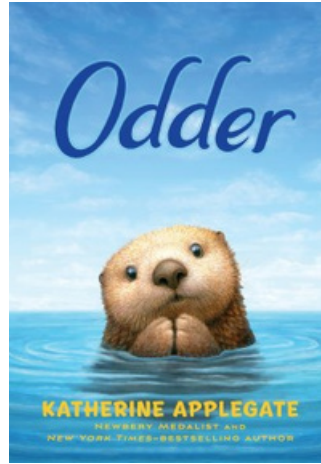
Grades 3-5



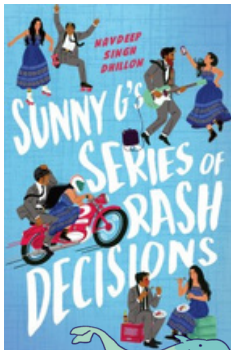
Summer Reading Challenge

FIND YOUR VOICE

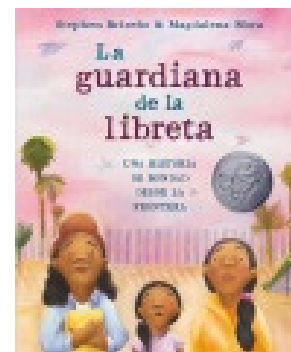
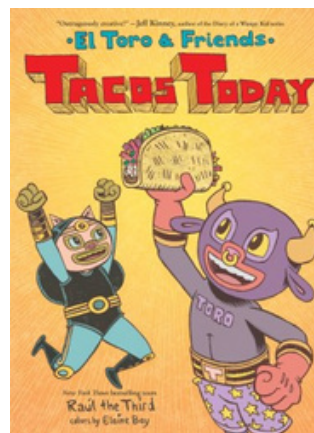
Grades 6-8



Teen



Spanish and Bilingual



An illustration featuring several hands of different skin tones (brown, tan, pink, orange, red, purple, black) reaching upwards towards the title. Some hands are adorned with rings or watches. The hands are positioned around a central white rectangular area that contains the title and text. The background is a solid brown color. The title 'WOMEN'S EQUALITY' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. 'WOMEN'S' is in a dark grey color, and 'EQUALITY' is in a gold color. Below the title is a thin horizontal line.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY

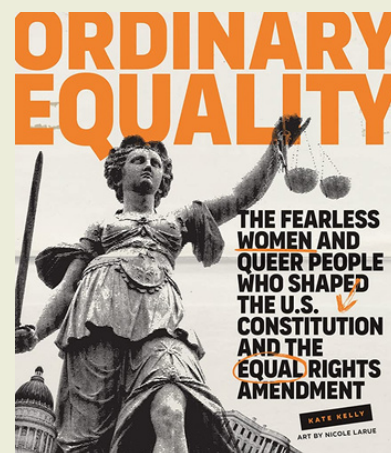
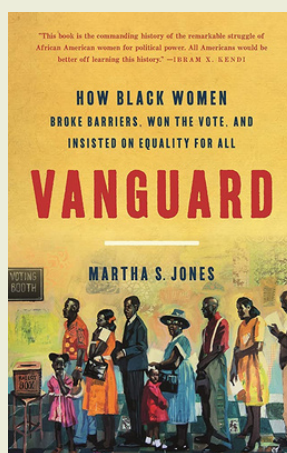
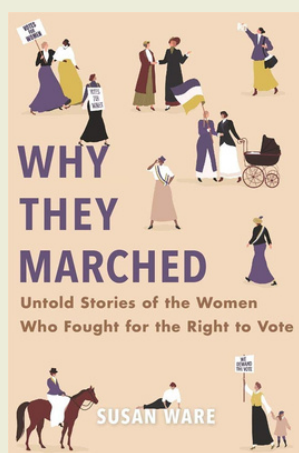
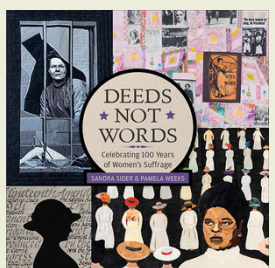
On August 26, 1920, after decades of hard-fought advocacy, women won the right to vote, and our Nation moved one step closer to living out our sacred ideal that all people are created equal. On Women's Equality Day, we honor the movement for universal suffrage that led to the 19th Amendment.

