



# HOLIDAY 2020 GIFT GUIDE

125 S. Prospect Avenue • Elmhurst, IL 60126 • (630) 279-8696 • [elmhurstpubliclibrary.org](http://elmhurstpubliclibrary.org)

**Library Hours:** M-F 9 a.m.-9 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sun. 1-5 p.m. • **Closed:** Dec. 24, 25, and Jan. 1

# 2020 Award Winners

## Looking for ...

- 3 Picture Books
- 5 K-Grade 1
- 6 Grades 2-3
- 7 Grades 4-6
- 8 Middle School
- 9 High School
- 10 Creative
- 11 Audiobooks
- 12 Novels
- 13 Cookbooks
- 14 Nature
- 15 Civics
- 16 Travel
- 17 Music
- 18 Movies + TV
- 19 Board Games

The Holiday Gift Guide 2020 is a list compiled by staff at Elmhurst Public Library.

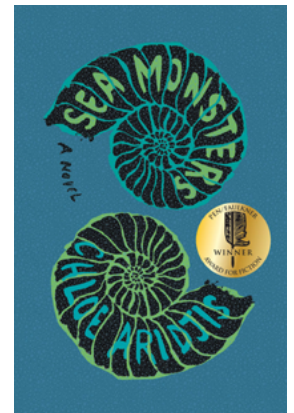
Elmhurst Public Library does not profit from the purchase of any of the items included in this publication.



**PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION**



**NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION**



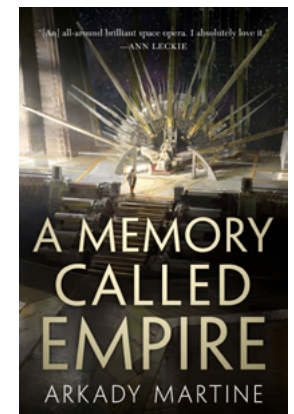
**PEN/FAULKNER AWARD FOR FICTION**



**BOOKER PRIZE**



**WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION**



**HUGO AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL**



**EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL**



**BRAM STOKER AWARD FOR SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT IN A NOVEL**



**NEBULA AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL**

# for Kids: Board Books

KENNETH KRAEGEL

# THIS IS A BOOK OF SHAPES

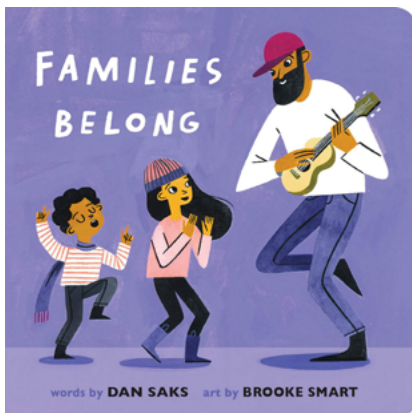
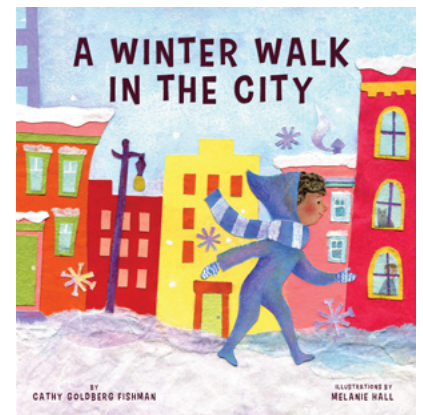
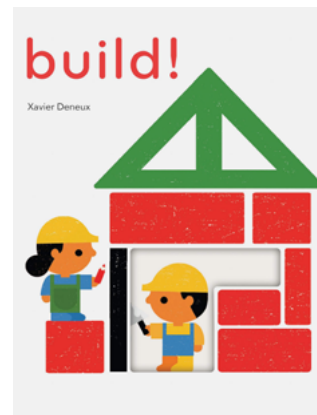


**Librarian favorite:**

*This Is a Book of Shapes* by Kenneth Kraegel

**Why we love it:**

This is a book of shapes ... but watch out for that emu! Pages alternate between basic geometric shapes and silly absurdity, guaranteeing a gigglefest with your little one each time you read.



