

## December Youth Newsletter (English)



## Texas Talking Book Program Youth Services



### Talking Book Program Youth Newsletter December 2022

Welcome to the December Youth Newsletter! In this issue you will find info about our NEW youth book club, Bluebonnet Award voting instructions, a new book list, and some tips on searching BARD to download books.

Find more information and archived newsletters on our website:

<https://tsl.texas.gov/tbp/youthservices>

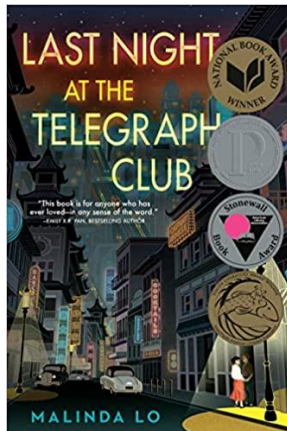
### **Announcing the NEW Youth Book Club!**

We are excited to announce our first ever youth book club selections! Below you will find the dates, times, titles, and recommended age ranges for each event. If you need to do some more digging into the contents of each book, you can find more in-depth descriptions and reviews at [commonsensemedia.org](https://commonsensemedia.org). The age ranges are just recommendations. If you are interested in a book that is not in your age range, you are welcome to join anyway—just double check those descriptions!

These will take place on password-protected Zoom calls. You can join with a computer, smartphone, or tablet, or by calling in.

Once you register for the book club you'd like to join, we will approve the registration and you'll get an email confirmation with all the details.

You can register by clicking the links on each event, or you can call and we can do it for you! 1-800-252-9605.



**February 7, 2023 (Tuesday)**

**YA Book Club.** Recommended for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older

**6:00-6:45 p.m. on Zoom**

**LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB** by Melinda Lo

DB 104015; BR 24064

Length: 12 hours 36 minutes listening time

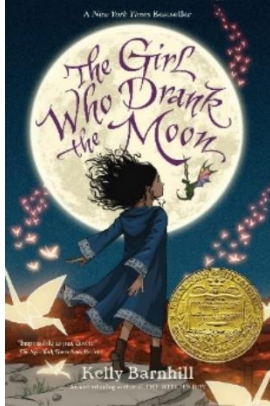
1954. McCarthyism and the Red Scare are genuine threats to Lily's family; her father is already at risk of deportation despite his valid citizenship. Lily, who is Chinese American, could lose everything just for dating anyone white—let alone another girl—but she could lose herself if she isn't true to her feelings. Includes supplemental material. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

**Unrated.**

Why we picked it:

This book has won so many awards that the print cover is barely visible! Includes the National Book Award, Stonewall Award, and Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEud-ugpzkSEtwCp7oI96sgEiBfL2PZYoun>



**April 6, 2023 (Thursday)**

**Middle Grade Book Club.** Recommended for 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders

**4:30-5:00 p.m. on Zoom**

**GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON** by Kelly Regan Barnhill

DB 85739; BR 21836; LB 09158

Length: 8 hours 30 minutes listening time

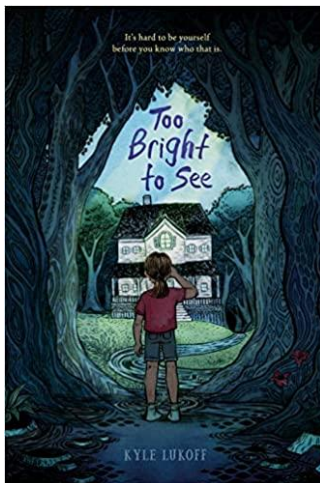
Every year a community leaves a baby as an offering to a powerful, yet misunderstood witch named Xan. One infant—now a young girl—is being raised by the witch and must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her. For grades 4-7. 2016. Rated: No sex, profanity, or violence.

Why we picked it:

Winner of the 2017 Newbery Medal!

