

MONTHLY MEDIA DISPATCH

The newsletter of the Erie 2 BOCES Media Center

New: Wonderbook Kits for Middle School Libraries



For all elementary schools and preschools that participate in our CoSer, the Media Center makes available sets of Playaway Wonderbooks for use in their libraries. Now, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, we will be providing Wonderbook sets for middle school libraries as well!

Wonderbooks are hardcover versions of popular titles that have built-in audiobook playback functionality, so that students can read along to the audiobook, using the Wonderbook's high-quality speaker or headphone jack.

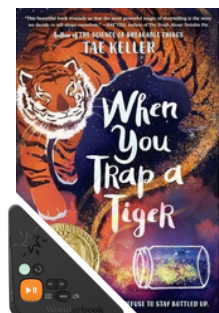
Each kit contains a range of titles, with different selections of titles rotating to each school throughout the year to offer more variety.

Titles include:

The One and Only Ivan, by Katherine Applegate
When You Trap a Tiger, by Tae Keller
Dog Diaries, by James Patterson
We Dream of Space, by Erin Entrada Kelly
... and many more!

Check them out at your middle/intermediate school library!

Wonderbook
THE READ-ALONG BY PLAYAWAY®



New Titles

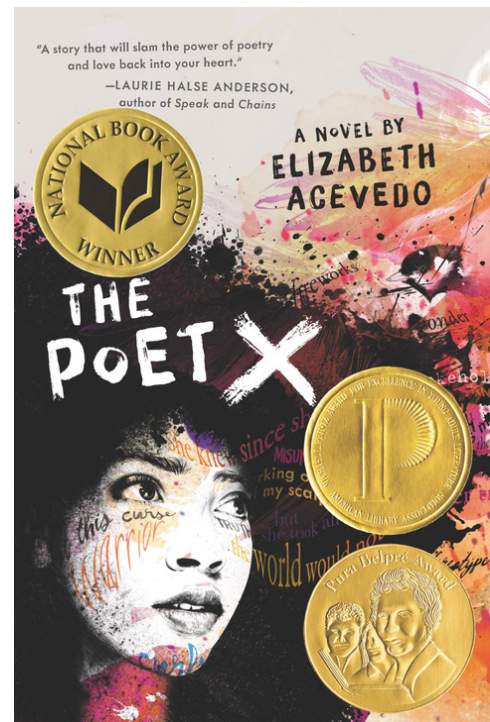
The Poet X — by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.

With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems.

Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.



This Is My America — by Kim Johnson

Every week, seventeen-year-old Tracy Beaumont writes letters to Innocence X, asking the organization to help her father, an innocent Black man on death row. After seven years, Tracy is running out of time—her dad has only 267 days left. Then the unthinkable happens. The police arrive in the night, and Tracy's older brother, Jamal, goes from being a bright, promising track star to a "thug" on the run, accused of killing a white girl.

Determined to save her brother, Tracy investigates what really happened between Jamal and Angela down at the Pike. But will Tracy and her family survive the uncovering of the skeletons of their Texas town's racist history that still haunt the present?



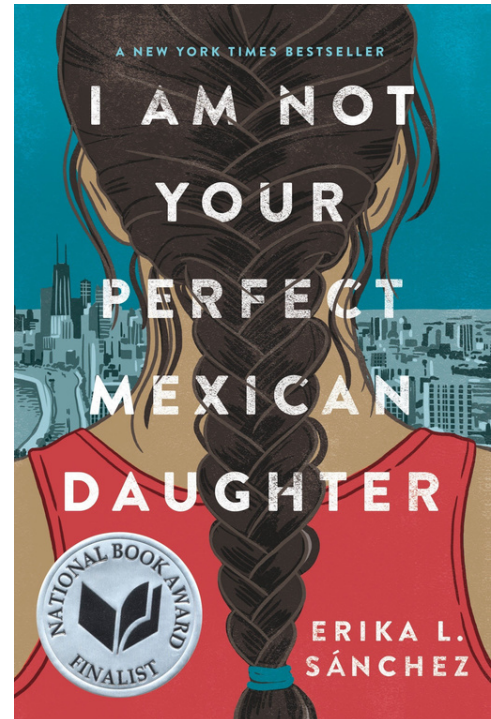
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter —
by Erika L. Sánchez

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family.