# for Kids: Picture Books

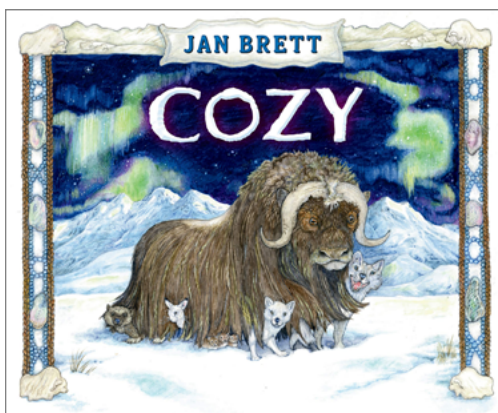


### Librarian favorite:

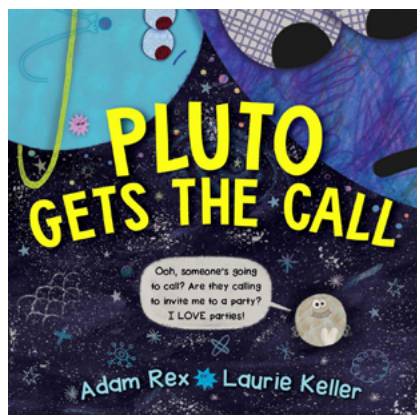
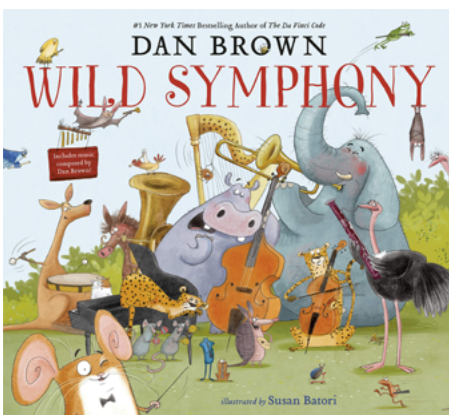
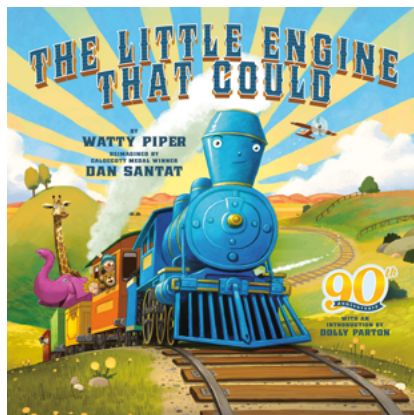
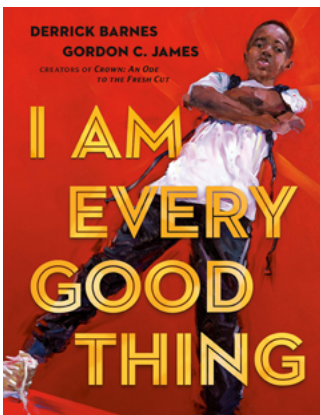
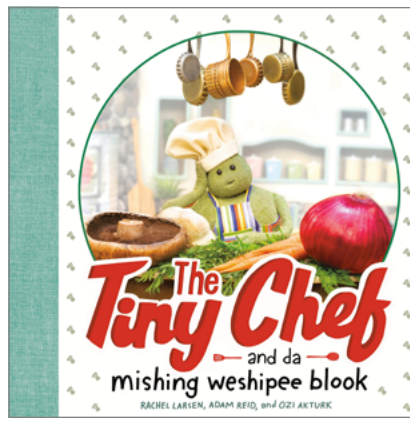
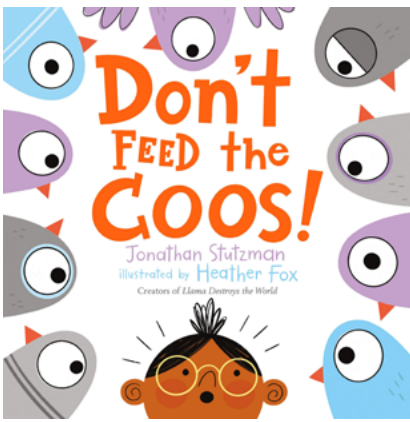
*Becoming a Good Creature*  
by Sy Montgomery

### Why we love it:

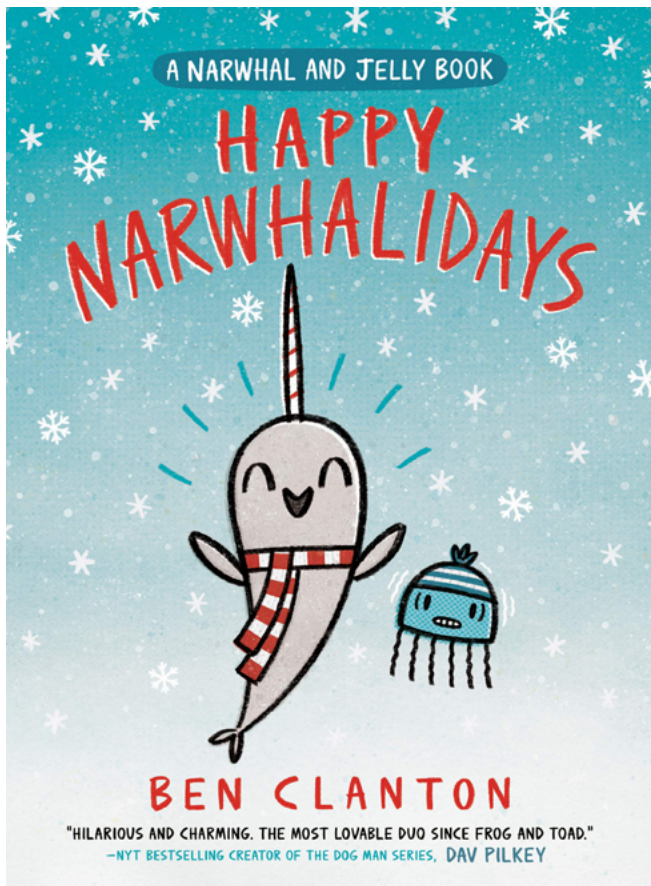
In this picture book based on Sy Montgomery's adult memoir, gorgeous illustrations accompany the reminder that lessons can come from some of the most unexpected places. This is a heartwarming story for animal lovers of all ages.



# for Kids: Picture Books



# for Kindergarten–Grade 1

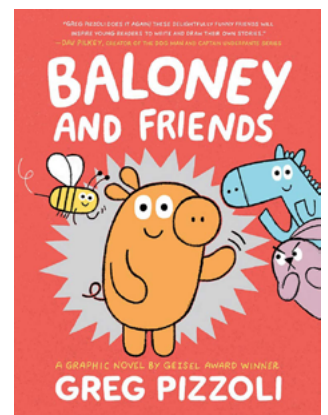
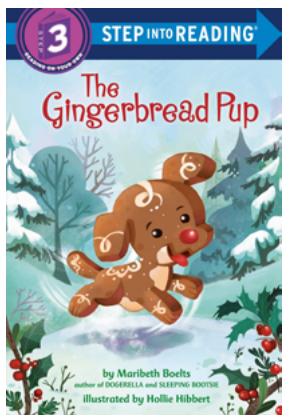
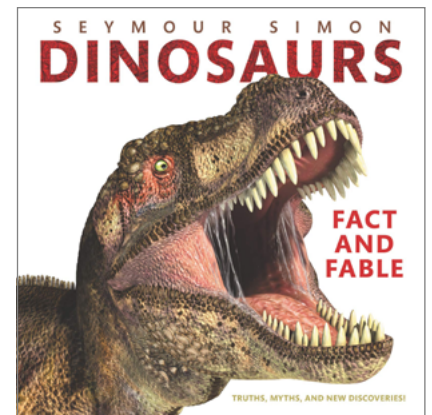
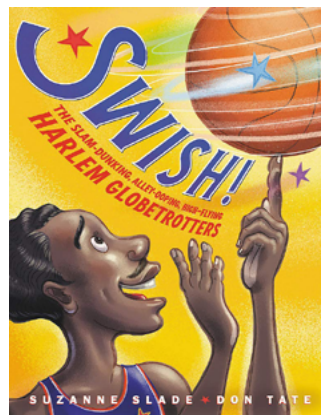