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtdeqpgT0jH9b9kB6rGI5-Zu8fVeIKpCnx>



**June 13, 2023 (Tuesday)**

**Summer Reading Program Book Club.**

**ALL** youth participants welcome!

**5:00-5:45 p.m. on Zoom**

**TOO BRIGHT TO SEE** by Kyle Lukoff

DB 105462

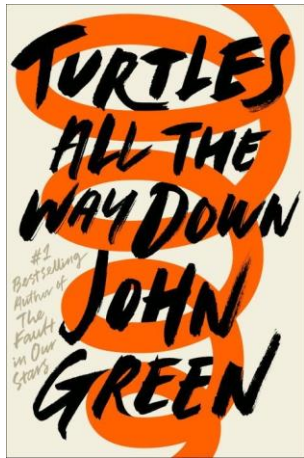
Length: 4 hours 30 minutes listening time

In the summer before middle school, eleven-year-old Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghostly haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity. Rated commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2021. Rated: No sex, profanity, or violence.

Why we picked it:

Summer reading theme is friendship! National Book Award Finalist 2021, Stonewall Book Award 2021, Newbery Honor Book 2021.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIVc-GhqTwuG9ctNY3qR1ihWMIQEHvZE>



**August 8, 2023 (Tuesday)**

**YA Book Club.** Recommended for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older

**6:00-6:45 p.m. on Zoom**

**TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN** by John Green

DB 89542; BR 22186; LB 11298

Length: 7 hours 15 minutes listening time

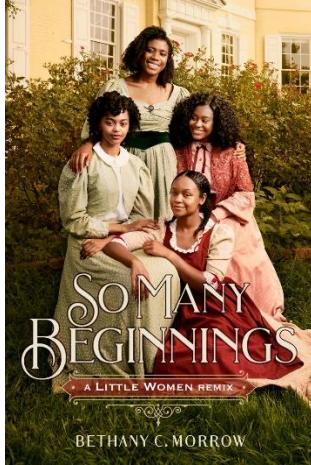
Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake, and her best and most fearless friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. Meanwhile, Aza obsesses about everything. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2017. Rated: **Some strong language.**

Why we picked it:

New York Times Bestseller, a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year.

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdumqqDssEtH-8fTxaEgoQgfcNI-He0dl>



**October 10, 2023 (Tuesday)**

**YA Book Club.** Recommended for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older

**6:00-6:45 p.m. on Zoom**

**SO MANY BEGINNINGS** by Bethany Morrow

DB 105273

Length: 8 hours 16 minutes listening time

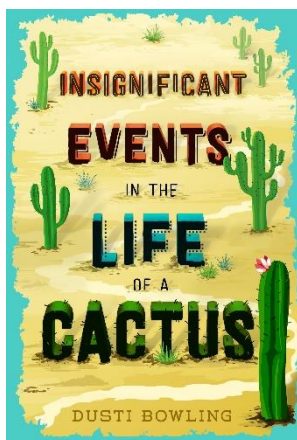
At the Freedpeople Colony at Roanoke, a haven for the recently emancipated, the four March sisters—Meg, Joanna, Bethlehem, and Amethyst—come into their own as independent young Black women, together facing love, sickness, heartbreak, and new horizons. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021. **Unrated.**

Why we picked it:

A Little Women remix. Part of Remixed Classics series. American Library Association Rise Top 10 Selection in 2022.

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdeGrrD8qEtJRbseIyWsFDcqJP26jOHgY>



**December 7, 2023 (Thursday)**

**Middle Grade Book Club.** Recommended for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders

**4:30-5:00 p.m. on Zoom**

**INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CACTUS** by Dusti Bowling

DB 89430; BR 22120

Length: 5 hours 26 minutes listening time

Born without arms, spunky thirteen-year-old Aven worries about making friends at her new school after her family moves to Arizona to manage the run-down Stagecoach Pass theme park. Aven bonds with classmate Connor,

and the two soon find themselves immersed in a mystery at the park. For grades 5-8. 2017. Rated: No sex, profanity, or violence.

