

Picture Book

Meet Olivia at the Library



Olivia captured my heart the moment I opened her first book, more than ten years ago, and saw a trail of *deselected* items of clothing littering the floor as she squeezed into her *just-right* sailor dress. Whether she's taming lions or sailing on a gondola in Venice, Olivia always has the right outfit for any occasion.

While there are lots of opportunities to enjoy Olivia, including her television show on Nick Jr., the **best** way to get to know Olivia is through her series of picture books. In *Olivia Forms a Band*, discover Olivia's resourcefulness when she supplies her own music to a fireworks display. Revel in Olivia's amazing power of deduction when she solves the case in *Olivia and the Missing Toy*. Travel with Olivia by gondola in *Olivia Goes to Venice*. See astonishing feats of daring and imagination in *Olivia Saves the Circus*. Along the way you'll meet Olivia's delightful family including her little brothers William and Ian.

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Posted by Christina J. on November 8, 2011

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

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First Snow in the Woods



While some Monroe County residents grumble about the deer that tread too closely to their homes or raid their gardens, I relish seeing the deer emerge from the woods that surround my home. My son recently reported that he had seen six deer of various sizes while he was playing in our front yard. They observed him cautiously for a moment before stepping quickly across the lawn, confident that his remote controlled car would not harm them!

It's a little easier to spot the deer now that most of the leaves have fallen from the trees. But if you don't have a chance to see deer right in your neighborhood, the picture book **First Snow in the Woods: A Photographic Fantasy** features stunning color photographs that provide a vivid and intimate way to admire deer and other wildlife that live in the woods. The book also profiles the changing seasons as different animals describe how they prepare for the arrival of winter weather.

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Posted by Lisa C. on November 2, 2011

[First snow in the woods : a photographic fantasy](#)

[First snow in the woods \[videorecording\] : the movie](#)

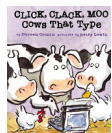
[Picture Book](#)

[Winter](#)

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Click Clack Moo: A Special Preview Performance



As a student of journalism, I am a true believer in the power of the written word. And, apparently, so are the cows in Doreen Cronin's hilarious picture book: [Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type](#). When the cows discover a typewriter in their barn, they begin making demands of Farmer Brown. It's cold in the barn. They want electric blankets. Ridiculous, thinks Farmer Brown, and he refuses their request. But then the cows refuse to give any more milk. And the hens join the cows in solidarity and refuse to give any more eggs. The duck is the barnyard mediator, shuffling typed messages back and forth between the farmer and the cows. But, it seems that even ducks have desires for creature comforts. [Read more](#)

Posted by Lisa C. on September 22, 2011

[Click, clack, moo : cows that type](#)

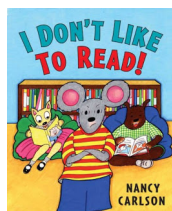
[Library Program](#)

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I Don't Like to Read! (well, really, I do)



We are just starting our First Grade Tours here in MCPL Children's Services, and it motivated me to try to remember some of my own experiences in the first grade. One vivid memory is going on our first visit to the school library - I was so excited it was lucky I didn't toss my cookies! The thrill was tempered a little by the fact that I could hardly read - in fact, I was in the "lowest" reading group in my first grade class. (Not that the teacher told us which group was the lowest, of course - we just all knew.) I apparently told my mom of my frustration and fear about not reading well, and she told my teacher. Before I knew it, I was reading with the top group, and understanding what I read! I'm still not sure exactly what my teacher did, but apparently that extra bit of attention and encouragement, both at home and at school, made a huge difference. (It didn't hurt, either, that the top reading group had more interesting fare.) After thinking about this, I looked for a picture book that reflected a little of my experience.

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Posted by Ellen A. on September 15, 2011

[I don't like to read!](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Reading](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

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Nurse, Soldier, Spy: A Civil War Hero



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. This isn't an anniversary to "celebrate", but such a pivotal conflict in our nation's history is certainly one to commemorate and learn more about through the amazing stories told by the people involved. Sarah Edmonds was one of those people.