**Librarian favorite:**

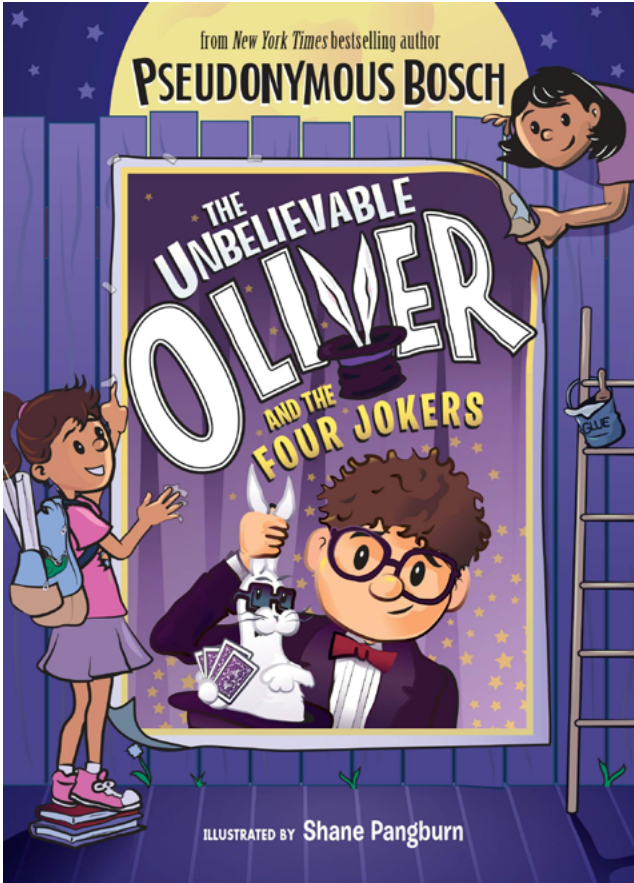
*Happy Narwhalidays* by Ben Clanton

**Why we love it:**

Get ready for a fun under-the-sea holiday treat with Narwhal and Jelly! What's more festive than warm waffle pudding, singing, partying, and the arrival of the Merry Merricorn? Wait! The what?! According to Narwhal she's part mermaid, part unicorn, and completely mer-aculous! Jelly is skeptical about the Merry Merricorn and has no interest in the "freezing season" even when he receives a mysterious present. Is the gift really from Narwhal? Now Jelly is worried that he has to find a "whalely good gift" for Narwhal. Fun, puns, and holiday sweetness abound in this sweet book about friendship the whole family will love, with fun facts about marine life sprinkled throughout!



# for Grades 2–3

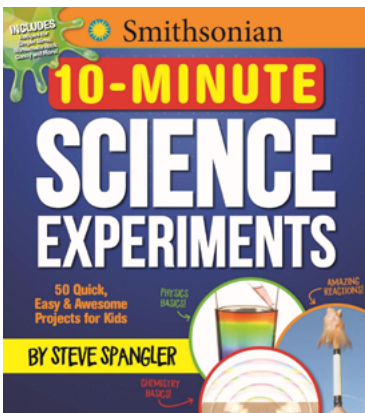
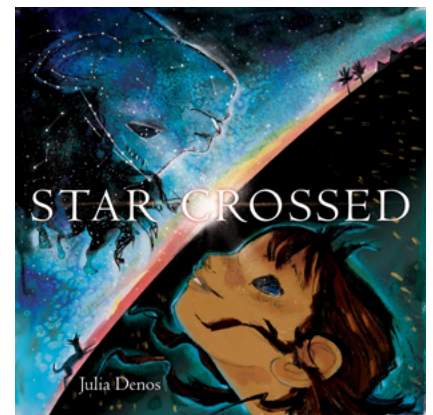
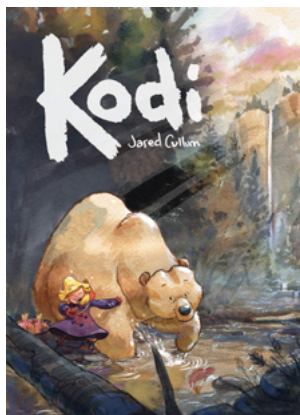
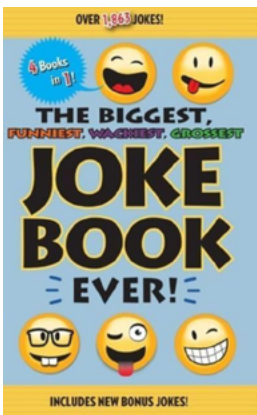


**Librarian favorite:**

*The Unbelievable Oliver and the Four Jokers*  
by Pseudonymous Bosch

**Why we love it:**

Have you ever tried to do a magic trick? It's not as easy as it seems. Oliver finds that out when his friends hire him out as the magic act for a birthday party. Oliver's wise-cracking rabbit assistant isn't much help, and when a present goes missing during the party, Oliver gets blamed. Can he find the real culprit? Mystery, magic, and wacky laughs combine in this early chapter book from the author of the popular Secret series.



# for Grades 4–6

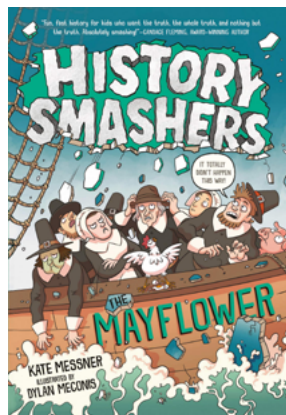


### Librarian favorite:

*Lightfall: The Girl & the Galdurian* by Tim Probert

### Why we love it:

When Bea's eccentric and incredibly forgetful grandfather, Alfrid the Pig Wizard, suddenly sets off on an adventure, Bea feels she has no choice but to follow. Her journey is further complicated when she meets Cad, the last of the Galdurians, a people long thought to be extinct. Together, the two set off to find the people who matter to them most. *Lightfall* is a fast-paced fantasy with charming characters, an appealing friendship dynamic, and engaging artwork that will appeal to fans of Kibuishi's *Amulet* series.