On Women's Equality Day, we celebrate the trailblazers who fought to deliver a better future for America's daughters. We strive to uphold our Nation's promise of equality for all people.

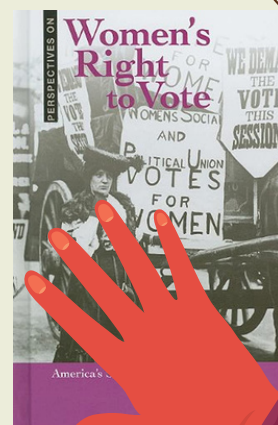
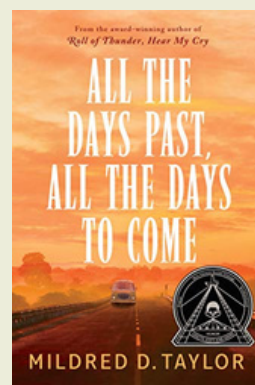
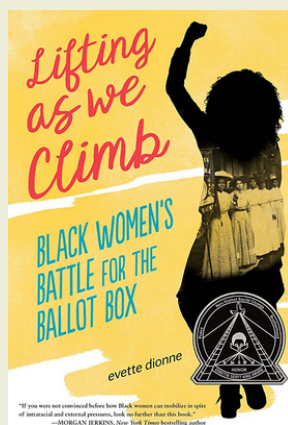
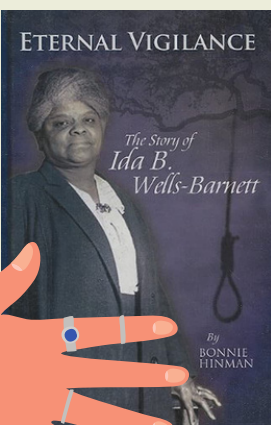
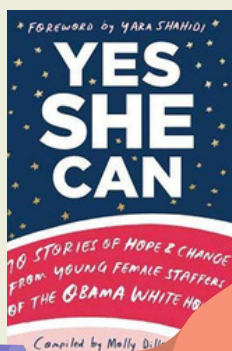
- *White House Proclamation on
Women's Equality Day, 2022*

WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Adult

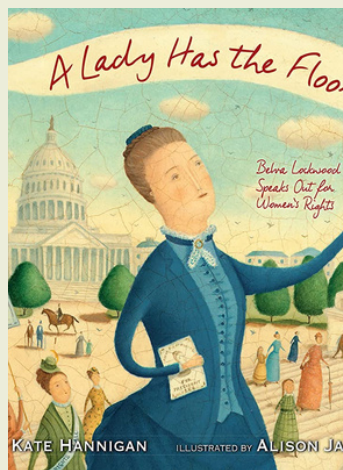


Young Adult

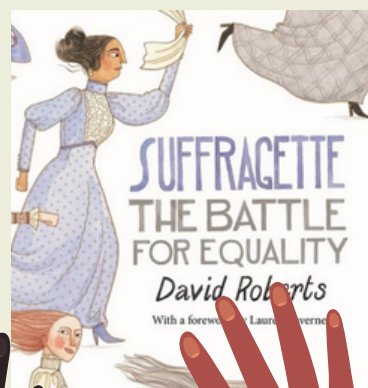
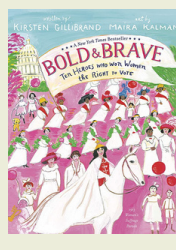
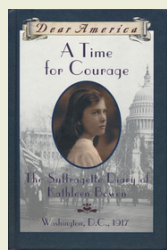
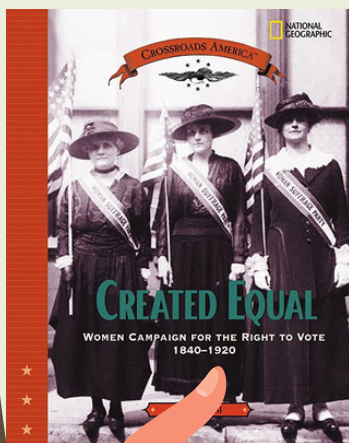


WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Picturebooks



Children's





Let your voice be heard!

Make your own megaphone to be mega-heard!

- Color your megaphone
- Cut out the whole shape as one piece including glue or tape tab
- Roll up the megaphone and glue or tape the tab in the inside of the megaphone

TA-DA! Use your megaphone
to tell the world how you feel

GLUE OR TAPE TAB