Why we picked it:

Library of Congress's 52 Great Reads List 2017 and Reading the West Award Winner.

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocO6uqjwiEtVvgiydPS8boXB5PBRbSS6r>

## **Bluebonnet Award Voting is HERE**

For 3rd – 6th graders

The Texas Library Association offers “a unique program that encourages reading for pleasure for **students in grades 3 - 6.**” Each year a committee of librarians and teachers nominates several titles for people in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 to read and then vote for their favorite.

[Link to Bluebonnet Nominee List](#)

Read 5, then decide!

**Vote using the link below for your favorite Bluebonnet title by February 9!**

<https://forms.gle/3RBjaJDM7jFHraLc8>

Your votes will be tallied on February 9 and submitted to the committee on February 11.

## **December Book List**

[Link to December Book List](#)

This month’s list features books that appear on the Schneider Family Award List. The Schneider Family Book Awards are given annually in each of the following categories: birth through grade school (age 0-10), middle school (age 11-13) and teens (age 13-18) to an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

The books listed are just a starting point. Please read whatever you and your adult think is a good choice for you, your reading level, and your interests. Call us at 1-800-252-9605 or email us at [tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.ral@tsl.texas.gov) to get more suggestions!

Note: DB indicates audiobooks, and BR indicates Braille books.

**How to Get Books:** You can have instant access to all of the titles on the book list if you are signed up for BARD service. Link to BARD: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> Every title on the reading lists can be found in BARD. Contact us if you are not signed up for BARD to get registered so you can download books directly to your smartphone or tablet.

Email us at [tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.bard@tsl.texas.gov) or call 1-800-252-9605 to set that up.

We can also send you cartridges with your book selections by mail. Call us to adjust your service.

### **Catalog of New to the Collection Children's Books**

Follow the link below to access our bimonthly catalog:

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/>

Choose the most recent month, then scroll down to "Books for Children".

(The November-December catalog becomes available in early December)

### **Helpful BARD Instructions can be found here:**

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/welcome-to-bard/>

### **How to Search BARD Mobile for Kids' Books**

Using BARD can be tricky when you're searching for a certain grade level or topic of interest for a kid. We made a little cheat sheet to help you get started. Follow the link below!

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/sites/default/files/public/tslac/2016/08/jowusu/Finding%20YOUTH%20TITLES%20in%20BARDv2.pdf>



## FOR THE GROWN UPS

National Federation of the Blind's "Letters from Santa" Program

If you know a child with vision loss who is ten years old or younger and lives in the United States, he/she is eligible to receive either a letter from Santa or a winter holiday letter, a free service from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

Each braille letter is available in English or Spanish and comes with a packet of activities that includes a letter in print for the whole family to enjoy.

The deadline to request a letter is December 17, 2022.

You can request a letter by filling out the form at <https://nfb.org/programs-services/early-childhood-initiatives/santa-letters/english-form>. There is a link at this site for the form in Spanish.

For more information, call: 410-659-9314, extension 2236 or e-mail [education@nfb.org](mailto:education@nfb.org)

### **BONUS:**

The Texas Center for the Book announced the 2022-2023 Letters About Literature Texas contest, a program that invites students to respond to authors about how their books or poetry have touched their lives. The contest is open to Texas students in grades 4 through 12. This year, there are enhanced cash prizes for the winners and their libraries!

Participants select a book, book series, essay, play poem, short story, or speech that has made a lasting impact. They then write a personal letter to the author that reflects how they have been changed, inspired, or motivated by the work they selected. First place winners will be honored at the 2023 Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Austin.

Submissions are now open until **December 17, 2022, 5:00 p.m. (Central)**.

Full details can be found at [www.tsl.texas.gov/lettersaboutliterature](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/lettersaboutliterature).