# for Middle School

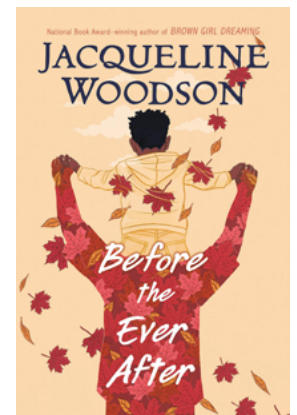


**Librarian favorite:**

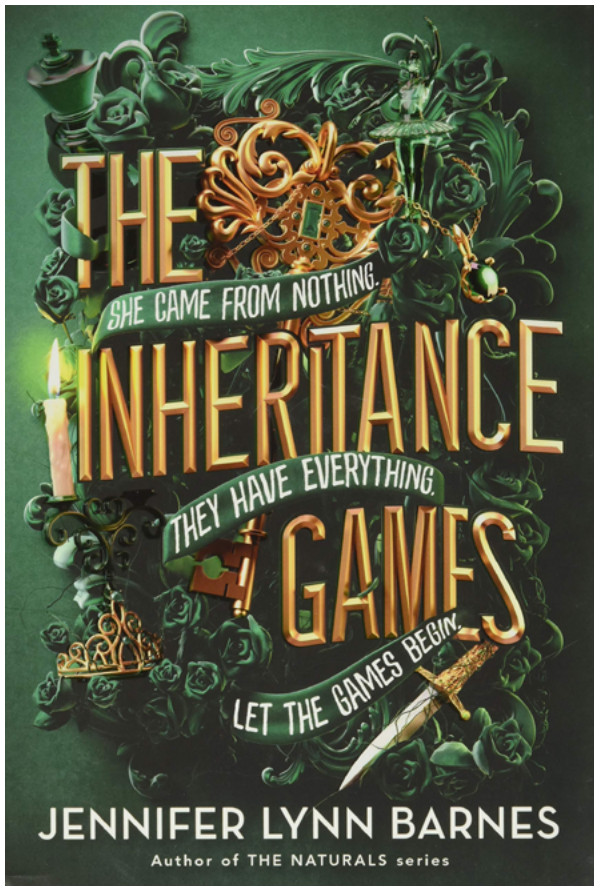
*When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

**Why we love it:**

This is an unforgettable and heartbreaking story of Somali brothers living as refugees, and will make you reflect on things we often take for granted, like food and safety. The graphic novel format beautifully illustrates the magnitude of the situation and their struggles they must endure in the camp. Hope is your constant companion as you join the characters on their journey. Fans of *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer and *Hey Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka should check it out.



# for High School

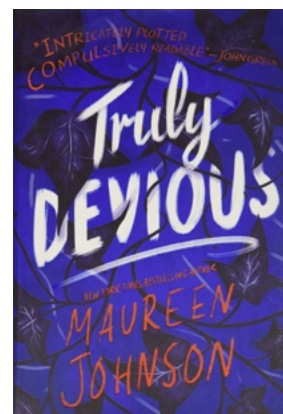
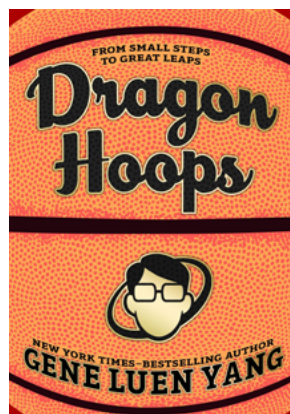


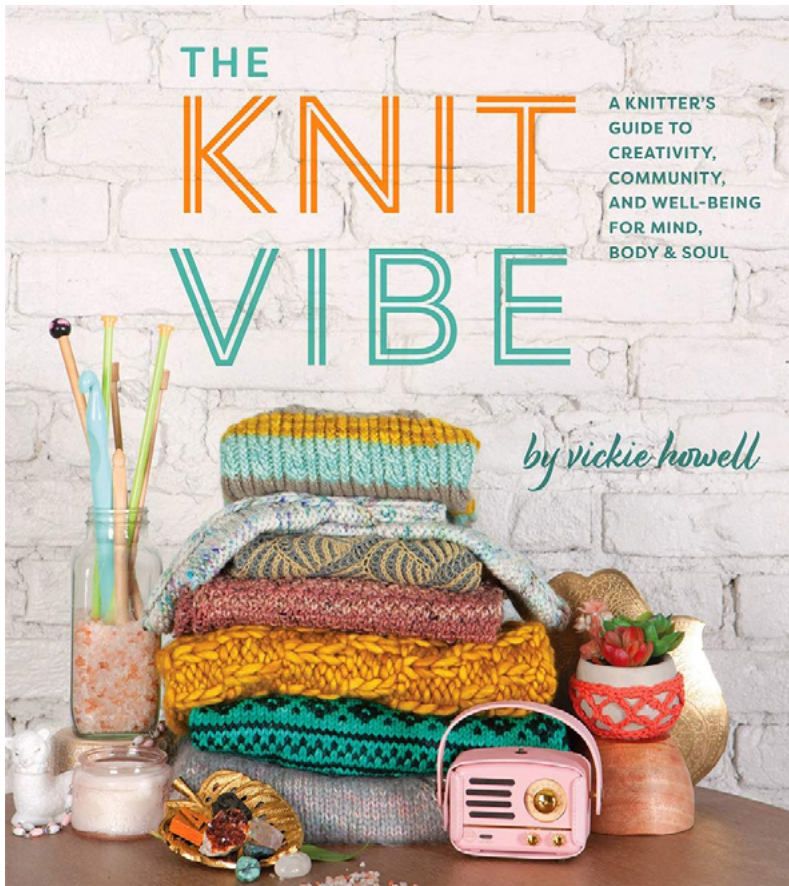
### Librarian favorite:

*The Inheritance Games* #1 by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

### Why we love it:

This mystery will keep you guessing through all its twists and turns. We meet Avery, a high school junior, who's just barely getting by living with what's left of her family. Then she is summoned to the reading of Texas billionaire Tobias Hawthorne's will. She never met him—why is he leaving his estate to her? Avery has to stay in Hawthorne House for one year, with the two daughters and four grandsons who are inheriting nothing. The huge mansion is full of puzzles that Avery must solve and family secrets that she must unravel. If you liked the movie *Knives Out* and the book *One of Us Is Lying*, you'll want to join Avery on her search for answers.





