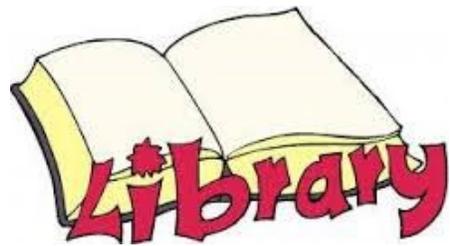




LIBRARY LINKS

linking literacy and literature for lifelong learners

Welcome Back to the



I am looking forward to the start of a new year and to working with all of you in the upcoming months. To help get things going this year, here are a few things I wanted to share and/or remind you about...

1. I don't own the library. You and our students do. This space is for all of us. You can recommend materials, offer suggestions and have a voice in how we run the library.
2. Planning is a good thing. I will do my best to get what you need as quickly as I can, but the more time you give me the better.
3. The library provides books and so much more. Books are certainly one of the most important things we have, and I strive to develop a collection that the students will love. But there's so much more. The online catalog is available so you can find books and other resources. And did I mention the coffee that teachers can access in the backroom? ;)
4. You can check out resources even when I am not here. Near the circulation desk is a clipboard labeled for Check-Outs. There is a chart located on this clipboard where you can fill in your name, the date, title of the book, and the barcode number located on the back of the book/video.
5. The best resource in the library is the librarian. I want to help you plan a project, co-teach a lesson, share new technology tools, find professional research, or answer a reference question. And if I can't do it, I will help you find someone who can.
6. Think of this as your second classroom. The library can be a second space for you and your students. You can sign up to use the computer lab. Our library tables make for a fantastic, flexible instruction space. And of course, I'd be happy to help collaborate with you on that ☺
7. I can be your partner when trying new things. If you need somebody to share the glory or the failure of a new unit, activity, or methodology, I would love to help!

I'm looking forward to a positive year with all of you!

Kerri Hosang
NCS
Library Media Specialist



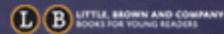
October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages.



“History made personal—and what a person! Deja's voice is **real** and **memorable**.” –Linda Sue Park, Newbery Medalist

TOWERS FALLING

JEWELLPARKERRHODES.COM



Author Spotlight: Jewell Parker Rhodes

While most adults (for now) count September 11th, 2001, as memory, for today's fifth graders it is history, if known at all. *Dèja*, whose family has moved from living in a car to staying in a homeless shelter, hasn't heard of it, although the attack has had a tremendous impact on her life, something she will come to understand as she begins the year in a Brooklyn school with a heartbreaking, inspiring curriculum.

So, what does Author, Jewell Parker Rhodes, remember about September 11th?

Jewell Parker Rhodes: “I was in bed in Arizona. I was not in New York City. I think if I *had* been in the city, I might not have been able to write this book. My husband called me downstairs to watch the coverage on television. The two of us were absolutely grief stricken. It seriously affected my mental health. I went into a depression—I just felt shaken to the core. I think the only thing that got me through was the idea that, given all the people who died or were wounded or lost their loved ones, I should take care to live my life to the fullest, and part of that is being a writer. In that sense, I'm connected to the event by my desire to do something to honor the 9/11 survivors and those who didn't survive. Something that moves our society forward, something that engages children in what it means to be a citizen and encourages them to love and be inclusive. Because if we don't live our lives well—if I don't live my life well—it's an affront to all the people who were involved in the tragedy of 9/11.”

The idea for writing this book wasn't mine at all. It came from Liza Baker, my editor at Little, Brown, at the time. She had seen on *60 Minutes* that children were growing up not knowing about 9/11, and she said, "Would you like to try writing this book?" I immediately said, "Nope, I'm not going to do it." The more I thought about it, though, over several months, it burrowed deep inside my soul. My background is in teaching, and I love the idea of teachers teaching my books. That helped me frame the novel in a fifth-grade classroom, which gave me distance from the event itself. It also gave me room to imagine how an elementary school curriculum would teach it, as well as how the children themselves would perceive what happened, particularly if they find out that 9/11 has affected them quite personally. I think that's the key to this book. When I actually went and visited schools, I learned they were not teaching 9/11, that the teachers felt the trauma was too immediate. Yet the world has changed so much because of terrorism, so much since 9/11. It seemed wrong to me that children did not have a sense of it, a place to talk about it, to understand how the world they're growing up in is unlike any other world we've ever had before. It should be discussed. It shouldn't be off-limits.

We also have *Ninth Ward*, By Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-year-old Laneshia lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. She doesn't have a fancy house like her up-town family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane—Katrina—fast approaching, it's up to Laneshia to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.



FROM
AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR
Jewell Parker Rhodes

A powerful novel
set fifteen years
after the 9/11
attacks

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TECH TIPS: Ask an Expert!

Do you and your students want to ask some experts important questions?

