

# WHAT KIDS are and should be reading!

By Children's Book Council

If you are lucky enough to have a stellar school library and librarian, as well as an outstanding public library (and children's librarian), you might think that all your child's reading needs are covered—but building a home library is an important and valuable goal for your family.

In our hurried lives, it's not easy to find the time to browse and discover books—but you can get creative and work together as a family to build a place of discovery and comfort for you and your children. And even a handful of books can improve reading skills.

A home library should be more than a random pile of books—it should reflect the ideas, skills, interests and values of your family.

A home library can be a collection that says: "We are a family that reads, and we collect poems, stories and information that matter to us." It can provide convenient access to favorite titles or unusual books that you might not easily find at your public and school libraries.

When in doubt, look for award stickers to help guide your selections. Librarians, educators and book industry professionals read widely to pick the best books each year for the awards, and the lists of winners are wonderful choices for you to own. But remember to honor your own children's choices, too.

## Start Small and Have Fun

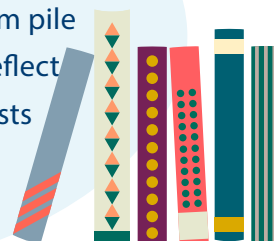
- Expand your home library by looking for additions at public library book sales, garage sales, thrift shops and used bookstores.
- Explore resources in your community: Unlikely places, such as doctor offices sometimes have free books to give away.
- Let your friends and relatives know that books are important to your family. Create book wish lists for birthdays and holidays.

The "best" books for your children, ultimately, are the books that will make them want to curl up on the couch and read together as a family. Have fun with your home library—and make it truly your own!

Get more tips on how to build your family library at [PTAOurChildren.org/CBCBookResources](http://PTAOurChildren.org/CBCBookResources).

*Janet Wong, Christi Showman Farrar and Susan Polos are members of a joint committee of volunteer book experts—librarians, teachers, authors and publishers—representing the American Library Association and the Children's Book Council.*

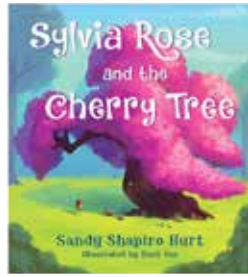
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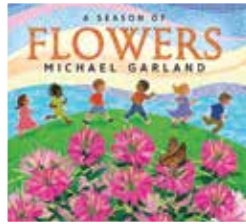
NEW BOOKS



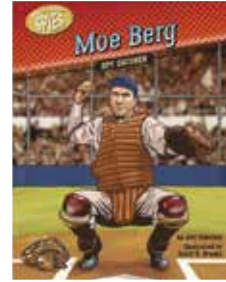
**No Biggy!**  
By Elycia Rubin  
Ages 4-8



**Sylvia Rose and the Cherry Tree**  
By Sandy Shapiro Hurt  
Ages 5-8



**A Season of Flowers**  
By Michael Garland  
Ages 6-9

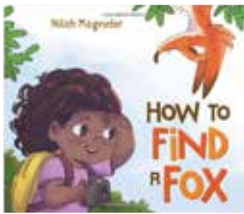


**Moe Berg: Spy Catcher**  
By Jeri Cipriano  
Ages 8-12



**Black Panther: The Young Prince**  
By Ronald L. Smith  
Ages 8 and up

DIVERSE KIDS AND YOUNG ADULT LIT



**How to Find a Fox**  
By Nilah Magruder  
Ages 4-8



**The Contest Between the Sun and the Wind: An Aesop's Fable**  
By Heather Forest  
Ages 5-9



**Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix**  
By Jacqueline Briggs Martin, June Jo Lee  
Ages 7-12



**Funny Girl: Funniest Stories Ever**  
By Betsy Bird  
Ages 7-12



**The Book Jumper**  
By Mechthild Gläser  
Ages 13 and up

BEST STEM BOOKS\*



**The Music of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori & the Invention of the Piano**  
By Elizabeth Rusch  
Ages 4-8



**The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin**  
By Julia Finley Mosca  
Ages 5-10



**How Could We Harness a Hurricane?**  
By Vicki Cobb  
Ages 9-12



**Finding Wonders**  
By Jeannine Atkins  
Ages 9 and up



**Warcross**  
By Marie Lu  
Young Adult

\*Best STEM Books is a joint project of the American Society for Engineering Education, the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, the National Science Teachers Association, the Society of Elementary Presidential Awardees and the Children's Book Council.