**Librarian favorite:**

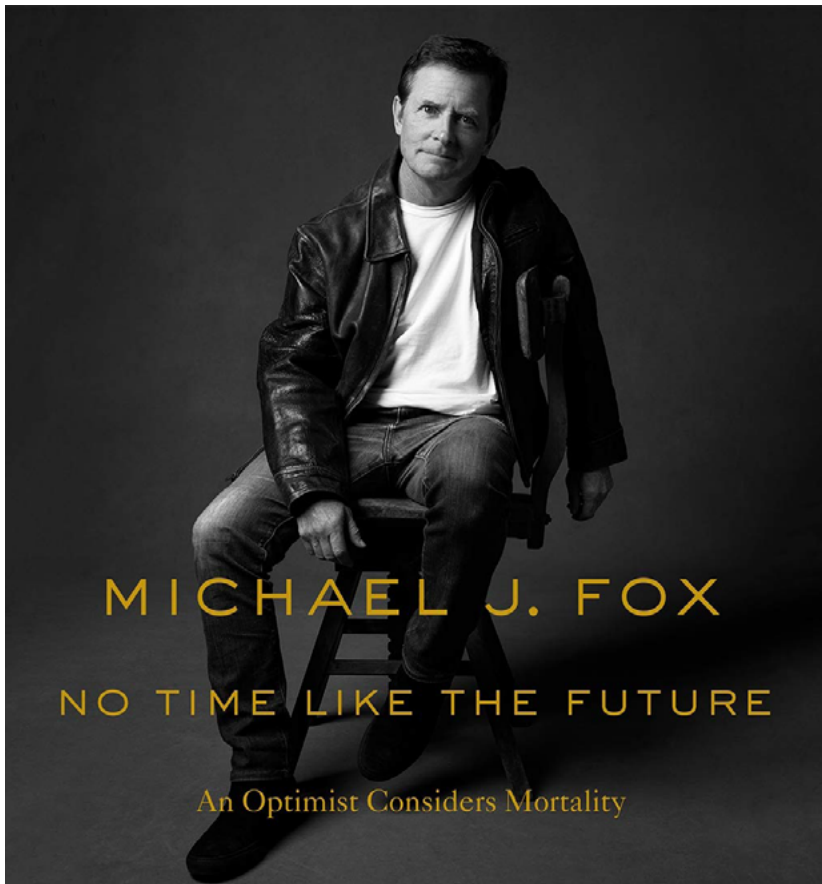
*The Knit Vibe: A Knitter's Guide to Creativity, Community, and Well-Being for Mind, Body & Soul* by Vickie Howell

**Why we love it:**

This is not like anything you've seen in a knitting book before. More than just a collection of patterns, *Knit Vibe* is an in-depth look at the knitting community and the creative potential of knitting. We've already knitted up several of the "Go-To Hat" for holiday gifts!



# for the Audiobook Lover

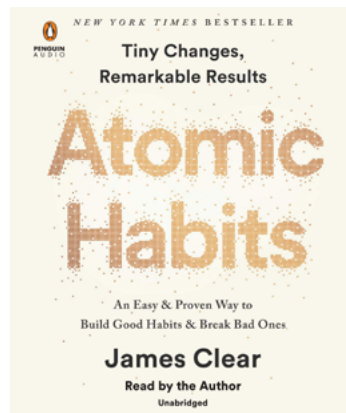
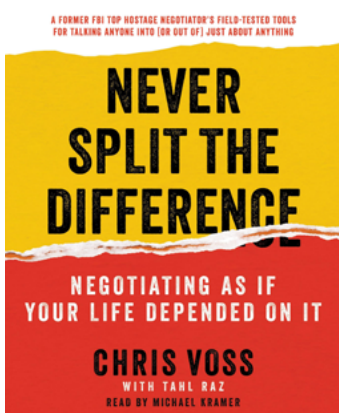


**Librarian favorite:**

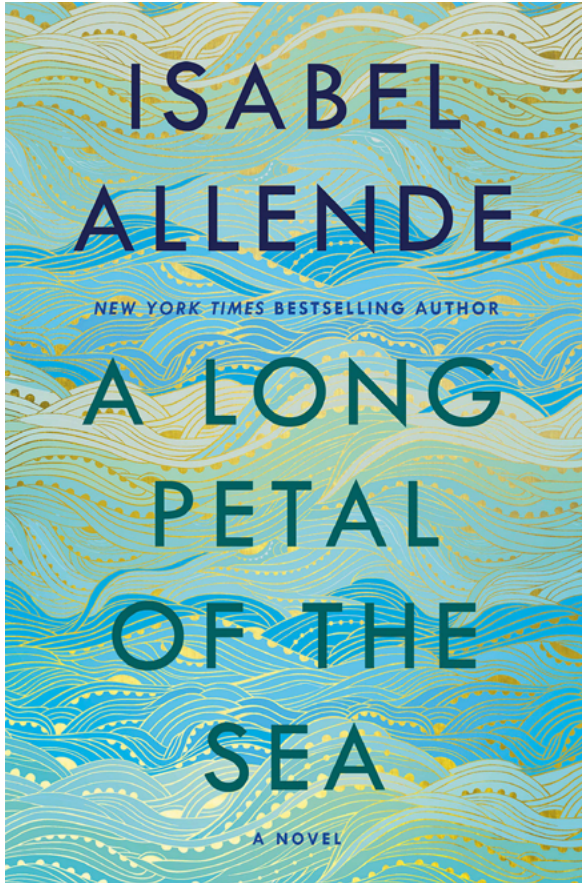
*No Time Like the Future* by Michael J. Fox

**Why we love it:**

Read by the author, this moving, inspirational memoir talks about the strength of family and friends, thoughts on aging, and his continued fight with Parkinson's disease since 1991.