Try “Ask an Expert” on Science questions at: <http://www.k12science.org/materials/resources/askanexpert/>

The following site links to experts in topics ranging from English grammar, math, fine arts, computers, to careers, and social studies. http://www.cln.org/int_expert.html

Ask an Astrophysicist from NASA at the following site: http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/ask_astro/index.html

RefDesk.com’s Ask the Experts includes a wide range of links to experts on many topics. <http://www.refdesk.com/expert.html>

Or, try these Science Resources from Infotopia:

Anatomy and Physiology http://www.infotopia.info/anatomy_physiology.html

Animals <http://www.infotopia.info/animals.html>

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Physical Science (Physics) http://www.infotopia.info/physical_science.html

Science Fair Projects http://www.infotopia.info/sci_fair_projects.html



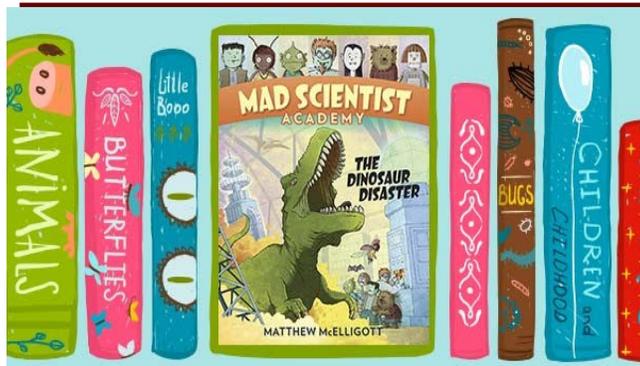
Are you searching for ideas for your classroom? Have you looked at [learner.org](http://www.learner.org) from the Annenberg Foundation? **FREE** streaming videos are available online on topics ranging from the Arts, Foreign Language, Language and Literature, Math, Science, to Social Studies and History. These

videos include professional development as well as videos that can be used with students in the classroom.

<http://www.learner.org/resources/browse.html>



A new Bookshelf Must-Have: *The Dinosaur Disaster*



What if your school’s pet was a robotic dinosaur? And your teacher a mad scientist named Dr. Cosmic? A humorous and info-filled graphic novel with an exciting story, *The Dinosaur Disaster* will be one to read again and again. Fun facts and original illustrations give this a comic book feel that will engage young readers. Light, smart, and entertaining, this volume from the [Mad Scientist Academy series](#) is a fun adventure for kids ages 5 – 8 and their parents to read together.

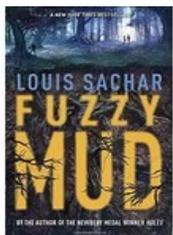
Fantastic resource for finding good books!

Essential Books for Kids and Teens | Common Sense Media

www.commonsensemedia.org

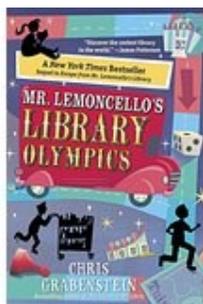
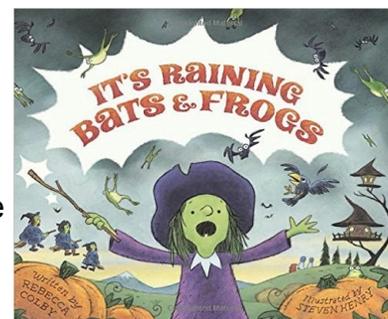
The absolute best kids' books, chapter books, and teen reads to help you raise a lifelong reader.

Shelf Talk GREAT READ-ALOUDS FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar. Grades 4-up. Charity, cleanliness, courage, empathy, grace, humility, integrity, patience, prudence, and temperance: The Woodridge Academy virtues create a mantra that keeps Tamaya focused as she catapults from brainy goody-goody to unexpected heroine saving a bully reject, her sometime friend Marshall, and the world at large from the mini-Frankensteins of fuzzy mud along with a detective dog, a mud loving tortoise, a dedicated vet, and the onset of winter.

It's Raining Bats & Frogs by Rebecca Colby, Ill. by Steven Henry. Every year Delia looks forward to flying in the annual Witch Parade but this year it is literally raining on their parade. Delia has a great idea and begins to chant, "It's raining, it's pouring, but raindrops are boring. Change the rainfall on my head and make it cats and dogs instead!" The witches were thrilled at first, but when that plan doesn't work Delia changes it to hats and clogs, then bats and frogs. When she runs out of ideas, she decides to, "change what's falling on my head back to drops of rain instead!" This fun, rhyming read-aloud will have your students giggling when each spell is cast and the chaos follows.



Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics by Chris Grabenstein. Grades 3-7. Kyle Keeley and his buddies from Mr. Lemoncello's Library return to battle in the first Library Olympiad with other teams of Dewey-worms to see who the true library champions are. But after the games begin, the contestants discover that someone has been stealing books from the library to disrupt the competition. Who will solve the mystery, and will Team Kyle remain the champions? This book will appeal to those who love games, mysteries, or just a fun read. Released January

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- * [Amazon Books](#)
- * [Bing Images](#)
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