In the picturebook biography [Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, A Civil War Hero](#)

, we learn that when she was just 16, Sarah disguised herself as a man and ran away from her home in Canada to escape an arranged marriage. She came to the United States and assumed the name Frank Thompson. When the call came in Michigan for young men to join the Union army, "Frank" wanted to sign up as a way to thank the country she had been living in for the last three years. While the other soldiers teased Frank about her small feet, no one ever guessed that Frank was actually a woman. [Read more](#)

Posted by Lisa C. on September 1, 2011

[Nurse, soldier, spy : the story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War hero](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

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Bark, George and other Stories for Dog Days



Join us this Wednesday, August 31, at 10 am in the Library Auditorium for Storyhour

Extravaganza! Since the hot days of August are often described as the Dog Days of Summer, we're celebrating the end of this blistering season with a variety of stories about dogs - including my personal favorite: [Bark, George](#) by Jules Feiffer. [Read more](#)

Posted by Lisa C. on August 26, 2011

[Bark, George](#)

[Library Program](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

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Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake



Learning how to be patient can be a difficult skill to acquire -- as many parents of young children can attest! Recommended for ages 3-6, the new picturebook **Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake** by Michael Kaplan with delightful watercolor illustrations by Stephane Jorisch, humorously portrays Betty Bunny's efforts to tame her desire for instant gratification and perfectly captures this battle of the will that so many of us (younger and older alike) struggle with! [Read more](#)

Posted by Lisa C. on June 21, 2011

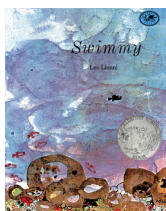
[Betty Bunny loves chocolate cake](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

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Some Picture Books Are a Little Scary



I was thinking about Swimmy, by Leo Lionni, and how as a child I was both drawn to and scared by the story. If you don't know, this book for preschoolers and primary grade children features a little black fish who must undertake the classic hero's journey after his entire family is eaten by a giant tuna. While I love to share this book, I recommend it carefully. No one deserves to get frightened when they're not looking for a scare. But what about when they are?

In *School Library Journal* John Peters notes that, "do you have any scary stories?" is second only to "where's the bathroom?" in the list of most commonly asked reference questions from very young children. We have a natural instinct to protect children from things that might frighten them, but what are they telling us when they ask for these stories? According to Peters, children who ask for scary stories are "searching for ways to articulate, control, or at least build a little resistance to the fear that comes from feeling surrounded by a world rife with shadows, sudden dangers, and unknown rules." [Read more](#)

Posted by Josh W. on April 22, 2011

[Swimmy](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Josh W.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

What's Your Favorite Dr. Seuss Story?



I find it hard to pick a favorite Dr. Seuss story... I enjoy both the early reader chapter

books and the longer stories that I remember my parents reading to me as a child: [Bartholomew and the Oobleck](#), [Yertle the Turtle](#), and even [What Was I Scared Of?](#) (probably because those pale green pants were a little creepy). But on a cold, cold wet day like today, I'd have to say that my favorite Dr. Seuss story is [The Cat in the Hat](#), Seuss's first book for beginner readers.

What's your favorite Dr. Seuss story? Let us know. And share it with a friend to help celebrate [Read Across America Day](#) on March 2. This is Dr. Seuss's (Theodor Geisel's) birthday, and a day that the National Education Association honors by calling for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult. We'll be celebrating on Saturday, March 5th with some Seuss-suspicious events. Join us!

Posted by Lisa C. on February 25, 2011

[Early Reader](#)

[Library Program](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Things You Can Think](#)

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Ruth and the Green Book



When I got my first car, I couldn't wait to take a road trip of my own. I'd spent plenty of time in the "wayback" of the family station wagon as a kid attempting to read while my Dad switched the radio back and forth from baseball broadcasts to classical music stations. Now I'd be in the driver's seat and could choose what to listen to and when and where to stop for a rest break! The road atlas was my guide as I set off on my own from Chicago to visit my brother in Pennsylvania. When Ruth and her family set off in the early 1950s on a road trip from Chicago to Alabama, they needed something in addition to a road map to guide their trip. They needed "The Green Book." "The Green Book," author Calvin Alexander Ramsey explains in his picturebook [Ruth and the Green Book](#) was developed in 1936 by a postman named Victor H. Green to help black people who were traveling. The book listed by city all the restaurants, hotels, gas stations and businesses that would serve African Americans during the era of "Jim Crow" laws when many establishments, especially in the South, refused to admit blacks.

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Posted by Lisa C. on February 10, 2011

[Ruth and the Green Book](#)

[History](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Things You Can Think](#)

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