# for the Novel Reader

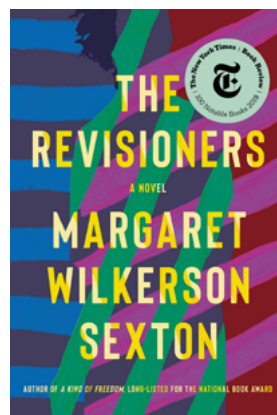
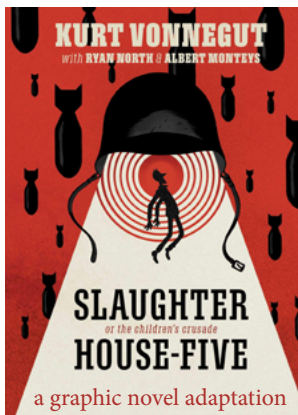


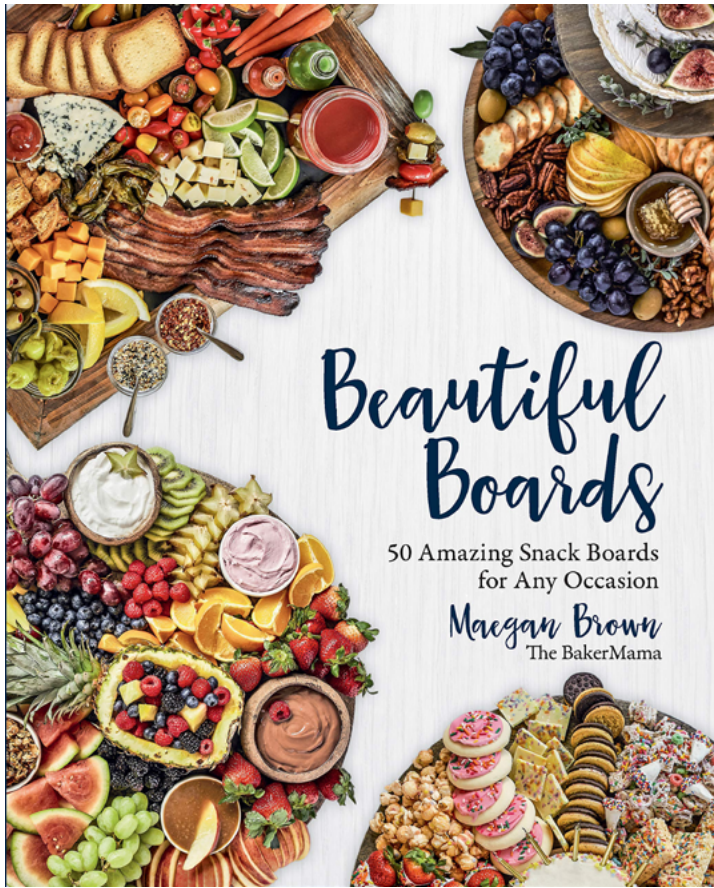
### Librarian favorite:

*A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende

### Why we love it:

Isabel Allende, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, brings to life the fight against General Francisco Franco's fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath, when supporters of the defeated elected government must flee or face reprisal. Memorable, resilient characters Victor and Roser, who marry in order to secure transport to Chile, start their lives anew, becoming successful in their fields of medicine and music, but again face a life fraught with danger when a military coup installs Augusto Pinochet as dictator. Gift this timeless, beautifully written book to the special person on your list who enjoys epic tales of bravery, perseverance, and romance.



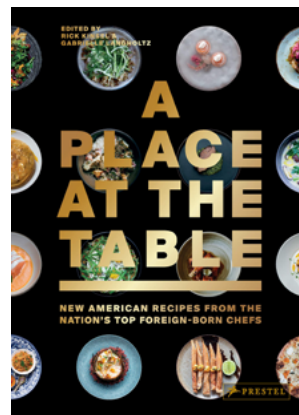
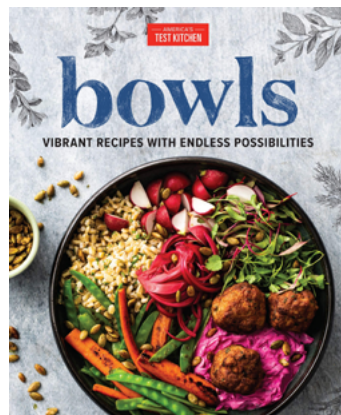


**Librarian favorite:**

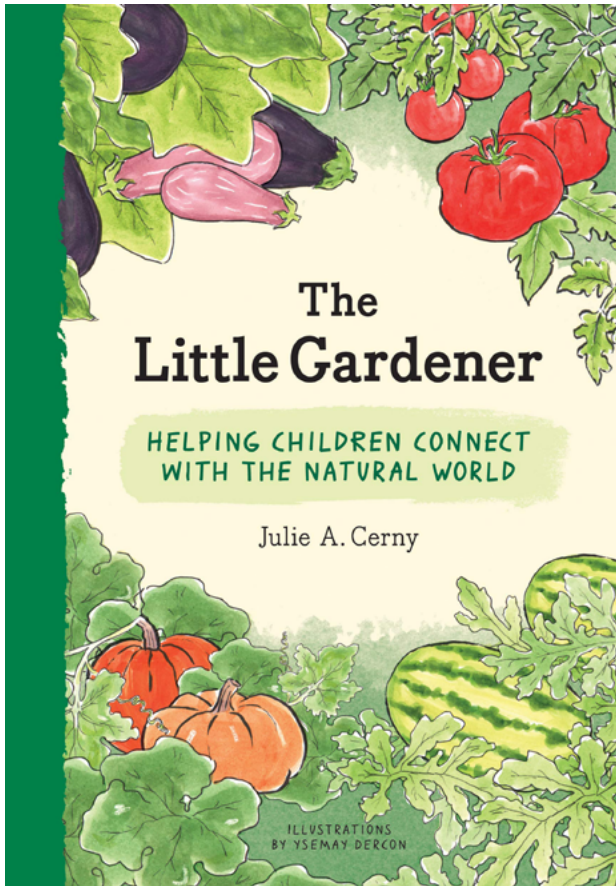
*Beautiful Boards: 50 Amazing Snack Boards for Any Occasion* by Maegan Brown

**Why we love it:**

The boards in this cookbook are a feast for the eyes. It's especially satisfying to arrange food - like creating a piece of art. There's also nothing like being a guest who is presented with an abundant array of morsels - so many flavors, textures, and colors and you don't just have to choose one!