But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed.

But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

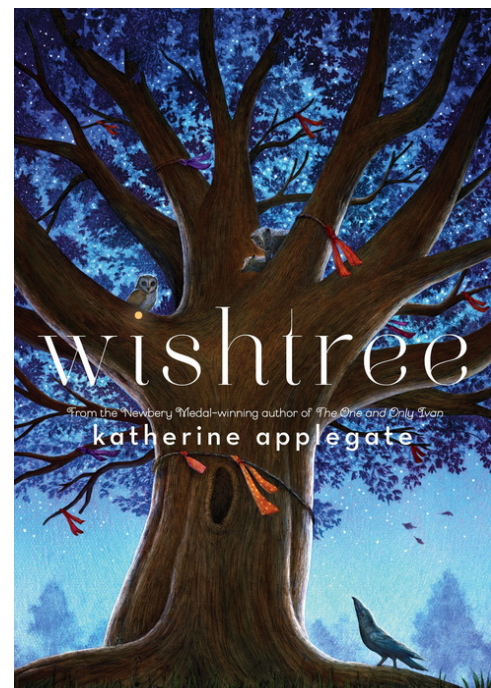


Wishtree — by Katherine Applegate

Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories...

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.

Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, this is Katherine Applegate at her very best—writing from the heart, and from a completely unexpected point of view.

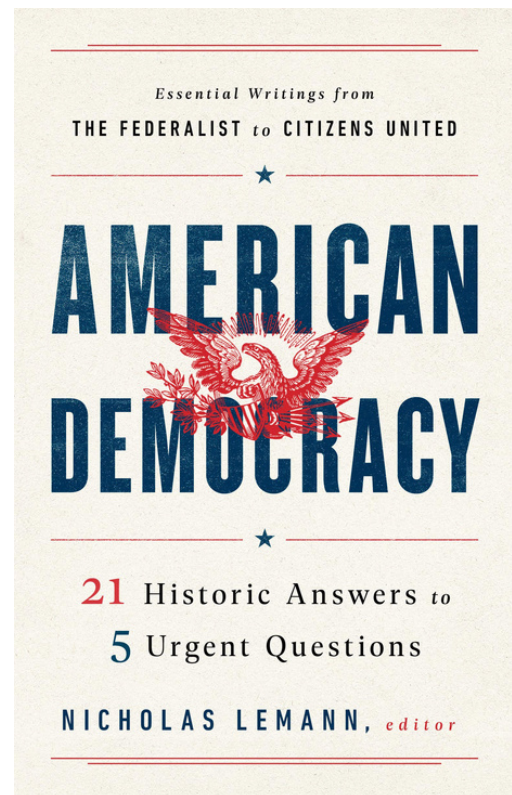


Teaching Civics with a Historical Perspective

American Democracy: 21 Historic Answers to 5 Urgent Questions — edited by Nicholas Lemann

Amid the frenzied overload of 24-hour cable news and incessant social media, at a time when many of us fear for the future of our democracy, it is becoming harder and harder to think clearly about politics. *American Democracy: 21 Historic Answers to 5 Urgent Questions* provides an alternative for those who want to step back and look to the past for inspiration and guidance.

Edited with perceptive and provocative commentary by bestselling historian and journalist Nicholas Lemann (*The Promised Land*, *Transaction Man*), the book presents key writings from the American past that speak to five contemporary flashpoints in our political landscape: race, gender, immigration, and citizenship; opportunity and inequality; the purpose and powers of the federal government; money, special privilege, and corruption; and protest and civil disobedience. Some of the selections are well-known—George Washington's letter to the Hebrew Congregation at Newport, Frederick Douglass's "What to the Slave is the 4th of July," Martin Luther King Jr.'s letter from Birmingham Jail—while others will be new to many readers—Horace Mann's argument for public schools as a means of fighting inequality, Jane Addams's perceptive analysis of gender and social class in charity work, Randolph Bourne envisioning a "Trans-National America."



American Democracy presents a remarkable range of insightful and eloquent American political writing, while serving as an invaluable resource for concerned citizens who wish to become better-informed participants in the ongoing drama of our democracy.