# for the Nature Lover

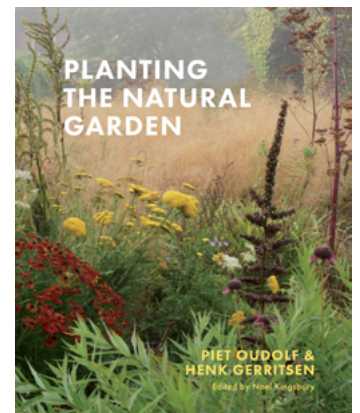
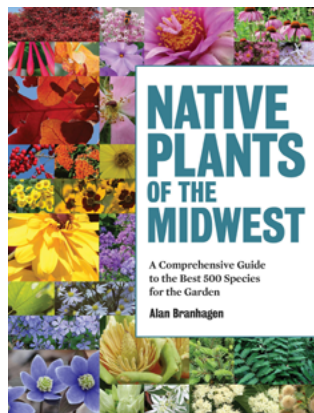
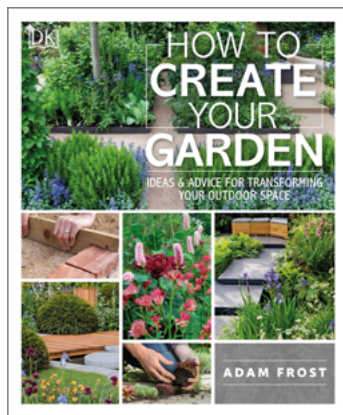


**Librarian favorite:**

*The Little Gardener* by Julie A. Cerny

**Why we love it:**

Outdoor educator and gardener Julie Cerny guides parents and caregivers on how to create a garden with kids, from visualizing and preparing to harvest. The book includes step-by-step instructions, lessons on eco-literacy, and tools for your little gardener to connect with nature. This informative book is great for families looking for a project and homeschoolers too!



# for the Civically Engaged

"Hersh lays out exactly how your political participation might not be building the power you wish you had—and what to do to fix it."  
—AMANDA LITMAN, cofounder and executive director of Run for Something



## POLITICS IS FOR POWER

How to Move Beyond  
Political Hobbyism, Take Action,  
and Make Real Change

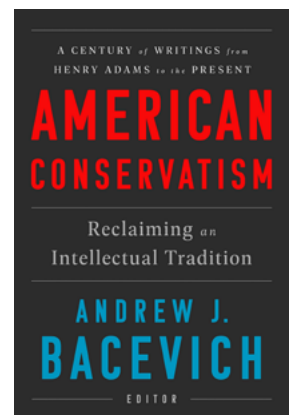
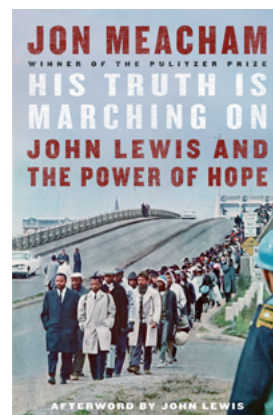
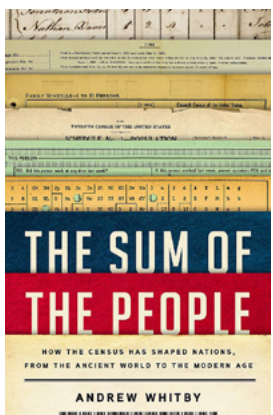
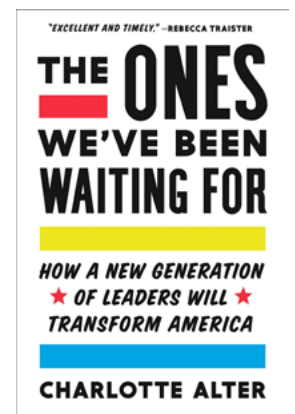
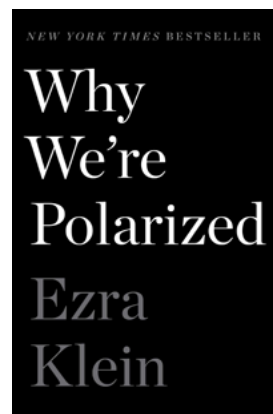
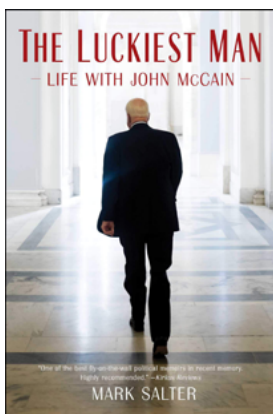
Eitan Hersh

### Librarian favorite:

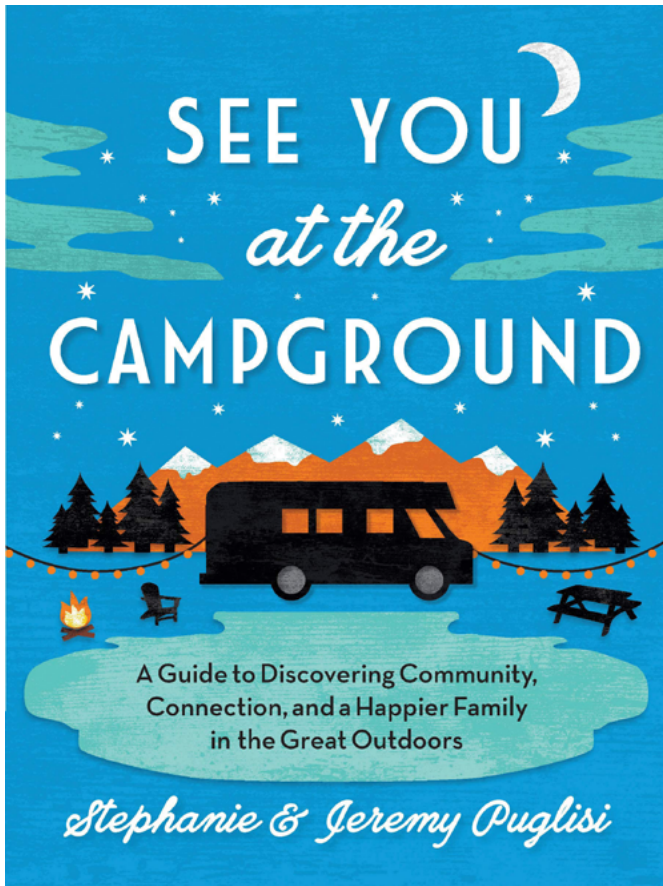
*Politics Is for Power: How to Move Beyond Political Hobbyism, Take Action, and Make Real Change* by Eitan Hersh

### Why we love it:

Hersh argues that many politically engaged people consume politics as a spectator sport and infotainment rather than getting into the messy, slow, undramatic business of effecting political change in their own communities. Particularly, we focus too much on outrage, statistics, and scandal on the federal level rather than canvassing and building coalitions at the local level where the average person can make a real difference. This book would be a great pick for galvanizing the politics geek on your list into grassroots action that advances their values, whatever those values may be.





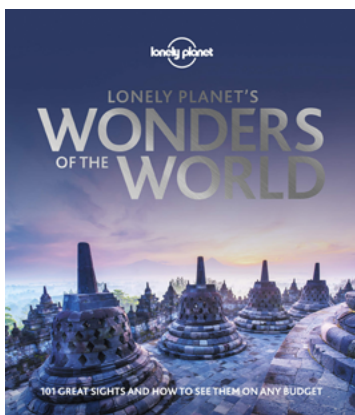
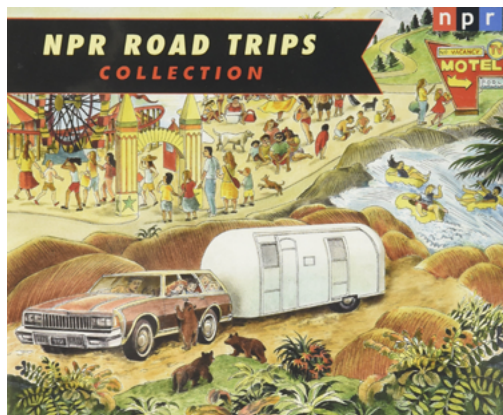


**Librarian favorite:**

*See You at the Campground* by Stephanie and Jeremy Puglisi

**Why we love it:**

We love nature and camping as a means to escape the stress of daily life. This book is not just a camping guidebook, but also highlights the best part of camping: coming together and connecting with each other and nature. Learn about how this family found a way to connect with each other and enjoy life to its fullest, simply by taking to the outdoors. Perfect for the outdoor adventurer in your life.



# MONK



## Palo Alto



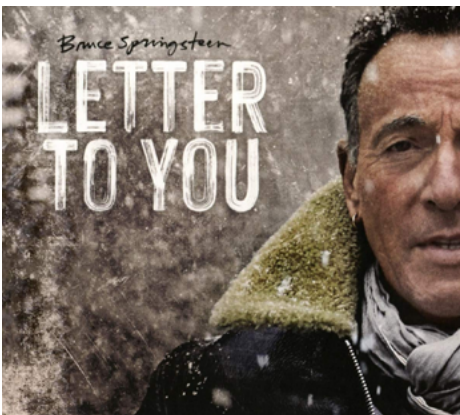
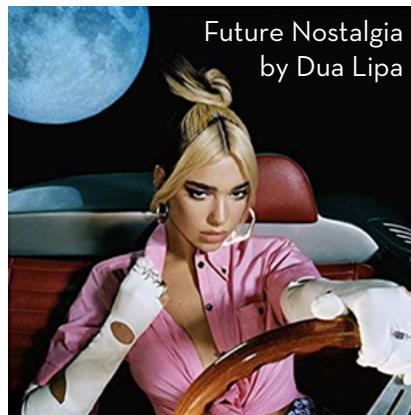
**Librarian favorite:**

*Palo Alto* by Thelonious Monk

**Why we love it:**

This Thelonious Monk album includes some of his best tunes and has a back story that rivals fiction.

In October 1968, 16-year-old Danny Scher was too young to attend Monk's San Francisco Jazz Workshop. So, he extended an unlikely invitation to the jazz master and his band to perform at his Palo Alto high school. Even more surprising, the band accepted. The resulting 47-minute recording of this set, performed at the high school for a group of Black and White students and recorded by a janitor, was stored in Scher's attic for decades, until its release 52 years later. Monk's son, T.S. Monk, calls this recording "one of the best live recordings I've ever heard by Thelonious."



# for Movies and TV



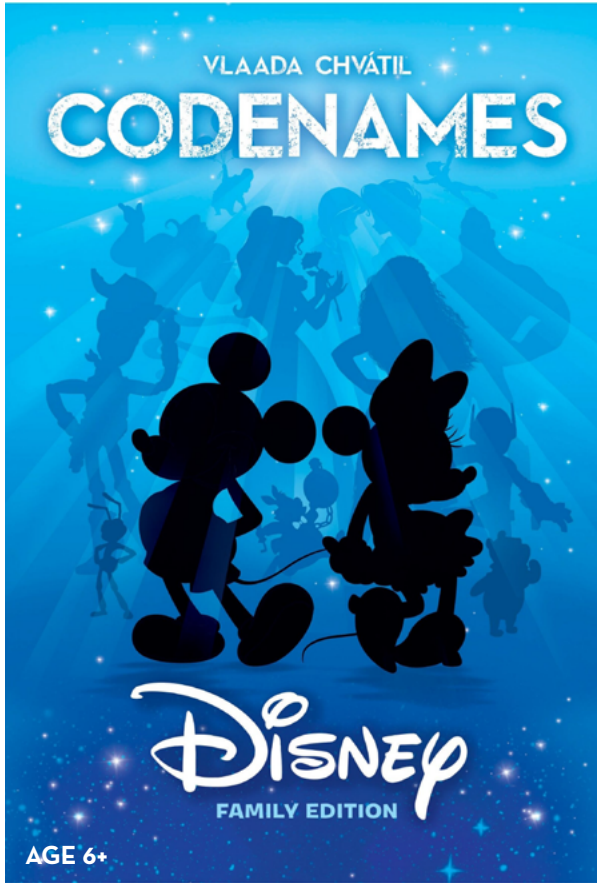
### Librarian favorite:

*Peanut Butter Falcon*

### Why we love it:

It's a heartwarming story of the friendship and quest of an unlikely pair: a young man with Down syndrome escaping an assisted living facility and a crab fisherman on the run. We loved the colorful characters, beautiful scenery, and heroes to root for in this adventure of a lifetime!





**Librarian favorite:**

*Codenames Disney* designed by Vlaada Chvátil

**Why we love it:**

Put all that Disney trivia knowledge to use in this Disney spin on the popular game Codenames. Two cluemasters give one-word clues to their teams to see who can guess their cards the best, while avoiding the other team's cards and the Game Over space. With cards covering from Snow White to Moana, everyone will see their favorite movies represented and enjoy a surprisingly brain-stretching good time.

